

NATURE REFLECTIONS

- Some mammals will eat anything! Others are more specialized, such as bats and moles. Pick three mammals and create a menu listing their favorite foods.
- Smaller mammals such as mice, moles, squirrels and bats are sometimes seen as nuisance animals. Even coyotes may disrupt day-to-day human activities. List five things that humans can do to live with animals in harmony.
- Examine any of the preserved mammal specimens at your Nature Center. What is your favorite? What does it eat, where does it live, and how does it survive the cold Tennessee winter?
- Wolves, bears, woods bison, and elk are mammals that would have roamed our Parks 200 years ago. Why are they no longer found in Nashville? Do you think they could survive here in 2012?
- Read a story about a Tennessee mammal. What was your favorite part of the story? What did you learn?
- Write a poem or story about a mammal that lives in *your* habitat, perhaps in your house, yard, school, or neighborhood. Use the



Become a Junior Naturalist: Learn about Mammals!



Junior Naturalist Pledge

As a Junior Naturalist, I pledge to show love and respect for our natural world and to do what I can to help protect our environment and special places like the Metro Parks.

Signed: _____

Dated : _____



Shelby Bottoms  Nature Center

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Hey Kids!

If you're between the ages of 6 and 12, you can become a Metro Parks Junior Naturalist! Just follow the directions in this booklet and complete the requirements to earn the 2011 patch and certificate.



White-tailed Deer

Please complete the following information:

Your Name: _____ Age: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Find your age group to determine how many activities you need to complete.

Ages 6-7 complete 2 activities per category
Ages 8-9 complete 3 activities per category
Ages 10-12 complete 4 activities per category

Please keep a folder or packet of all your work and write your name on everything you turn in, such as writings or drawings. We may post some of your work on our website—
www.nashville.gov/parks/nature.

HELPFUL HINTS!: Nature Center libraries have many books and other resources to help you become a Junior Naturalist. Other materials can be found in the **Junior Naturalist Resource Box**, which is located at the front desk of your Nature Center. Just ask for it!

To receive your Junior Naturalist patch and certificate, call or email your Nature Center and set up an appointment with a naturalist **after you have completed all the requirements.**

All activities should be completed by December 31, 2012.

The Junior Naturalist program
is made possible by



NATURE STUDY

- Scientists group animals based on different characteristics. To what phylum and class do mammals belong? What characteristics make mammals different from birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians? What characteristics do they all share?
- What is the name of the mammal on this year's patch? What type of habitat does it live in and what does it eat? What do we call its young?
- What is our only *flying* mammal? What do these Tennessee residents eat? How do they communicate? Are they really blind? Draw a diagram of this mammal and label some of its bones.
- Define the terms herbivore, omnivore, and carnivore. Study the skulls and teeth of two mammals from each group. How do an animals' teeth determine what they will eat?
- What is the Tennessee state mammal? List five facts about this interesting mammal.
- Study and sketch the tracks of five different mammals. How are they similar? How are they different?



Mink

NATURE EXPLORATION

- Hike a trail and look for signs of mammal activity such as scrapes on trees, tracks, scat, fur, and digging. Make sure to take notes and make drawings about what you see!
- Explore an aquatic habitat (pond, creek, river) near where you live. Do you see any signs of mammals? What mammals live in or near aquatic habitats? What do they eat and what type of shelter do they have?
- Use a field guide or other resource to identify the mammals that created tracks, scat, and other signs that you have observed. Asking a Naturalist is OK too!
- Mammal scat (droppings) gives us a clue about what they are eating. Look for scat outside on the trail and try to identify what animal left it. Make sure to not touch it! If you can't find any, check out the Mammal Scat Bandanas at your Nature Center.
- Mammals build or find very creative shelters. Learn about shelters used by fox, coyote, flying squirrel, moles, and other mammals.
- Check out 3 mammal bones at your Nature Center. Use Naturalist tools such as a microscope, hand lens, or field guide to determine the name of each bone and what animal it came from.
- Observe a squirrel or chipmunk at the bird feeders. Draw a picture of it. What is it doing?



Chipmunk