girl scouts of southeastern michigan

Beekeeper Patch Program

To earn the Beekeeper patch, Girl Scouts will need to complete a three-part process. They need to *Discover, Explore/Connect,* and then *Take Action*.

In the *Discover* stage, Girl Scouts will be required to attend a honeybee- or pollinator-themed presentation where they'll learn about pollinators and honeybees. The presentation should include an understanding of the following:

- Queens/Queen Cells
- Workers
- Honey
- Propolis
- Roles of bees
- Other pollinators
- Drones
- Pollen/Pollination
- Wax
- Waggle Dance
- Flowers that are important to pollinators

In the *Explore/Connect* stage, Girl Scouts will connect with the experts at Bees in the D or another bee organization to attend a honeybee hive tour. The tour will include:



- Learning about safety
- Learning about beekeeping equipment
- Finding out why bees are important
- Identifying the queen, workers, and drones
- Identifying the waggle dance
- Identifying nectar/honey
- Identifying eggs, uncapped and capped brood
- Learning about the effect of diseases, pests, and pesticides

In the *Take Action* stage, Girl Scouts will be asked to make an impact. Options* can include:

- Build a native bee house to set out at home—or save it for the next time you come to camp! There are many different types, so do a little more research and get creative!
- Research and plant some native pollinator flowers in your yard and watch the bees stop by!
- Buy honey from a local beekeeper and find out what flowers were used to pollinate. Try a new flavor every time and find out what your favorite honey is.
- Make a bee bath by taking a small dish or bowl, fill it water, and place pebbles in that peek out above the water. This creates a spot for bees to rest and get a drink while they're out foraging!
- Teach your friends and family about the importance of honeybees and how our harmless, fuzzy friends help us every day.
- Raise money for a bee/pollinator organization.

* Daises and Brownies need to do at least 2 options; Juniors and Cadettes need to do at least 3 options; and Seniors and Ambassadors need to do at least 4 options.