

North Carolina State Mammal: The Gray Squirrel

In 1969, the North Carolina General Assembly named the Gray Squirrel as the Official State Mammal. The legislation was introduced after school children indicated that the squirrel was their favorite animal! Everyone loves to watch squirrels as they fly from tree to tree and always seem so busy. But the squirrel didn't become the state mammal just for its cuteness: the small animals were important for people as a source of food and fur from colonial times, through the American Revolution and beyond. Squirrels are active mostly during the day and live primarily in trees, although we often see them scurrying along the ground and foraging for food. They can live deep within the woods, in backyards, and in cities. And they are found in all 100 of North Carolina's counties. A special variety that is almost entirely white lives in the mountains near Brevard.



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NCpedia article on the Gray Squirrel: <http://ncpedia.org/symbols/mammal>
Coloring page: <http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/eastern-gray-squirrel>