The Albany Pine Bush Preserve is a nature preserve that protects a special environment called an “inland pine barrens.” Many different plants and animals live in the preserve including some rare and endangered species.


The following scavenger hunt was developed to help your den learn more about the Albany Pine Bush ecosystem and fulfill Requirement 4 of “Tigers in the Wild.”

Please remind Scouts of the Cub Scout Outdoor Code at the start of your visit.

*Do not collect any of the things you find on your hunt (with the exception of a trail map!)*. Simply check the box next to the item when you find it. You may find things in a different order than they are listed on your scavenger hunt, so be sure to check the whole list before you start.

Your hunt begins at the start of any Pine Bush Preserve trail. Start at a trailhead informational kiosk and follow the trail markers and map. We hope you enjoy your visit to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve!

**IMPORTANT**

- Please limit group size to less than 25 people. A permit is required for groups of 25 and larger.

- Don’t forget to check! There are ticks in the Pine Bush Preserve. Please make sure to check for ticks during and after your visit.
Welcome to the Albany Pine Bush!

Scavenger Hunt

Map of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve: Whenever you go for a hike in the Pine Bush Preserve, be sure to bring along a map of the trails. Pick up a map at any trailhead kiosk. Or, ask an adult to take a picture of the map at the kiosk!

Pitch pine tree: This evergreen tree has long needles that grow in groups of 3. Look for a pine tree and stop to count the number of needles growing in each group. Do you count 3? Pitch pine trees also have prickly cones.

Scrub oak: Scrub oaks are oaks, but they are not trees. They are shrubs (bushes) with many stems. Scrub oaks are common in the Pine Bush Preserve and provide food and shelter for birds, mammals, insects and more. Look for shrubs with acorns and pointed leaves.

Blueberry and huckleberry: Blueberries and huckleberries are low growing shrubs with small, smooth, oval-shaped leaves. They look alike but are actually different plants. Look for them growing together along the trails.

Animal footprint: Many different kinds of animals live in the Pine Bush. From mammals to birds to reptiles and more the Pine Bush is an important home for wildlife. Can you find the footprint of an animal that has been here before you? Hikers sometimes see deer and coyote footprints along the trails!

Browse or chew marks: Deer, rabbits, insects and other animals leave marks where they have been feeding. Look closely at the plants along your hike. Can you tell where a leaf or stem was chewed by an animal?
**Bird sound:** Many birds live in the Pine Bush Preserve. Some are here all year, some are only here for the breeding season, and others are here only a few days during their migration. They communicate using sounds like songs and call notes. Stop and listen. Can you hear a bird calling?

**Trail marker:** Find a trail marker along the trail. Trail markers are used to mark the trails so hikers and other trail users know which way to go.

**Scat:** In other words...poop! Animals leave us many signs that they were here. Droppings, also called scat, are one sure sign that an animal has been here. By looking at the shape, size and contents of scat (never touch the scat!) you can identify the animal who left it.

**Prairie grass:** Look for tall grass in summer and fall. It may be as tall as 6 feet! Prairie grasses provide food and shelter to many mammals, insects and birds. If you are not visiting in summer or fall, look for stalks from the last growing season. They may be yellowish or tan in color.

**Burrow:** A burrow is a hole or tunnel dug into the ground by an animal. Burrows are used for shelter. When you find a burrow, you can help protect the animal hiding inside by leaving it alone.

**Insects (or signs of insects):** Insects are an important part of our world. They pollinate flowers, help make soil, break down garbage and more! Did you know that for every person there are 200 million insects? Amazing! Try to find an insect (or sign of an insect) along your hike (remember to look and not touch).

**Signs of fire:** Charred tree bark, black streaks in the soil, burnt branches on the ground: these are all signs of a fire. Fire plays an important role in the survival of Pine Bush plants and animals. Can you find a sign of fire here?

Great job!! You have reached the end of the scavenger hunt. Thanks so much for visiting the Albany Pine Bush Preserve!