

Exploring the coast

Thank you for tuning into the Exploring the Coast virtual event on July 7, 2020. We hope you are inspired by this photographic tour of the Georgia coast. Below are a few ideas of additional explorations you can do from home while social distancing.

1. Look for spider eyes at night.
Use a flashlight to shine a bright, concentrated circle of light outdoors at night. Anywhere will work, but grassy or vegetated areas are ideal. Look down the beam of light for the green shine of spider eyes.
2. Take a 4-inch hike
Use a magnifying glass to explore along a 4-inch area. This could be on a tree, along a fallen branch, in the dirt or along a grassy crack in a sidewalk.... anywhere you can find. What do you notice?
3. Go on a scavenger hunt for the following:
 - a. Three different types of leaves
 - b. A seed
 - c. A plant shorter than your knee
 - d. A tree wider around than your arms can reach around
4. Start a nature journal
Take notes on your observations while exploring outdoors. Try sketching a leaf or seed. Observe an animal for ten minutes and jot notes on what it looks like and how it behaves. Create a list of questions you have based on your observations. Or sit still and listen quietly, writing what you hear. You might also create a species list for plants, birds or insects you find in your neighborhood.
5. Contribute to citizen science with I-naturalist
Take photos of plants and animals in your neighborhood on the I-naturalist app. You can get feedback from naturalists to identify the organism. And your submission contributes to a better understanding of biodiversity around the world. Find out more here: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>
6. Go for a walk along the coast
If you live near the coast, go for a walk on a beach, through the maritime forest or near the marsh. Check out our stewardship shorts for ideas of places to explore. The shorts also include tips on how to observe without disturbing wildlife in these habitats.