

Brownie Parent & Leader Guide



Dear Parents and Leaders: Use this guide to facilitate fun and learning for your scout as she works to complete the Brownie Senses badge. Be sure to pick up a map of the Virginia Aquarium before you get started.

Step 1: Look Around

Recommended Exhibits: Red Sea Tunnel, Norfolk Canyon Aquarium, or Light Tower Aquarium

Encourage your scout to.....

- Sit and observe the fish for at least 5 minutes.
- Look for patterns and colors on the fish in the exhibit.

Step 2: Listen to the World

Step 3: Put Your Nose to Work

Recommended Exhibits: Marsh Loop or Nature Trail

Encourage your scout to.....

- To stop at the oyster exhibits and freshwater pond on the Marsh Loop.
- Quietly listen to nature for 5 minutes. (maybe even close your eyes)
- Can you identify sounds from living organisms, such as birds, insects, or frogs?
- Can you identify sounds from non-living organisms, such as the wind, water, cars, or planes?
- While on the Marsh Loop or Nature Trail, smell the air.
- Can you smell the sulfurs that are released from the marsh mud?
- Can you smell the trees or grasses?



Step 4: Take a Taste Test

Recommended Exhibits: None

Encourage your scout to.....

- The next time you take a break for a snack or a meal, either blindfold your scout or have her close her eyes (no peeking!).
- Choose several food items your scout might be familiar with. We suggest choosing items that are salty, sweet, sour, bitter, and savory.
- Have her taste test and try to name the food items while blindfolded or with her eyes closed.
- You can also have her pinch her nose closed to see how that changes her ability to name the food item.
- Discuss how successful she was in identifying the foods.

Step 5: Touch & Feel

Recommended Exhibits: Ray Touch Pool, Chesapeake Bay Touch Pool, Conservation Station, or Marsh Pavilion

Encourage your scout to.....

- Touch the animals at both touch pools.
- Meet an Animal Ambassador in the Conservation Station or Marsh Pavilion. Check out the schedule board for program times when you arrive at the Aquarium.
- After the program chat with your scout about the characteristics of the animal, how did it feel? What habitat does the animal live in? Does its shell, skin, or scales help it in some way, such as camouflage or protection from predators?

see schedule at the end of this guide

Gallery Program Schedule *Check program times when you arrive at the Aquarium.*

Harbor Seals: 10 am and 3 pm

Sting Rays: 10:30 am and 3:30 pm

Sea Turtles: 1:30 pm

Sharks: 2 pm

River Otters: 1:30 pm