

# Pheno-Fun Patch Program: Winter

## Virtual Event

During the winter Pheno-Fun event, which will be hosted virtually by a DRIWR park ranger, attendees will be asked to describe what comes to mind when they think about winter. Do they notice anything different about local animals, insects, and plants?

After everyone shares their answers, they'll discuss key scientific details about summer, like:

### Overwintering

What Michigan animals do you think hibernate in the winter? What about plants and insects? In what ways do you think animals, plants, and insects adapt to survive the winter?

### Shelter & Food Adaptation

We'll discuss how animals find food if it's buried under the snow and how they change shelters and/or locations to adapt to changing seasons.

## On-Your-Own Activity

Grab your journal and pencil! Then, find a safe, wooded area where you can go on a winter walk.

1. Try to find animal markings in the snow—similar to the ones you learned about during the virtual event.
  - Do you see any owl wing imprints?
  - What about imprints from an animal's nose, mouth, and paws that were left behind as it pounced through the snow?
2. Look closely for places that might be good winter shelters for animals.  
Remember what you learned about camouflage!
  - Do you see any tree hollows?
  - Can you find a pine tree that doesn't have snow around the base of its trunk?



3. Take a moment to sketch your observations in your nature journal!

## GSSEM-Sponsored Activity

Go on a winter hike at Humbug Marsh in Trenton! A park ranger will guide you on the trail, so you'll have the perfect opportunity to search for animals' winter habitats.

1. Grab a journal and pencil with you before you head out! Take a few moments to sketch and your findings.
2. Learn what strategies animals use to adapt during the winter months for survival.
3. Learn about the art of camouflage.
4. Learn about overwintering and hibernation strategies that plants, insects, and animals use to survive colder temperatures.
5. When you're done with the hike, the park ranger will lead everyone in the Woodchuck Breathing activity.

[www.gssem.org/phenowinter](http://www.gssem.org/phenowinter)

**girl scouts**   
of southeastern  
michigan

# Winter Scavenger Hunt

## Observation Checklist

- Find three different types of animal tracks.
- Find something hard.
- Find something soft.
- Find five different icicles.
- Find some trees that haven't lost all of their leaves.
- Find a sign that another human was here before you.



## Journal Checklist

### **Please note findings in your journal for the following:**

- Pretend you're a squirrel and it's nighttime. Where would you sleep?
- Do you see any animals moving? What kind?
- What's the most beautiful thing that you can find?
- Stop and look up. What shapes do you see in the clouds?
- Now, look down. What's the smallest living thing you can find?
- Take a second to smell the earth. What type of aroma does it have? Do you detect different scents?
- What's the brightest thing you can find?
- Stand still and look around. What's the oldest thing you can see?
- If you had to build a fire, where would it be?
- If there's snow, make a snowball and toss it in the air. What sound does it make when it hits the ground?

## List Your Three Favorite Winter Activities

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Winter Scavenger Hunt

Bonus Challenge: Try to Find These Organisms & Objects!



Bird



Pinecone



Barberries



Bare Tree



Bird House



Blueberries



Cardinal



Evergreen Tree



Twig



Holly



Pine Branch



Acorn



Animal Footprints in the snow

