Welcome to Conservancy Kids!

Become a junior scientist, exploring the natural world, asking questions, and making discoveries. Join us for an adventure that will take you outdoors, around the house, and into the incredible Sonoran Desert. Welcome to Conservancy Kids! We're excited to see you!

What is a Scatologist?

You can be a scientist of pretty much anything, including poop! Nicole discovers the study of scat is a real thing (it's called scatology) and you can learn a lot about the animals living in an area by investigating what they leave behind.

Exploring Scat!

Everybody poops, including animals in the wild! If you're lucky, you might come across evidence of wildlife in the form of scat. Join Nicole and Taylor as they talk all things scat—what we can learn from it, tips for identifying any you may find while exploring nature, and how we can all become amateur scatologists.

Scat Identification

To get started identifying scat in the Sonoran Desert and Southwest Arizona, check out this easy-to-use guide compiled by the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The guide itself starts on page 20, with more detailed descriptions and photos of individual animals following.

Remember to use a stick or other disposable item if you decide to explore the contents of scat and wash your hands after your investigation.

Connect!

Check out more Conservancy Kids Newsletters at https://www.mcdowellsonoran.org/education

Nicole Kallman, Education Manager

Nicole loves science and exploration. In college, she studied physics and biology. Now, she shares her excitement about science with others, encouraging everyone to follow in the footsteps of Miss Frizzle: "take chances, make mistakes, and get messy!"

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Taylor R. Hanson

Taylor is a young professional in wildlife biology and conservation. Currently working in Southeast Arizona, she wants to share with people the desert and it's incredible wildlife.