

# Sloth Science

Daisies and Brownies complete 3 activities. Juniors and up complete 4 to earn your Sloth patch.



**Sloth Cam:** Learn about 2-toed and 3-toed sloths like Xena at the San Diego Zoo here:

<https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/videos/meet-our-sloth>. You can also watch Chewy and Mo at the Hattiesburg Zoo on their live sloth cam here: <https://www.hattiesburgzoo.com/sloth-cam/>. Keep in mind sloths are nocturnal so night time is the best time to watch although they are still very slow creatures!

**Slow as a Sloth:** The three-toed pygmy sloth is the worlds slowest mammal. Get out your tape measure and move like a sloth. First measure out 125 feet. This is the distance a sloth will travel in an entire day! Sloths travel at a top speed of .5 feet per second or 30 feet in a minute. Try moving like a sloth and see if you can move just 30 feet in one minute. Remember sloths also spend up to 20 hours per day sleeping!

**Endangered Sloths:** There are less than 100 Three-toed Pygmy Sloths left in the world and they can only be found on Isla Escudo de Veraguas, an island off of Panama. Scientists are using GPS tracking technology to see where the smallest sloths spend their time. Learn more by watching a video here: <https://www.zsl.org/videos/conservation/tracking-the-worlds-smallest-sloth-wild-science>. GPS technology is used in many applications and can be found in many places including most cell phones. If you are able, try out GPS tracking by recording your own path as you walk or bike in your neighborhood. Try using a free phone app like MapMyWalk or Strava.

**Celebrate Sloths:** October 20th is International sloth day! Celebrate by teaching a sloth fact to a friend, making a sloth craft, or watching a sloth video like this one from National Geographic on the extreme life of sloths <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpV4k3Edr-I>

**Sloth Stroke:** You've heard of the doggy paddle but have you heard of the sloth stroke? Sloths are surprisingly good swimmers. One sloth was captured on this clip of Planet Earth making his way through the water to find a mate. Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq3SfwbfxkY>. After watching either try to mimic a sloth the next time you are swimming, or practice your sloth movements in a game of animal charades.

**Sloth Art:** Embrace your inner sloth artist and learn to draw a sloth. You can use this guide to help you: <https://easydrawingguides.com/how-to-draw-a-sloth/>. Once you have practiced, use you sloth drawing skills to create a poster about endangered sloths, make a greeting card that you can give to someone important to you, or choose another project that can showcase your skills.

**Eat Like a Sloth:** Sloths primarily eat vegetation (leaves, buds/flower, and some fruit), and sloths can spend 90% of their time hanging upside down; that means eating while hanging around. Sloths also have poor vision and rely strongly on their sense of touch. Try eating like a sloth by preparing a plate of veggies and eating them while hanging upside down (be sure to do so safely) or lying on your back. Remember that just like other activities, sloths eat slowly! One of the sloth's favorite flowers to eat is hibiscus. For an added challenge, do some research to find out what flowers in your area are edible. Confirm with your parent or an expert before you eat them.

**Learn from an Expert:** Attend a live virtual program with the Sloth Conservation Foundation. Check the events page on the Girl Scouts of Alaska website for details.

**Order your patches online here:** <https://www.cognitofrms.com/Girlscoutsalaska/GSAKPatchOrderForm>

Questions? Or need a paper form? Contact the program team at [program@girlscoutsalaska.org](mailto:program@girlscoutsalaska.org)