

Welcome to Girl Scout Troop 1727's Animal Trail! This is post number 4/8.

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit (Sylvilagus Floridanus)

The eastern cottontail rabbit is a native animal to Tega Cay. You have probably seen these rabbits in your yard. They have speckled brown-gray fur with a little reddish-brown fur around its neck and shoulders. They have lighter fur around their brown noses and on their underside. They are about 15-17 inches long, are 2.5-3 inches in ear length, and 2-4lbs in weight. Eastern cottontail rabbits are mammals just like us. They are primary consumers and herbivores which means that they only eat plants. They are prey to many animals such as foxes, owls, hawks, weasels, coyotes, and other small predators.

Eastern cottontail rabbits hop around on their hind legs. Try hopping around just like they do!

Eastern cottontail rabbits, like every other organism, play a very important role in our ecosystem. They are primary consumers meaning they eat only producers like the grass in your yard. They are the prey for so many predators and removing them from an ecosystem would have a detrimental effect on the environment that would cause a ripple effect on all of the other organism populations. The easterncottontail rabbit is seen all over Tega Cay. You can find them in the woods on a hike, on one of our many nature trails in Tega Cay, and even in your front yard.

Fun Facts:

-Eastern cottontail rabbits sometimes pee blue, and they produce two different types of droppings.

-Eastern cottontail rabbits run at a speed of about 18 miles per hour.

-The eastern cottontail rabbits' biggest defense is camouflaging into their surroundings with the color of their fur.

-A baby rabbit is not called a bunny, it is actually called a kit.

-An eastern cottontail rabbit can have as many as 7-8 litters a year with as many as 3-8 kits in each litter.

