



Howard County Conservancy Junior Naturalist

This book belongs to



Welcome to the Howard County Conservancy!

The Howard County Conservancy is looking for naturalist team members just like you to help us preserve our natural world and educate others about environmental stewardship.

- Do you love the outdoors?
- Do you and your family like to explore new places and learn about new things?
- Do you want to learn how to help protect animals and plants?
- Are you ready to start a new nature adventure?

If so, here is your chance to become a Junior Naturalist!

About the Howard County Conservancy

The Howard County Conservancy is a nonprofit environmental education center located on 232 acres of rolling hills in Woodstock and at Belmont Manor and Historic Park in Elkrige. The mission of the Howard County Conservancy is to educate children and adults about our natural world, preserve the land and its legacy for future generations and model responsible stewardship of our environment.

This program was provided
with special thanks to W.R. Grace

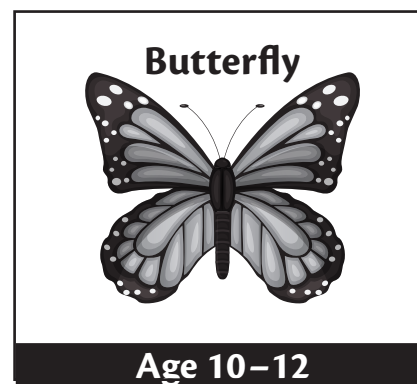
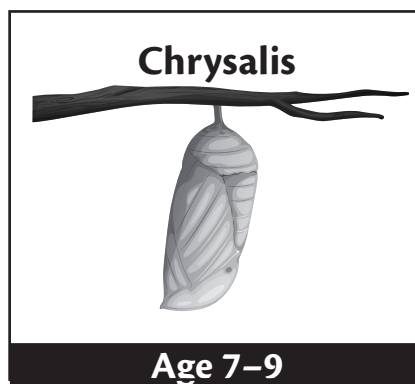
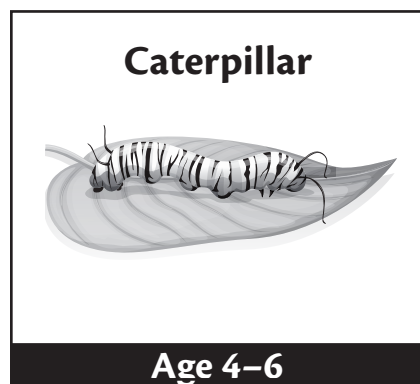
GRACE

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How to become a Junior Naturalist

1. Complete the activity pages with the symbol suggested for your age.
Finish at least six pages to earn your Junior Naturalist patch.



2. Bring your completed booklet to either Nature Center during business hours. We will review your booklet and award you with the Conservancy's official Junior Naturalist patch!

MT. PLEASANT

10520 Old Frederick Road
Woodstock, Maryland 21163

Nature Center Hours

Monday – Saturday, 9 am – 3 pm
Closed Saturdays during the winter

Contact: info@hcconservancy.org
410-465-8877

BELMONT

6553 Belmont Woods Road
Elkridge, Maryland 20175

Open for scheduled events only
Events listed at www.hcconservancy.org

Contact: belmont@hcconservancy.org
410-465-8337

www.hcconservancy.org

1. Tell us why you want to be a Junior Naturalist:

2. Visit one of our two nature centers. Which one did you visit?

Center Name and Location

List two things you saw there:

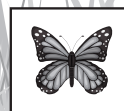
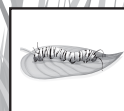
3. Take a hike near one of our nature centers.

Describe your hike and the habitats you saw (forest, meadow, stream)

4. Visit one of our resident animals:

Who did you visit?

What did you find interesting about them?



Protect and Preserve

You can help protect and preserve our natural world for future generations by following a few simple rules. Everything you do can affect the animals and plants around you. It is important to model responsible stewardship (protecting and caring for nature) and **Leave No Trace** to help protect the environment.

Complete the pledge using the word bank to fill in the blanks in the lines below.

Word Bank

Visitors	Natural
Trash	Feeding
Wildlife	Trails

Junior Naturalist Leave No Trace Pledge

I promise to:

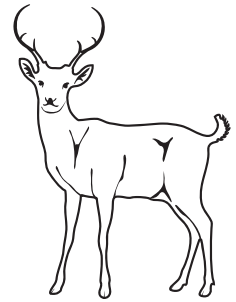
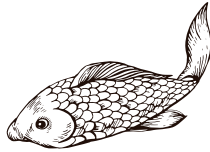
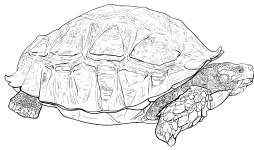
1. Stay on _____ and paths.
2. Take my _____ with me when I leave _____ areas.
3. Protect _____ by not going near or _____ wild animals.
4. Be kind to other _____.



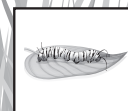
Habitats are Homes

A habitat is a place where a plant or animal lives. A habitat provides all the food, water, shelter and space a species needs to survive. There are three major habits at both Conservancy locations: forest, meadow and stream. To protect wildlife, it is important to protect their homes (habitats). If something happens in a habitat, such as fire, pollution, or flooding, animals and plants may become endangered or threatened.

Draw a line connecting each animal to the habitat where it lives.



Look for all three habitats as you explore the Conservancy's natural areas. Do you notice different types of plants and animals in each habitat? Yes or No? Why do you think so?



Sensory Scavenger Hunt

The Conservancy has many natural areas for you to explore and discover the wonders of the outdoors. Use your senses to help you complete the scavenger hunt below.

Touch the bark of a tree Is it <input type="checkbox"/> rough or <input type="checkbox"/> smooth (check one)	Dance in the wind like the branches of a tree. How does the wind feel?
Listen to a bird sing. What do you think its call or song says?	Look at a wildflower up close. Describe its colors:
Stop and smell the air. What does it make you think of?	Sit and look over the meadow. How does it make you feel?

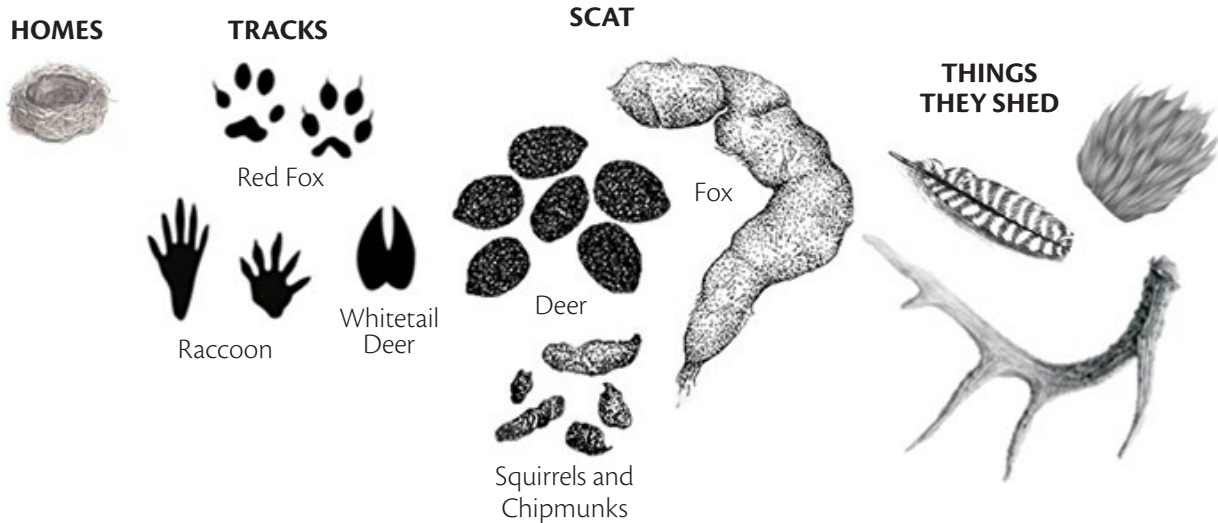
Draw your favorite habitat, plant, animal, or experience:



Nature Detective

Wild animals often hide from humans so you may not always see them, but they leave evidence behind when they travel around. Think like a detective and look for clues on the trails, in the forest, next to the water or along the meadow that animals have been here.

What to look for: Homes, tracks, fur, feathers and scat (animal droppings). The evidence animals leave behind can sometimes tell you a story about what the animal was doing or where they were going. Here are a few clues to help guide your investigation.



Below, draw one piece of animal evidence you found:



Detective log: Find evidence of an animal and record below.

What did you find: ☐ TRACK ☐ SCAT ☐ OTHER _____

Where did you find it? _____

Describe it: _____

What animal do you think left this sign? _____

What other evidence of animals do you see nearby? _____



Native Trees

What would the world be like without trees? Trees change colors from season to season and give us shade in the summer. Trees also “drink” huge amounts of water with their roots and help to clean the air that we breathe. Without trees, many animals would be without homes and food. Birds, squirrels, bugs, and mice live in trees and eat bark, nuts, leaves, and fruits.

Maryland’s diverse habitats allow for many different species of trees to thrive. As you walk around the Conservancy, see if you can find the native Maryland trees that match these leaves.

☐ **White Oak**
(Maryland State Tree)



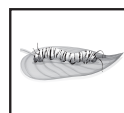
☐ **American Sycamore**



☐ **Sweet Gum**



☐ **Tulip Poplar**

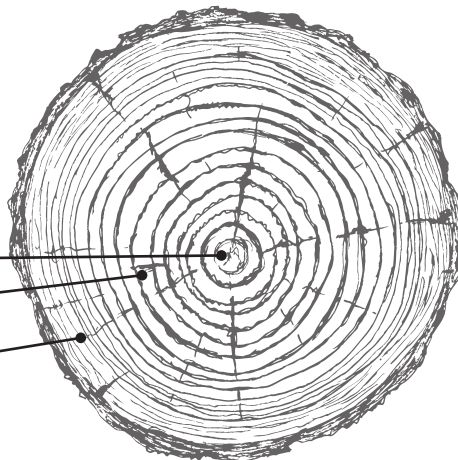
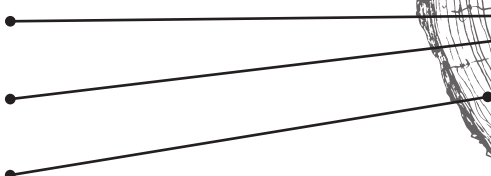


How old is this tree?

We can find out a lot about a tree by looking at the rings in its trunk, using a scientific tree dating process called dendrochronology. When you look at a tree’s rings, one ring usually stands for one year of the tree’s life. Sometimes the rings are wide, this means the year was full of rain and the tree had good growth. Other times, the rings are thin, this generally means it was a dry year. The inner rings of the tree are the oldest growth.

What can you tell about the tree’s growth below?

Fill in your answer on the lines.



How old do you think this tree is? _____



Champion Trees: Some trees grow so large, for so long, they become Champion Trees. Find a tree that looks like a champion to you. Describe it here:



Wildlife Wonders

Maryland is home to many different wild animals including over 60 types of birds, 31 types of mammals, 6 types of herptiles and 25 types of insects.



In the blanks, label each group of animals as a insect, bird, mammal or herptile. What do you think herptile means?

Check any animal you have seen

_____ **M** _____ **L**

☐ Deer Mouse

☐ Porcupine

☐ Eastern Mole

☐ Eastern Gray Squirrel

☐ Opossum

☐ Red Fox

_____ **R** _____

☐ Barred Owl

☐ Eastern Screech-Owl

☐ Blue Jay

☐ Cardinal

☐ Blue Bird

☐ Chickadee

_____ **N** _____ **E** _____

☐ Dragonfly

☐ Honey Bee

☐ Monarch Butterfly

☐ Lady Bug

_____ **P** _____ **I** _____

☐ Gray Tree Frog

☐ Box Turtle

☐ Diamondback Terrapin

☐ Black Rat Snake

☐ Salamander

☐ Red Corn Snake

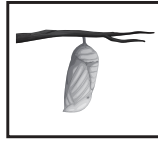


What does it mean to be wild?



Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Animals

How many rare, threatened and endangered animals can you find in the search below?



Find 5



Find all 10

G B E X B P I E N P U W R H W
F R C N V O V L V Q H B A T H
R T E C I X B K O I F L E R I
B S H E H P X C P H P T B T T
G J S D N J U P A H W Q K H E
T K G D I S O C S T R J C H C
W L I S M O A I R X B I A S A
L D L L R C F L T O Y H L Y T
N E E W Y W V L A C P X B A F
U I I W A N O P I M I W W L I
O L G R A Y W O L F A S X O S
L R C Y O A L U A A P N F K H
B E I N K B Y C V P K Z D P K
X S T X T M S L B B Y G O E F
E L G A E D L A B Z E V E S R

BALD EAGLE

ELK

WHIPPOORWILL

BLACK BEAR

GRAY WOLF

WHITE CATFISH

BOB CAT

GREEN SALAMANDER

CRAWFISH

PORCUPINE

