

Mission Conservation Activities

Bat Awareness

Below are a few fun activities you can do for Bat Awareness!

INDOOR

Ten Ways to be a Friend to Bats

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has come up with ten things that you can do to be a friend to bats! They want to share this information to let others know about this endangered species. We all must take measures to protect these animals.

1: Be a Bat Ambassador!

- This means that you should learn more about bats and spread the word! They are exciting animals, and people should not fear them but protect them.

2. Reduce Pesticides

- Many bats eat insects, and if you are spraying your plants with these chemicals, then the bat ends up eating those chemicals, which makes them sick.

3. Promote Natural bat Habitat

- Leave dead trees and areas that bats would roost alone. Do not remove these because they are important for the bats.

4. Protect Water Quality

- Clean water sources are vital for all animals! Keep your streams clean!

5. Put Up a Bat House

- Bat houses are a cool way to create shelter for bats. There are instructions on how to make one on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife website.

6. Be a Citizen Scientist

- Contact your local natural resource agency to learn about monitoring programs.

7. Avoid Disturbing Bats

- It is important to not go into caves during times that bats might be hibernating. This can cause them to wake up from their hibernation and use up the stored fat that keeps them warm during the winter months.

8. Safely remove or Exclude Bats

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- Try to remove bats as safely as possible. Contact a professional to remove the bat with humane methods.

9. Help Out

- Join organizations that are educated about bats and assist with their conservation.

10. Find Out More

- Find out more about bat conservation, diseases, and bat safety. Find a way that YOU can help bats today.

<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/battips.html>

Coffee Filter Bats

Supplies:

- Coffee Filter
- Wooden clothespin
- Googly Eyes
- Blue, purple, and black washable markers
- Liquid glue
- Paintbrush
- Black card stock
- White gel pen
- Pencil
- Scrap cardboard

What to do:

- Flatten coffee filters and draw different patterns with several colors of washable markers. Blue, black, and purple are great for making cool looking dark bat wings.
- Place the colored coffee filter on a craft mat and spritz with water. If you don't have a craft mat, you can lay it on top of a large zip-top bag.
- Set aside to dry
- Clip the clothespins onto a scrap of cardboard before painting. This way, you can hold and turn the cardboard without getting paint all over your hands.
- Paint all sides of the clothespin with black craft paint and a paintbrush. Set aside to dry.
- After the paint is dry, glue on the googly eyes.
- Using the white gel pen, draw a mouth, and fangs on each clothespin. Set aside to dry.

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- Now fold the dry coffee filter in fourths and cut a scalloped edge with scissors.
- Unfold the filter to half and cut a 3" slit up from the scalloped edge. Then open the clothespin and insert the wings.
- Cut out ears using a rectangular strip of black cardstock and cutting out a small triangle on one end. Attach the paper to the top of the clothespin with liquid glue.
- Viola! You have Coffee filter bats!

OUTDOOR

Discovering Echolocation

Grab a partner and go outdoors!

Supplies:

- Blindfold
- Partner

What to do:

1. Bats rely on sound to help them find their food and to navigate. The person who is the bat will put on the blindfold and will only use their hearing. No peeking!
2. The other person will quietly stand near the blindfolded bat and either snap or clap. The bat will try to guess where the sound is coming from.
3. Try making sounds from a few different locations. Keep track of the bat's guesses – how many did they get right?
4. Switch with your friend and let them be the bat and see how they do! How easy or hard was it for you to figure out where the sound was coming from? Try this outside or in a quiet space and see which one makes hearing easier.
 - Bats and other animals like whales and dolphins use echolocation to help them "see" in their environment. They emit a sound that bounces off of other objects. By determining the length of time it takes for sound to return to their ears, the animal can figure out where.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Get involved!

Visit <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/battips.html> to learn more information about bats!

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