

### Girl Scout "All About Arizona Birds" Badge Workshops

In 2012, Sonoran Audubon Society began hosting annual birding workshops for Girl Scout Brownies. SAS is the only organization in Arizona that awards an official Girl Scout badge about birds and birding. The "All About Arizona Birds" badge was conceived by SAS and approved by the Girl Scout national office. Scouts who complete the workshop also receive a Sonoran Audubon patch.



Tim Cullison, current SAS Vice-President, is the project leader. He has worked with local Girl Scout executives to make it a fun and educational event that

benefits the Scouts. The workshops have been held at the North Mountain Visitor Center, ideally located on 7th Street near Thunderbird Avenue for hikers and birders wishing to explore the Phoenix Mountains Preserve desert.

Many Brownies, including 39 at the 2014 workshop, plus their parents and Girl Scout staff have participated. The workshops

begin with a presentation about bird characteristics, usually given by the incomparable Joe Ford. The Scouts learn from Andrée Tarby and Joe how to use binoculars, followed by a short hike in the desert to test their new skills. Crafts lessons round out the day. Darnell Kirksey shows the Scouts how to draw birds, and Tim shows how to make bird feeders from common household items.

Our workshops have been so popular that local Girl Scout leadership eagerly await the next one. Sonoran Audubon Society depends on contributions from you, our Friends, to help make these workshops happen. To donate, click [HERE](#).

