

Prairie Patch Award Application



The Kansas Native Plant Society offers the Prairie Patch award and badge to those interested in learning more about Kansas' native plants. The Prairie Patch award is open to all ages.

Why earn the Prairie Patch award?

It's a fun and educational way to learn how to identify wildflowers and other plants.

Process

- Attend a Wildflower/Native Plant outing
- After attending select two plant species to study in depth
- Complete the application form
- Send form to KNPS
- Be recognized at the KNPS annual meeting.

Materials Needed

- Pencil, crayons/colored pencils for illustrating plant or a camera for photographs
- Ruler for measuring plants
- Plant identification field guide (see bibliography).
- Hand lens or magnifying glass (optional)

Plan Ahead

- Determine a natural area to visit (possibly the place where the outing was held)
- Plan a trip to the natural area to do the detailed work for the award application.
- Select two different plant species to observe and learn about in depth.
- Allow at least half an hour for each species so you have enough time to do a thorough job

Your entry will be carefully evaluated by qualified judges. If you are awarded the badge, it will be mailed to you and you will be recognized at the next KNPS annual meeting. Applications become the property of KNPS and may be used by the Society in promotional materials.

Send Prairie Patch Application to:

Kansas Native Plant Society
R. L. McGregor Herbarium, University of Kansas
2045 Constant Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

Bibliography

- Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas, A Field Guide by *Michael John Haddock*
- Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers 2: A Field Guide to Common Wildflowers and Plants of the Prairie Midwest by *Doug Ladd*
- Missouri Wildflowers by *Edgar Denison*
- Roadside Wildflowers of the Southern Great Plains by *Craig C. Freeman, Eileen K. Schofield*
- Wildflowers and Weeds of Kansas by *Janet E. Bare*
- Kansas Prairie Wildflowers by *Clenton E. Owensby*
- Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines in Kansas by *Homer A. Stephens*

Native Plant Outing Information

1. Applicant Information

- A. Date _____
- B. Name: _____
- C. Address: _____
- D. City/State/Zip: _____
- E. Phone _____
- F. Email _____

2. List the native plant outing you attended.

- A. Location _____ Date _____

3. Name two organizations that help protect native plants.

4. List plants you saw on the outing

Plant 1

1. Plant Identification
 - A. Common Name
 - B. Scientific Name
 - C. Family Name
2. Which references in the Bibliography did you use to find information about this plant?
3. Is the plant native or introduced?
4. Is it common, rare, threatened or endangered?
5. Describe where you went to find your plant in its native habitat.
6. While observing your plant, did you notice any insect visitors (pollinators)? Bees, moths, butterflies, flies, beetles, other (name them).
7. Draw the entire plant (not just the flower).

Plant 1

8. Describe your plant

- A. How tall is the plant?
- B. How wide?
- C. Does it have a single stem or is it a clump?
- D. Are the stems smooth or hairy?
- E. Are the stems branched?
- F. What is the function of the stem?

9. Draw the leaves

10. Describe the leaves of your plant

- A. Are the leaves simple or divided into smaller leaflets (compound)?
- B. What color and shape are the leaves?
- C. How long and wide are the leaves?
- D. Are the veins parallel or do they branch in a net-like pattern?
- E. Are they attached directly to the stem or separated by a petiole?
- F. What is a petiole?
- G. Are the leaves hairy, rough or smooth?
- H. What is the function of a leaf?

11. Draw the flowers and color them

Plant 1

12. Describe the flowers of your plant

- A. What shape is the flower?
- B. What is its length and width?
- C. How many petals does your flower have?
- D. Do all flowers have petals? If you don't know, where could you find out?
- E. Is there a scent? Describe it in words.
- F. Look at the central part of the flower. Is there pollen (a hand lens or magnifying glass would be helpful)?
- G. In what month does the flower bloom?
- H. What is the function of a flower?

13. Describe the habitat where your plant grows.

- A. Describe the soil. Is it rocky, clay, loam or sandy?
- B. Does the plant grow in shade, partial shade, or full sun?
- C. Is it on a hilltop, on a slope or in the bottomlands?
- D. Describe the wetness of the soil. Is it dry, average, wet, submerged?
- E. Is it in a meadow, pasture, roadside or woodland?
- F. What are some other species of plants growing near your plant?

14. Cultural information about your plant

- A. Are there any uses for your plant, such as food, medicine or is it poisonous?
- B. Are there any domestic or horticultural relatives?

15. Visit your plant after it has set fruit or seed. (Optional)

- A. Observe your plant at a later date: What is the new date?
- B. Does the plant now have fruit or seeds?
- C. Draw the fruit and seeds.
- D. Describe them in words. What is the color and shape?
- E. Where are they located on the plant?
- F. What is the function of a seed?
- G. How is the seed dispersed? By wind, animals, water?

Plant 2

1. Plant Identification
 - a. Common Name
 - b. Scientific Name
 - c. Family Name
2. Which references in the Bibliography did you use to find information about this plant?
3. Is the plant native or introduced?
4. Is it common, rare, threatened or endangered?
5. Describe where you went to find your plant in its native habitat.
6. While observing your plant, did you notice any insect visitors (pollinators)? Bees, moths, butterflies, flies, beetles, other (name them).

Draw the entire plant (not just the flower).

Plant 2

7. Describe your plant

- a. How tall is the plant?
- b. How wide?
- c. Does it have a single stem or is it a clump?
- d. Are the stems smooth or hairy?
- e. Are the stems branched?
- f. What is the function of the stem?

8. Draw the leaves

9. Describe the leaves of your plant

- a. Are the leaves simple or divided into smaller leaflets (compound)?
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10. Draw the flowers and color them

Plant 2

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