



GETTING TO KNOW THE DESERT

ACTIVITIES

- » **Girl Scout Brownies** – complete 4 activities, including the three starred (★) activities
- » **Girl Scout Juniors** – complete 6 activities, including the three starred (★) activities
- » **Girl Scout Cadettes** – complete 7 activities, including the three starred (★) activities
- » **Girl Scout Seniors** – complete 7 activities, including the three starred (★) activities
- » **Girl Scout Ambassadors** – complete 7 activities, including the three starred (★) activities



- 1.★ Learn what environmental conditions classify an area as a desert. How does the Southwest desert region differ from other deserts?
- 2.★ Obtain a seed from at least one desert plant. Learn any special techniques necessary to germinate the seed. Grow the seed until it can be transplanted. Make arrangements to replant your seedling in the desert.
- 3.★ Make a list of common safety rules and equipment for travel or exploration in the desert. Teach younger girls how to make a first aid kit.
4. Name the region of the Southwest desert on a map noting any particular states, geological formations and rivers.
5. Name 10 animals that are common to the Southwest desert. Describe their habitats, characteristics, and eating habits. Learn which animals are protected by law.
6. Name 20 desert plants. Describe their particular habitats and characteristics. Find out which plants are protected by law and what you can do to help.
7. Discover how Native Americans used plants for food, medicines, and cosmetics. Are any of these plants still used today? If so, for what purpose?
8. Discover how the early settlers in the Southwest desert used plants for food, medicine, and cosmetics. Try one recipe and share it with your troop or family.
9. Build to scale or draw at least two desert dwellings using desert materials. Such materials could be adobe, wood, and cholla or saguaro ribs. These could be early Native American, settler, or animal dwellings.
10. Learn which plants and animals once found in the Southwest desert area are now extinct. Are any others endangered? Name these. Find out what is being done to protect these endangered plants and animals.

11. Discover what art had its beginnings in the desert. Learn to make dyes, paints or sand art. Use what you learned and share your work.
12. Learn the importance of the following desert survival skills:
 - DEHYDRATION: Learn about the effects: how to reduce body water loss, how to make water in the desert, how to find water, and how to contain it.
 - COVER/SHADE: Learn the importance of shade and the best ways to use materials at hand to make a shelter.
 - FIRES: Learn the important uses of a fire if you get into trouble.
 - PRE-TRIP PLANNING AND SIGNALING: Learn what to do before a trip and the importance of signals. Learn about the different types of signals. Tell someone where you are going.
 - FOOD AND PLANTS: Learn why food should be avoided if not enough water is available. Identify which plants in the desert are edible.
 - FIRST AID: Identify some of the likely dangers of the desert and how to treat them-shock, sun blindness, cactus, lizards, scorpions, spiders and snake bites.
 - SURVIVAL KIT: Discuss the purpose of a survival kit and identify what it should contain.
 - CLOTHING: Learn about the proper clothing for the desert.
 - HYPOTHERMIA AND HYPERTHERMIA: Know how to prevent and treat both.

GETTING TO KNOW THE DESERT RESOURCES

Arizona Department of Agriculture
 1688 W. Adams
 Phoenix, AZ
 (602) 542-4373
<https://agriculture.az.gov>

Boyce Thompson Arboretum
 P. O. Box AB
 Superior, AZ
 (520) 689-2811
<http://ag.arizona.edu/bta/>

Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum
 2021 N. Kinney Rd
 Tucson, AZ
 (520) 883-2702
www.desertmuseum.org

Desert Botanical Garden
 1201 N. Galvin Parkway
 Phoenix, AZ
 (602) 941-1217
www.dbg.org

Arizona State Parks Board
 1300 W. Washington St
 Phoenix, AZ
 (602) 542-4174
<http://azstateparks.com/index.html>

Saguaro National Park
 2700 North Kinney Rd
 Tucson, AZ
 (520) 733-5158
www.nps.gov/sagu/index.htm

Also consult historical museums, libraries throughout Arizona, and internet resources.

SUGGESTED READING

- » *Sonoran Desert Plants: An Ecological Atlas*, Raymond Turner, 2005
- » *The Nature of Arizona, 2nd ed: An Introduction to Familiar Plants, Animals & Outstanding Natural Attractions*, James Kavanagh, 2005
- » *Sonoran Desert Food Plants: Edible Uses for the Desert's Wild Bounty*, Charles Kane, 2014
- » *A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert*, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, 1999
- » *Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Book of Answers*, David Wentworth Lazaroff, 1998

