

Axolotls



Axolotl Patch

Complete this patch to learn all about this season's spring product animal mascot: the axolotl! Daisies and Brownies complete 3 activities. Juniors to Ambassadors complete 4.

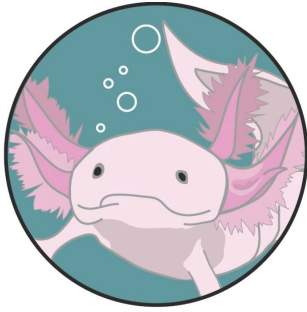
Virtual Cookie Rally Guest Appearance - Join us on January 10 as we celebrate the start of the 2024 Girl Scout Cookie Season with fun games, activities, and a guest appearance from a live axolotl! Check out our Events calendar [here](#) to register for this fun event.

No Hands Please! – Axolotls, like most amphibians (animals that live on land *and* in water), have *permeable* skin, which means that things can get inside their bodies through their skin. While our skin does let some things in, it keeps most things out to protect us. If they touch the wrong thing, they can get very sick. That's why it's best to not touch or hold an axolotl if you don't have to. Try [this](#) experiment to see how an axolotl's permeable skin works.

Limited Edition – Axolotls are very rare! There is only one known natural habitat (or natural home) where they live: Lake Xochimilco (pronounced sochi-MILK-o) in Mexico. Like so many natural spaces in our world, Lake Xochimilco is facing consequences of pollution and human introduction of invasive species, like carp and tilapia. Read a book on invasive species and share some of the things you learned with a friend or family member!



Skeleton Crew – Did you know that people have skeletons made of calcium-rich bone? The calcium makes our bones strong, but it also makes them rigid (not able to bend). Does an axolotl have a skeleton too? Nope! Their bodies are supported by a structure made of cartilage, which is much more flexible! Try [this](#) experiment to see the difference between bones and cartilage!



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Questions? Contact the program team at program@girlscoutsalaska.org



Fun Money – In 2022, the Bank of Mexico approved a new design for their 50-peso note that stars the axolotl. The image shows the axolotl in its native habitat, Lake Xochimilco. Many countries put pictures on their money that make it easy to recognize and often show off things that are important or unique about that country. Look at the money you see every day. What pictures do you see on it? Research how the look of money has changed over time and share what you learned with a friend or family member! You can start your research [here](#).



Forever Young – Axolotls are salamanders that show *neoteny*, meaning they keep some of the traits they had as babies. Baby salamanders are fully aquatic (they can't breathe outside water), have cute feathery gills and finned tails to help with swimming, just like adult axolotls do! These *physical traits* remain the same, even as the axolotls become adults. But what are physical traits? Check out [this](#) video to learn more. Can you name some of your physical traits?

Chow Time! – Did you know that axolotls eat other creatures? They're so cute that you wouldn't expect them to be a predator (something that hunts other things) but they are! They are considered *carnivores* (meat eaters) because they eat small fish, tadpoles, insects and worms. Check out [this](#) video to learn more about carnivores and why they are important to the habitats (natural homes) they live in. (Bonus: You'll get to learn about *other* types of animal diets too!) After you watch it, think about what other animals are carnivores. Can you list that weren't mentioned in the video?

