



Girl Scout URBAN ADVENTURE

Our community is full of nature—it's all around us! We all have an occasional tree on our block or a patch of weeds in the alley. But have we stopped to smell the flowers or acknowledge the wildlife that surrounds us? Let's use our critical thinking skills and explore the nature in our own neighborhoods.

Before getting started, let's plan your exploration:

- First, you'll need to find an urban environment (an area that is closer to a city's downtown). Discover new areas and neighborhoods that you may never have explored otherwise.
- Pull up your selected neighborhood on a map, whether it is on your device or a physical map. Plot out your route and the areas you are going to visit. Are there any landmarks like unique buildings, structures, or historical places? What about green spaces like vacant lots, parks, or public lands? Are there places in your neighborhood you have not been?
- Prioritize safety. Tell an adult where you are going, or better yet, bring an adult with you! Are there places that you should not go like a busy street?
- Prepare appropriately for your journey. All great explorers plan for their expeditions. Check the weather and bring along a jacket or umbrella if needed. Wear comfortable shoes. Apply some sunscreen or even personal protection equipment. Pack a water bottle and maybe a snack. Bring something to document your experience like a notebook or camera.

Inspirational Wanderings:

- **Inventory your experience.** Make a record of what you observe. For example, there is a robin in someone's yard or a morning dove on the power line. Keep track of what you are seeing and take note of all living things you find. [PlantNet](#), [iNaturalist](#), and [Merlin Bird ID](#) are great apps for identification.
- **Give back to your community and help our earth.** How does your neighborhood look? Is there litter in the streets? Clean up the litter. Take along a garbage bag and some gloves to tidy up your environment.
- **Discover the history of your community.** What happened in the past that built your community? Look around. Some buildings in our community have dates posted on them of their construction year, the name of an important person, or a plaque that deems that place historically important. Dive into learning more about those that came before us by the evidence they left behind.
- **Take a quiet moment.** Sit down in the grass or under a tree. Close your eyes and use your other senses to experience nature. Listen to the birds singing in the trees. How many different songs can you hear? Feel the breeze on your face. Do you notice any interesting smells? Take that moment to connect with nature and with yourself.
- **Get in some cardio.** While we may not be on an epic trek through the forest, we can still get our heart rates up. Run to the end of the block. How fast can you do that? Count all the flights of stairs you take.
- **Find art in nature.** Look for sculptures and murals in your neighborhood. Maybe there is an artist in your community that has an artistic looking yard.
- **Make a discovery.** All great adventures lead to a discovery. Find something in the neighborhood that you did not know was there, like a small park or recreation area. Maybe a small business like a bakery or coffee shop that you would like to visit someday.
- **Photo scavenger hunt.** Find letters of the alphabet in objects or nature. Take a photo of everything you find interesting. Or go online and find an urban scavenger hunt.



Complete two or more urban adventure activities listed above (or create your own urban adventure) to earn the Girl Scout Urban Adventure fun patch (\$1.50 each). Place your patch order by contacting customer care@gswise.org or 800-565-4475. We will contact you to coordinate purchase and pickup options.

Share a picture of your urban adventure with us on social media using
#gsUrbanAdventure.