

## Friends of NCTC Program Activity

### What Did Teddy Do?!

(ages 5-12)

*The US Fish and Wildlife Service is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2021, but President Theodore Roosevelt was the first US President to create National Wildlife Refuges (and later, established some National Parks).*



#### Background (natural history)

In 1871, Congress established the US Commission of Fish and Fisheries, the first federal agency concerned with natural resource conservation. Today there are 568 National Wildlife Refuges. The first federal bird refuge, Pelican Island NWR in Florida, was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903. The most recently established refuge is Green



River NWR in Kentucky in 2019. Paul Kroegel was hired as the first warden of Pelican Island. You can find several of Mr. Kroegel's items, including his badge and revolver, on display at the NCTC Museum in the Entry Building. President Roosevelt established a total of 55 Bird Reservations and National Game Preserves (as well as five National Parks, 18 National Monuments, and 150 National Forests.) In 1955, Congress passed the Fish and Wildlife Act which allowed the federal government the authority to develop National Wildlife Refuges. In 1964, the Wilderness Act established some natural areas that do not allow any development or motorized access. In 1973, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act which helps protect species that are threatened by habitat loss, overhunting, or other threats. Some of the species are grizzly bear, American alligator, Florida manatee, and the bald eagle.

#### What You Will Need for This Project (materials and supplies)

- \*A map of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/maps/>
- \*Paper and pencil/markers/crayons/colored pencils
- \*Various items used to build a diorama, such as cardboard, plastic containers from your recycling bin, toothpicks, raw spaghetti, glue, and the like.
- \*A windowbox container with potting soil or an area in your yard for a butterfly garden
- \*Flower seeds to attract pollinators. One site with suggestions is <https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/attracting-butterflies-hummingbirds/7265.html>

#### What to Do (basic instructions, complete, but not overly involved)

Look at a map of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges. Can you find where Pelican Island (FL) is located? Is there one in the state where you live? Which one do you think has the best name? Is there one you would really like to visit? <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/maps/>

Learn something about Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt, the 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States (1901-1909). Of all the things he accomplished, he was proudest of his work to conserve natural resources and to protect land and wildlife. If you could sit down with him, what questions would you ask him about why he liked being outdoors and protecting nature?

Create a real mini-refuge in your yard—even just a windowbox. What animal or plant will your refuge be protecting? What plants will you plant? You can research what plants butterflies prefer at <https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/attracting-butterflies-hummingbirds/7265.html>. Just don't forget that butterflies need a source of water, too, and you will have to water your plants on a regular basis!

Even if you can't create a butterfly garden, you can "build" your own mini-refuge! Design it on paper showing the areas you would include and what plants or animals the area is protecting. If you are really creative, build a refuge model using recycled materials!

If you were going to establish a wildlife refuge, what wildlife would you like to protect? Pretend that one of these plants or animals needs to be protected by a refuge. The names are real (they actually exist!) but try drawing a picture of what you think it looks like, based on its name, and then decide on the habitat that it needs to live before you find out more.

Bog-Haunter

Raspberry Crazy Ant

Common Baskettail

Spiny Lumpsucker

Hummingbird Hawk-moth

Dragon Hunter

Chicken Turtle

Venezuelan Poodle Moth

Moustached Puffbird

### Helpful Hints for Adults

#### (books to read, other websites, links)

\*You can find your nearest US Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge here <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/maps/>  
(Alaska has the most wildlife refuges.)

\**Theodore Roosevelt for Kids: His Life and Times, 21 Activities* by Kerrie Logan Hollihan (ages 9+)

\*For help and ideas for nature projects <https://runwildmychild.com/earth-day-with-kids/>

