

MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

September 2026 – Wild About Wildlife

Hello agents! This September, Wonders of Wildlife invites you to explore the great outdoors, and take part in discovering the amazing plants, animals, and other wildlife right outside your door! Through these activities you'll sharpen your senses, connect with local wildlife, and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world! Grab your explorer's gear and get ready to discover the wonders waiting all around you!

Outdoor Activity: Wildlife Detective



Wild animals can be surprisingly difficult to find! Many animals hide from people, come out at night, or live in places people can not easily see them! Luckily, animals leave clue behind to tell us they were there! Tracks, feathers, nests, sounds, chewed plants, and even spiderwebs can all give us information about the wildlife living nearby!

Procedure:

1. Grab your scavenger hunt sheet attached to this document, a pencil, and head outside with an adult! Binoculars and a mobile device are beneficial, but not necessary.
2. Walk slowly and quietly around your yard, neighborhood, local park, or other outdoor space.
3. Each time you find one of the clues on your scavenger hunt, check it off. If you want, you may also try to identify the animal too!
4. Remember to observe wildlife without disturbing it. Do not touch nests, eggs, animal droppings, or wild animals.
5. When you finish, look at everything you found. Which signs were easiest to find? What surprised you?

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✓ **Wildlife clue**

☐ **An animal sound**

☐ **A bird flying overhead**

☐ **An insect visiting a plant**

☐ **A spiderweb**

☐ **A feather**

☐ **A leaf that has been chewed**

☐ **A hole that an animal might use**

☐ **An animal track or footprint**

☐ **A nest**

☐ **An animal hiding or resting**

☐ **Something an animal could eat**

☐ **Something an animal could use as shelter**

What did you find?

MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

September 2026 – Wild About Wildlife

Bonus Wildlife Detective Challenges:

Listen: Close your eyes for 30 seconds. How many different animals sounds can you hear?

Look: Find one animal without getting closer to it. What is it doing?

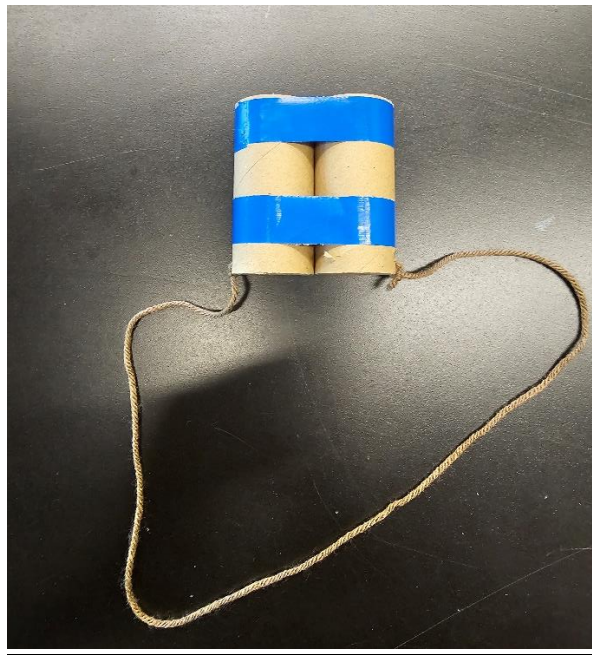
Think: Find one place an animal could hide. What animal do you think might use it?

Great job wildlife detectives! Scientists often study animals by looking for the same kinds of clues you just searched for! These clues can help us learn what animals are present in an area even when we can't see them! The next time you head outside, keep your eyes and ears open, you may discover that wildlife is all around you!

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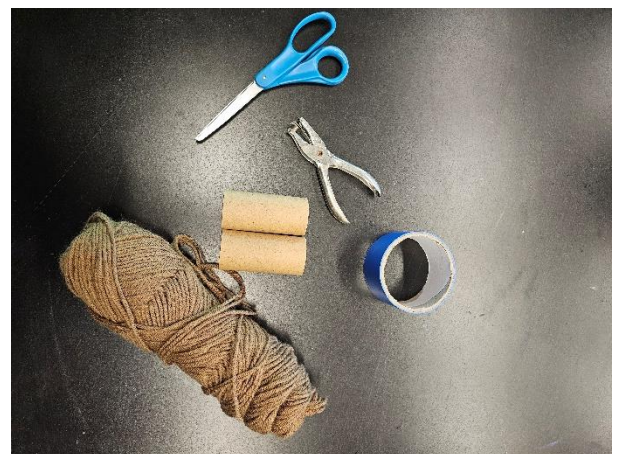
Indoor Activity: Make Your Own Binoculars



Binoculars are a great way for wildlife watchers to get closer to animals without disturbing them! Participants can use the attached guide to create their own binoculars and bring them outdoors as they investigate their local wildlife!

Materials:

- 2 empty toilet paper rolls
- Tape or glue
- String/yarn
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- Crayons, markers, stickers, or other decorations
- Scissors or a single hole punch(with adult help)



Steps:

1. Place two empty toilet paper rolls next to each other.

MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

September 2026 – Wild About Wildlife

2. Tape or glue the rolls together.
3. Decorate your binoculars with crayons, markers, stickers, or anything else you have at home!
4. With an adult's help, make a small hole on the outside of each tube using scissors.
5. Tie a piece of string/yarn through the holes to make a strap.
6. Head outside and use your new wildlife binoculars to search for birds, squirrels, insects, and other wildlife!



We hope you enjoyed the activity guide this month! Don't forget to check out the at-home mission for this month! To see a list of our other missions, or to learn more about Wonders of Wildlife, visit us at <https://wondersofwildlife.org/mission-conservation/>

