



## Today's Featured Activity: Insect Investigation!

This time of year, just after dark nature puts on a firework show! If you go out at dusk to a field or edge of a woods, set up a blanket or a chair and see how many fireflies you can count. Fireflies also known as lightning bugs, are in fact a type of beetle, a special beetle that glows! Just below their abdomen there is a special light-making organ, called a photic organ, that creates bioluminescence.

When fireflies are flashing, they are communicating to a potential mate! Each species of firefly has their own pattern of flashes, which helps them find each other in the dark. Check out [this page](#) for more fun firefly facts!

- Here are some [tips for watching fireflies](#), including how to safely catch and put them in a jar to get a closer look. Don't keep them too long though, they're busy out there!
- Make these tiny [pinecone fireflies](#) to enjoy indoors and which are especially cute if you have glow in the dark paint!
- Do you want to help scientist collect important data about fireflies? Join

## Firefly Watch!

- If the weather doesn't cooperate or you don't want to wait for it to get dark, watch this video about the [synchronous fireflies](#) events in the Smoky Mountains or this [short film](#) about the same phenomena in Mexico.

Did you do this activity? Post a photo on Instagram and tag @clctrust or use #clctrust.

Have suggestions for activities you'd like to see? [Send us an email!](#)

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