

GO TO BAT FOR BATS!

You don't have to have special powers or a lot of money to help bats. There are many actions both great and small that you can take to help conserve bats and the places where they live, and they are all important. Simply sign the pledge below and start taking action now! Once you take the pledge, be sure to cut it out on the dotted lines and put it where you can see it every day. Better yet, get a friend or family member to sign a pledge too!

GO TO BAT FOR BATS - PLEDGE CARD

I, _____, pledge to take the following actions to help conserve bats and their habitats: (check at least three actions you will take).

- Learn more about fascinating bats, the benefits of bats, and the threats they face.
- Build and install a bat house (batweek.org has free plans).
- Host a Bat Week Party! You can feature bat-themed games, foods and drinks made possible by bats, costumes, or bat house building – anything that highlights our amazing bats!
- Spread the word about the value of bats to at least one other person – have them sign a pledge card, too.
- Plant a native tree to help provide places for bats to live. Trees such as oaks, hickories, and maples have loose bark that many bats like.
- Volunteer! You can help protect bats on public lands by helping with bat counts, acoustic monitoring, bat festivals, and much more.
- Remove non-native invasive plants. Bats need to eat lots of different insects to stay healthy. When invasive plants move in, they push out our native plants. Native plants support a huge variety of yummy insects; invasive plants don't.
- Keep pets (especially cats) indoors. Cat attacks are one of the most common causes of bat deaths in urban environments.
- Create a compost pile (this will create excellent habitat for insects, which can attract bats).
- Plant a native bat garden that will attract insects that bats like to eat. Examples of bat-friendly plants and shrubs include evening primrose, bergamot, goldenrods, asters, rosemary, lemon balm, lavender, New Jersey tea, common buttonbush, chives, and mints.
- Cook foods that are made possible by bats (through pollination, insect control, etc.). Tell your friends about this amazing connection.
- Turn off your lights when they aren't needed. Research shows that bat activity is generally lower in well-lit areas.

