



Animal Helpers



Badge Overview

Through earning this badge, Cadettes will learn how animals help humans beyond the companionship of pets. Girls will explore all the things animals do to support a humans' physical, emotional and social needs.

Badge Components

1. Explore the relationship between animals and humans

Time to be an animal researcher! People have always had differing opinions about animals. Can they feel emotions? Should they sleep in bed with you? Is keeping animals as pets inhumane?

- Fire up your search engine and find 10 examples of changing views on animals over the centuries we have been interacting with animals. Take notes in a journal to share with your friends.
- Here is an [article](#) from Stanford to get you started.

2. Find out how animals keep people safe

Use the sites below to learn about animal heroes. Use a journal to keep track of the heroic pets you find and share your favorite story with your friends.

- [Not Your Ordinary Pets](#)
- [Animal Heroes](#)
- [7 Unusual Animal Stories](#)

3. Know how animals help people emotionally

Conduct virtual interviews of 5 pet owners about how their pet helps them emotionally.

- When creating your questions, think about how your own pet makes you feel or how you feel when around someone else's pet.
- Make sure to record their answers in a journal so you can see if there are certain pets that are more helpful for certain emotions.

4. Check out how animals help people with disabilities

You have probably seen dogs with vests in stores around your home. These dogs are service dogs that are trained to help people with varying abilities.

- Explore this [website](#) to learn all about service dogs and how they are trained. Use your journal to take notes.

5. Explore how animals might help us in the future

Animals have amazing senses and abilities.

- Pick 5 animals to research their special abilities and traits. Think of a new way at least one of your animals can help us in the future.
- Create a poster showcasing each animal's traits as well as your idea for the animal helping us in the future. Share your poster with others.

Materials

- Something to write with
- A journal
- Access to internet

Florida Educational Standards

The content of all Girl Scout national proficiency Badges and Journeys have been correlated by grade level to national and state learning objectives.

Click here for more information on how Girl Scout Badge-work supports Florida's educational standards.

We love to see Girl Scouts in action. Snap a photo and send it to marcomm@gssef.org.

Include her name, troop# and the name of the badge she's working on and we'll feature her.

Finished with your badge? Now buy it for your Girl Scout Uniform. Order online at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/SOUTHEAST-FLORIDA-COUNCIL> and we'll ship it for free.

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