

Welcome to Girl Scout Troop 1727's Animal Trail! This is post number 6/8.

Black Rat Snake (Pantherophis Obsoletus)

The black rat snake is a reptile that lives throughout the east coast and the midwest. Younger snakes are gray and black striped, while adults have pure black backs and lighter undersides. The bottom of their head is white, and they can be up to seven feet long! Black rat snakes eat many different types of food, including bird eggs, frogs, and rodents such as rats. They are constrictor snakes, which means that they kill their prey by wrapping around it and squeezing until it can not fight back.

Black rat snakes slither on the ground to move around. Can you make your arms slither on the ground like snakes?

Although some snakes are poisonous and can bite humans if they feel threatened, black rat snakes are nothing to worry about. They are quite shy, so if you happen to see one, stay a good distance away so that you don't scare it. They rarely ever attack, preferring to run away rather than fight when they see danger.

Fun Fact: Instead of hibernating in the winter, black rat snakes brumate. Brumation is when an animal is asleep for most of the day, but still wakes up to do important things such as drinking water.

Black rat snakes may seem scary, but they are completely harmless, and help out in our city in many ways. If you spot one, don't be frightened!

