

Welcome to Girl Scout Troop 1727's Animal Trail! This is post number 5/8.

### **Eastern Box Turtles (Terepene Carolina)**

You can find eastern box turtles regularly in South Carolina. The eastern box turtle is different from many other box turtles because its brown shell has yellow and orange marks on it. The feet of eastern box turtles have webs on them. They are primary and secondary consumers because they eat fruit, tiny amphibians, and insects. Most adult box turtles do not have many predators, while small and younger box turtles have to avoid coyotes, racoons, owls and snakes.

*Box turtles are slow and only walk around 0.03 miles a day. Can you walk slowly like a turtle?*

Box turtles help to keep down the populations of their food, and when they use the bathroom they spread seeds from a lot of types of plants to other areas. The box turtles are also food for coyotes, racoons, owls, and snakes as babies and eggs.

In Tega Cay, eastern box turtles live in many of our local forests. When hiking through Anne Springs Greenway or even walking on this trail, you could see one of these turtles. The turtles prefer an area with a lot of rain or moisture to live in, so you could find them in one of our local streams too.

*Fun Fact: Eastern box turtles can live to 100 years old.*

