



## **2020 Lion, Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Scout Activity Packet**

*Welcome to the wonderful world of animals at the Minnesota Zoo!*

We are so glad you have decided to spend your day with us to learn more about plants, animals, and the places they live! Our world is a special place and needs special care from people just like you.

The Minnesota Zoo Tiger, Wolf, and Bear activity packet and Zoo patch has been designed just for you with nine activities to complete. If you are unable to finish all activities during your visit, feel free to complete them at a later date. However, you will want to purchase the patch before leaving. **The Minnesota Zoo patch is only available at the Minnesota Zoo and not available at the Council Scout Office.**

Patches are \$3.00 each and can be purchased at the Guest Services Desk every day, except Cub Scout Day. On Cub Scout Day, check your program sheet inside the Zoo map for the location

You can start the activity packet anywhere in the Zoo, but the easiest way to complete it is to follow the route the questions take you. If you wish, they can even be completed at home or during the next scout meeting.

Now, *on with your adventure!* We hope you learn many new and exciting things, and—**HAVE FUN!!**



## 1. **Totally Tropics!** (Tropics Trail)

If you were an animal that lived in the Tropics, where would you want to live: on the ground, in the trees, or high up in the air? Discuss or list the locations and reasons for wanting to live in that particular place.

- Generally, only small, quick animals can move through the top branches of trees. Can you guess what types of animals live up in the top branches of the trees? (snakes, monkeys, apes, birds)
- Larger animals move on the ground or near the ground. (tapirs, leopards, bears). Describe how an animal would move on the ground. Compare its movement to that of an animal that lives in the trees.

## 2. **Snakes are Grrreat!** (Tropics Trail Nocturnal area at python exhibit)

Some animals are called the “unhuggables.” These are animals that aren’t soft and furry or considered “cute,” so some people find them more difficult to like such as snakes and bats. Contributing to that are myths about them. A “myth” is a commonly believed, but false idea.

Part of being a Cub Scout is learning correct information and demonstrating an understanding of respect for animals and nature. We at the Zoo also hope you can appreciate all animals.

Talk about any myths you have heard about snakes. Here are a few that people might mention:

- *Myth #1 Snakes are slimy.*
  - Have you ever touched a basketball? It is dry and slightly bumpy. So is a snake. It is not slimy. Next time you have a chance to touch a snake while at a zoo or nature center gently touch the snake and see for yourself.
- *Myth #2 Snakes are “out to get you.”*
  - If you encounter a snake it is usually caught off-guard (as you are) but most encounters are avoided by a snake vanishing as soon as it hears you coming. A surprised snake will pick the nearest escape route and try to disappear as quickly as possible, especially when it is faced with a potential predator 50 times its own size. But snakes generally have poor eyesight and don’t always pick the best route out of trouble. If any animal feels cornered it will stand and defend itself as a last resort. Most bites occur because of someone not leaving the snake alone.

*Outdoor Code  
As an American, I will do my best to-  
Be considerate in the outdoors.  
Be conservation minded.*



What are two things you can do to show respect for this python? Snakes in general? One example would be to stand up for snakes when people talk negatively about them. Can you do this? What else can you do?

### 3. An Alphabet of Animals (entire Zoo)

Some animals have fur or hair. They are called mammals.

Some animals have feathers. They are called birds.

Other animals have scales. They are reptiles.

Some animals have scales and slime. They are fish.

And yet other animals have moist skin. They are amphibians like frogs and salamanders.

Keep a tally of each for the next 15 minutes as you go through the trails. Have your den leader or family keep time for you. See how many you end up with in each category. Make a guess before you start as to which one you think will have the most.

Mammals

Birds

Reptiles

Amphibians

### 4. Rank Animal Investigations

**Wolf or Bear Scouts** (Minnesota Trail):

Go to your rank animal exhibit, read the exhibit signs, and as a den or family answer/discuss the following:

- **Wolf Scouts:**
  - How many different kinds of wolves are there in North America?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - What kind of wolves do we have in Minnesota?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Do they have good senses of smelling and hearing? Tell your den member or family something about this.



- **Bear Scouts:**

- In the bear cave near the eagle it talks about a female bear hibernating. How long might she hibernate? \_\_\_\_\_ What are two things she does during this time?
  - 1.
  - 2.
- Read up on camping and hiking safely in bear country. Discuss or write down three things you can do to camp safely.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- Discuss or write down three things you can do to hike safely around bears.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

**Lion and Tiger Scouts** (Northern Trail near the leopards of Russia's Grizzly Coast)

Go to your rank animal exhibit (since the Minnesota Zoo doesn't have any lions both go to Tiger Base Camp exhibit), read the exhibit signs, and as a den or family answer/discuss the following:

- **Lion and Tiger Scouts**

- What is a camera trap and explain briefly how they work.
- What do Amur tigers eat?
- How are Amur tigers doing in the wild?
- Why do researchers use radio telemetry to study wild animals?
- How many steps are there in collaring a wild cat? And what do you think is the most important step?



## 5. **Monkey Business** (Snow monkeys)

Being aware of what an animal in an exhibit does is important for many reasons. It can tell the animal care staff if the animal is sick or hurt, or relaxed and comfortable. Pick out one Snow Monkey and observe it for three minutes. Every 20 seconds record your observations below by keeping tally of its activity. Have your den leader or someone in your family say the word “time” every 20 seconds so you know when to record.

After this is over talk amongst yourselves and compare what each of your monkeys were doing. Were some more active than others? Did some monkeys do the same thing for the whole time-period? What did you learn from this activity?

Grooming

Foraging (looking for food)

Eating

Playing

Resting

Other

## 6. **Monk Seals are the Deal!** (Discovery Bay)

Hawaiian monk seals are a highly endangered seal species. Talk about what being an endangered animal means. Read the monk seal interpretive panels to the left of the Hawaiian monk seal aquarium windows for answers. Circle the correct answer below.

- Seals have bodies built like what shape?
  - Torpedos
  - Pancakes
  - Pencils
  
- It helps them:
  - move swiftly through the water
  - find food
  - hear better
  - find their parents in dark water



- Monk seals are herbivores (they only eat plants):
  - True
  - False
- Monk seals live in:
  - South America
  - Minnesota
  - Hawaii
  - Canada
- What does it mean when a seal molts?
  
- Do the monk seals here at the Minnesota Zoo have the skills necessary to survive in the wild?
  - Yes
  - No

#### 7. Otterly Wonderful! (Russia's Grizzly Coast)

- Sea Otters live in very cold water. How many adaptations or things in their environment help the sea otters do so? These are all listed on the information (interpretive) panel at the exhibit. Circle each one that applies:
  - Thick fur
  - Tool use
  - Large size
  - Large ears
  - Excellent hearing
  - Diving gear
  - Kelp
  - Rafts
  - Body covered in scales
  - Living in nests
- Discuss some of these as a family or den. Which one do you think would be your favorite to have or use if you were a sea otter?
- Do sea otters breathe air above the water?
  - Yes
  - No
- Mammals have fur, reptiles like snakes have scales and amphibians have slimy skin, like frogs or salamanders. Is the otter a mammal, reptile, or amphibian? Circle the correct answer:
  - Mammal
  - Reptile
  - Amphibian



**8. Leaping Leopards!** (Russia's Grizzly Coast)

- The black circles on the coat of the leopards are called (circle one):
  - Whirls
  - Loops
  - Rings
  - Rosettes

They help the leopard \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- These stealthy, speedy hunters excel at climbing and jumping.
  - True
  - False
- They keep their kill on the ground and eat it.
  - True
  - False

\*In the graphic "How Many?" it says a school bus holds about as many kids as there are Amur leopards in the world. But since this was written some good news has been reported and now they believe the numbers have tripled to about 103.

**9. What's New at the Zoo?** (Any trail)

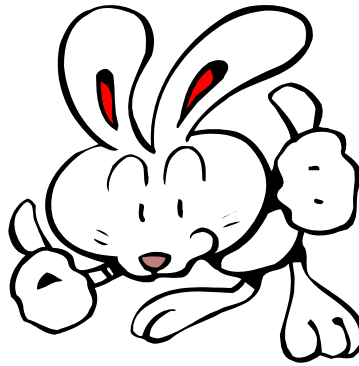
The Minnesota Zoo cares for approximately 5,000 animals and about 450 different species! You have had a chance to see many of them today. What two animals do you think would make a good addition to the animals already here? Why did you choose the animals you did?

Keep in mind we don't just bring in animals from the wild. We help increase the number of those that are endangered. An animal that is endangered is close to extinction — meaning there aren't very many of that type of animal left in the world. This word is used mostly to describe animal species that are not doing very well. Animals usually become endangered because of over hunting or the destruction of their habitat.

Share your answer with your fellow scouts or family members.



Thank you for being a guest at the Minnesota Zoo today! We are glad your den/family was interested in learning more about animals and supporting your local zoo. Now that you have learned many interesting things about animals, the next step is to take that information out into your community and teach others about this precious resource. Keep the spark going so that everyone will have the opportunity to see animals in quality zoos and best of all, in their natural environment for years to come.



**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

You have completed the Minnesota Zoo Cub Scout activity packet!!  
Now that you have completed your activities please sign your name below and have an adult sign as well.

*If you are completing some activities after your zoo visit, you may still purchase the activity patch. It is not available at your local Council Scout Office*

---

(Scout Signature)

---

(Leader/Parent Signature)

---

(Date)