



Girl Scouts of Connecticut
CT SWEF Grant Report

Environmental Programs at GSOFCT Camps – Summer 2014

Our goal this summer was to expand the *Project Wild* curriculum offered at our day and resident camps. In 2013, CT SWEF funded the successful launch of the Spider Wonders program. For 2014, we wanted to add in a program focused on older youth and CT SWEF generously provided funding to purchase the necessary materials to implement the Bat Wonders program.

Our goal was to:

- teach girls to distinguish between bat facts and fiction;
- help them understand that bats are important because they help keep farm and garden pests in control;
- and develop their ability to appreciate, rather than fear, bats

We did provide all of the materials to each camp, although the program was not fully implemented in every session. This was due to staff transition during the planning process. It was, however, well received by the girls who participated.

When parents were asked what their campers learned about bats, the results were:

Response	% respondents
They are important to the environment	41%
Bats are mammals	18%
Bats use echolocation	13%

We received a range of other responses that included:

- Bats are harmless
- They are nocturnal
- Bats are not blind
- Bats are not scary
- They eat bugs
- Campers made bat crafts and played games to learn about bats

The \$1,384 grant provided by CT SWEF was fully expended in the purchase of the Bat Wonders curriculum (\$1,078.10), related supplies and training of staff (\$305.90).

We also continued to offer Spider Wonders this summer with success based on responses from girls on their survey question “What is one challenge you overcame at camp this summer?” that included:

- tolerating spiders
- the fear of spiders
- my fear of spiders because when we were outside I learned they help the earth and won’t hurt us

We are so grateful for your support in enhancing our environmental program offerings. Both of these programs will be integrated into our camp curriculum in the future. The materials are also available for use by troops at their camporees. The investment made by CT SWEF will have continued impact on girls engaged in our outdoor programs.

Take Home Material Bat Wonders Program



This program made possible by:
Connecticut Society for Women Environmental Professionals

Activity on page 10

First Impressions Primeras Impresiones

Your child had the opportunity to think about and express the way he or she feels about a variety of animals. Engage your child in open conversation about animals and your feelings towards them.

Su hijo o hija ha tenido la oportunidad de pensar y expresarse sobre lo que siente acerca de una variedad de animales. Converse con su hijo o hija acerca de los animales y sus sentimientos hacia éstos.

Family Favorites (and Not): Find out your child's favorite animal and share yours. What do you each like about the favorite animal? What other animals do you like? Are there any animals that generate negative feelings for either of you? Why do you feel this way? Are your feelings based on your experience or something you heard from someone else?

Mis Animales Favoritos (y los No Favoritos): Descubra cual es el animal favorito de su hijo o hija y comparta con él o ella cual es el suyo. ¿Qué les gusta de sus animales favoritos? ¿Cuáles otros animales les gustan? ¿Hay algún animal que genere sentimientos negativos en cada uno de ustedes? ¿Están sus sentimientos basados en sus experiencias o algo que escucharan de otras personas?

Learn Something New: Children's reactions to animals are strongly influenced by those of their parents and other important adults. If you realize that you have a fear or aversion to a certain animal, consider the impact of your reaction on your child's own experience of the world. Visit the library, a zoo or natural history museum to learn accurate information about animals.

Aprende Algo Nuevo: Las reacciones de los niños y niñas hacia los animales están fuertemente influenciadas por las reacciones de sus padres y las de otros adultos que son importantes para ellos. Si entiende que tiene miedo o aversión a cierto animal, considere el impacto de su reacción en la experiencia de su hijo o hija acerca del mundo. Visitan la biblioteca, un zoológico o un museo para obtener información preciso sobre los animales.

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