

# Instructions on where and how to place nest boxes for southern flying squirrels

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## Materials Needed:

- Nest boxes (wooden or PVC)
- Screws or nails--Screwdriver or hammer
- Ladder or tall pole (if needed)
- Wood shavings or dry leaves (for bedding)

## Step-by-Step Instructions:

### 1) Choose Suitable Locations:

- a) Look for areas with a good tree canopy cover, as flying squirrels are arboreal and prefer trees—in Lincoln see maps.
- b) Select areas away from heavy traffic and noisy environments to reduce stress on the squirrels.
- c) Place nest boxes at least 10-20 feet above the ground to protect them from ground predators.
- d) Face the entrance hole of the nest box away from prevailing winds, typically towards the southeast or east to avoid direct exposure to wind and rain.

### 2) Secure the Nest Box:

- a) For tree-mounted boxes:
  - (1) Use a ladder or tall pole to reach the desired height on the tree.
  - (2) Attach the nest box securely to the tree trunk using screws or nails.
  - (3) Make sure it is stable and won't sway too much in the wind.
- b) For pole-mounted boxes:
  - (1) Attach a metal predator guard to the pole to prevent raccoons and other climbers from accessing the box.
  - (2) Securely attach the nest box to the pole.

### 3) Nesting Material:

- a) Add a layer of wood shavings or dry leaves to the bottom of the nest box to provide insulation and nesting material.

### 4) Monitor and Maintenance:

- a) Check the nest box periodically to ensure it remains secure and in good condition.
- b) Clean out old nesting material and replace it as needed.
- c) Flying squirrels may use a nest box for breeding or shelter, so leave them undisturbed as much as possible.

### 5) Additional Tips:

- a) Install multiple nest boxes in different locations to increase the chances of occupancy.
- b) Avoid using treated wood or toxic materials that could harm the squirrels.

- c) Provide a nearby source of water and natural food sources like trees with nuts, berries, and insects—SFSs love bird feeders with nuts or sunflowers. Put a trail camera on it to see if they use it.
- 6) **Be Patient:**
- a) It may take some time for flying squirrels to discover and use the nest boxes, so be patient and allow them time to adapt to their new homes.
  - b) Remember that the effectiveness of nest boxes may vary, as it depends on local flying squirrel populations and environmental conditions. By following these instructions, you can create suitable nesting opportunities for southern flying squirrels and contribute to their well-being in urban areas.