

# Girl Scout Rainforest Expedition Patch



## Brownie Challenges

You are about to take a journey into an amazing place. Tropical rainforests are home to the greatest variety of plants and animals on Earth. They provide our world with enormous amounts of oxygen, help clean the atmosphere, and are a source for many medicines and foods. Put on your scientist hat and try to complete 4 of the 8 Expedition Challenges!

- From the Outside:** Warm up your observation skills by spending a few minutes observing the rainforest dome from the outside. Walk around the outside or look in from Levels 2 or 3. What do you see inside? What plants and animals can you spot? How do the plants inside get the light they need to grow?

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- Rainforest Sounds and Smells:** When you enter the exhibit take a few minutes to take in the environment of the rainforest. Try closing your eyes. What sounds do you hear? What do you smell? What does the air feel like? How is it different from where you live?

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- Rainforest Layers:** Each layer of a tropical rainforest is different, providing a home for its own community of plants and animals. From the observation ramp, scan the rainforest from top to bottom. Where do you observe most of the plants and animals? Sketch your favorite plant or animal and have a friend try to guess what rainforest layer it lives in.



My favorite rainforest plant or animal is...

**Winged Wonders:** The rainforests of the world are home to a huge variety of bird and butterfly species. Use your sharp observation skills to spot as many different types as you can. What different colors do you see? What are the birds doing? Where do you see them? Do some investigation to find out what the birds eat (hint: look for their feeding trays). What important roles might birds and butterflies play in the rainforest?

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**Insect Collection:** Rainforests are home to an extraordinary number of insects and spiders; many have yet to be discovered! Go to the Islands of Evolution exhibit and look for the insects on display in the Madagascar area. What are some of the tools scientists use to collect insects? Test your skills as a biologist at the different collecting areas. Get together with your friends to decide which tool worked best for catching certain types of insects and spiders.

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**Adapted to the Flooded Rainforest:** In order to survive and thrive in a flooded rainforest habitat, species have evolved in many amazing ways. While walking through the Flooded Amazon area of the Aquarium, find the matamata turtle and Surinam toad. Observe what they look like. How might their appearance help them survive in the rivers of the Amazon Basin?

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**Rainforest Products at Home:** There are many things that we use every day that come from the world's rainforests. When you are at home, try to find things that you eat or use that originally came from a rainforest. Here are some items to look for: pineapple, banana, avocado, mango, vanilla, cinnamon, chocolate, coffee, cashews and rubber. Work with an adult to research other rainforest products that people use every day.

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**Fish in the Flooded Amazon:** More than 2,500 species of freshwater fish have been identified in the Amazon Basin — more species than in any other river system in the world. Stand in the Amazon tunnel. How many different fish species can you count? Use the red fish identification card located beside the tunnel entrance to identify as many fish as you can.

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