

Bug Hotel Challenge

Build Your Best Bug Hotel

Issue 1: 7th April 20220



Building a Bug Hotel

Bug hotels are somewhere for insects, spiders, invertebrates etc to call home - in your garden, back yard or on your balcony.

There are plenty of ideas for building bug hotels – you can do your own research for designs, or we've listed some useful links below:

Woodland Trust <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/09/how-to-build-a-bug-hotel/>

Pinterest Images <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/115334440440051025/>

Supersimple <https://supersimple.com/article/bug-hotel/>

scouts.org.uk <https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/snug-as-a-bug/>

Badges and Awards

Building a bug hotel can count towards badges / awards for our beaver, cubs, scouts and even our explorer scouts.

If you'd like your bug hotel to count towards a badge or award please check with your section leader first and remember to send evidence to your section leader so that they can sign off the badge or award requirements (why not invite them to join our Facebook group to see what you've done? See below).

Please remember that this only counts towards one part of a badge or award and that you will also need to complete all of the badge/award requirements to receive the badge or award.

Beavers



My Outdoors Challenge Award

"6. Make something to help animals in the wild.
It could be a bird box or a bug hotel."

See <https://www.scouts.org.uk/beavers/awards/my-outdoors/>

Cubs



Gardener Activity Badge

"5. Understand what mini beasts are and why they are good for our gardens and outdoor spaces.

"Visit a bug hotel and record what you find living there."

See <https://www.scouts.org.uk/cubs/activity-badges/gardener/>

Scouts



Adventure Challenge Award

"3. Learn about any environmental issues caused by your activity.
"Take steps to reduce any harm to the environment."

See <https://www.scouts.org.uk/scouts/awards/adventure/>



Creative Challenge Award

"4. Construct a model using materials like a plastic kit or recycled items.
"Alternatively, make a useful item from wood, metal or plastic."

See <https://www.scouts.org.uk/scouts/awards/creative/>



Craft Activity Badge

"Make or decorate one or more articles using, whenever possible, original design ideas.

"You should discuss this project beforehand with a member of your leadership team. It should take around six hours to complete the project."

See <https://www.scouts.org.uk/scouts/activity-badges/craft/>

Explorer Scouts



Chief Scout's Platinum Award / Chief Scout's Diamond Award

"Research and participate in an environmental or community based project to make an improvement in your local environment or community"

Design a modular bug hotel with other members of your Unit (online), that you build individual modules for, and can piece together and install in a community location when the time is appropriate

See <https://prod-cms.scouts.org.uk/media/4485/reach-the-top-nov-2019-v8.pdf>

The Bug Hotel Challenge

This is a challenge, not a competition.

The challenge is to build the best bug hotel you can – make the design unusual, make it the biggest or smallest, decorate it with natural materials, build it with family, make it specific to one type of 'bug' or suitable for all sorts of bugs... it's up to you!

We want to build as many bug hotels as possible, all across the scout county, to do our bit for nature.

Don't forget to post your stories, photos and videos in the 'Bug Hotel Challenge' Facebook group (see below)

The Rules

The bug hotel challenge rules are simple:

1. You can only work with people you live with – this includes brothers and sisters (whether or not they are members of The Scouts), parents/carers and other adults you live with.
2. You can only use materials you find around the house or garden/yard or collect while outdoors for your daily exercise.
 - Please re-use materials wherever possible
 - Don't use paint, varnish or any other chemicals which the bugs won't like
 - Please wash your hand before you go out and when you return home.
3. Your bug hotel can be of any design – as big or as small as you like. Please put some thought into your design – it's part of the fun.
4. You can use whatever tools you have at home to build your bug hotel – saws, hammers, drills, screwdrivers etc. Please ask for adult help to help you use any tools safely.
5. Please upload your stories, photos and videos to our Facebook Group (see below). We'd especially like to see:
 - a. Details of your design
 - b. Photos/videos of you building your bug hotel
 - c. Photos of your finished bug hotel
 - d. Most importantly – photos or videos of all the bugs who move in!

Facebook Group

We have set up a Facebook Group for you to join. You can find it at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DurhamScoutsBugHotelChallenge/>

You'll need to apply to join and you'll need a Facebook account – so that means only older Scouts, Explorer scouts, Scout Network members or parents/carers who have a Facebook account can join and post for themselves. Beavers, cubs and younger scouts will need to get parents/carers to post for them.