

The Earth Matters to Girl Scouts Patch Program

This is a patch program designed to be worked on by Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts as a troop or individually. This program is designed to encourage the learning and practicing of environmental awareness and environmental protection. It is a three part patch that builds on the information learned in each section. It starts with the *Aware* section, focusing on learning about the natural world. The *Care* section focuses on ways for you to make a difference in the environment. Finally, the *Share* section puts everything that you have learned together, and gives you the opportunity to share your new knowledge with others.

Become Aware

Purpose: To become more aware of the natural environment.

Girl Scout Brownies must complete three activities, Girl Scout Juniors must complete five activities, Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors must complete seven activities from this section.

- __1. Go on a nature hike and find five different kinds of animals (and/or their signs) and plants. Make a drawing of the plants and animals. Using guidebooks, try to identify the plants and animals you found.
- __2. Make a sound map of two different areas- one nature area and another in an urban/city area. Sit quietly and listen to all of the sounds that you hear. How many of them are natural? How many are human-made? What were the differences in the sounds in the natural area versus the urban area?
- __3. Bury a ball of aluminum foil, a tin can, a plastic container, natural cloth, a newspaper, a cracker, and a leaf. Try to guess what will be biodegradable (decompose in the earth). After a month, dig them up. What has started to decompose? Which of these do you think will decompose in a garbage dump?
- __4. Go on a field trip to a place that recycles materials, or uses recycled material to make new products. Suggestions include water filtration plant, paper mill, aluminum processing plant, or a bottling plant (that uses recycled bottles)
- __5. Use no more than two gallons of water per person for a day. (See how long it really lasts.) This includes all daily actions: brushing your teeth, taking a shower/bath, washing your hands, etc.
- __6. Look at the packaging of four different items that you buy in a grocery store. For each item, decide what part of the packaging can be recycled and what cannot. Decide which item has the most recyclable packaging and the most un-recyclable packaging. Design a new package for the product that uses as little packaging as possible and only recyclable materials.
- __7. Have an environmentalist speak to your troop.
- __8. Explore a local park and make a map of the areas of interest. Share your map with another troop.

- __9. Collect recyclable materials at home to make a craft project.
- __10. Go on a nature scavenger hunt.
- __11. Make plaster casts of animal tracks.
- __12. Make a chart showing the water cycle, showing points at which pollutants can enter the system and damage the cycle. Include what happens after something goes wrong in the cycle.
- __13. Learn about one particular Global Crisis and what you can do to help solve it. Examples may include global warming, destruction of the ozone layer, toxic waste, destruction of the rain forests (deforestation), waste/recycling, energy consumption, or air/water pollution.

Show You Care

Purpose: To show you care about the environment by learning what you can do.

Girl Scout Brownies must complete four, Girl Scout Juniors must complete five activities, Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors must complete six activities from this section.

- __1. Adopt a highway, park, or natural area for a month. Keep the area clean and free of garbage. Keep a journal of the types of garbage that you find there. Decide what types of garbage are most prevalent there.
- __2. Collect all of the recyclables at home for a month. Take them to a recycling facility. Estimate how many bags of garbage that you saved from being sent to the landfill.
- __3. Attend a care day at our council's camp or a local park.
- __4. Go on a day or overnight trip. Use minimal impact camping. Be sure to pack out all of your garbage.
- __5. Clean up trails at a local park or our council's camp.
- __6. Build a bird house or a bat house, and place it where it would be useful.
- __7. Car pool to meetings and camping trips for a month.
- __8. Use only recyclable containers in your lunch for a month.
- __9. Plant a tree for shade, or help plant a garden.
- __10. Collect used clothing and donate it to a clothing bank.
- __11. Create a plan of action that you can do at home to reduce energy use or waste. Try to stick to your plan for a month.

- __12. Invite someone from an environmental awareness/action organization to speak with your group about what they are doing to improve the environment. This speaker should show your group ways in which you can get involved either as an individual or as a group.
- __13. Find out about careers involving the environment or earth sciences and invite someone to talk to your group about their career.

Be Willing To Share

Purpose: To share your knowledge about the environment with others.

Girl Scout Brownies must complete three activities, Girl Scout Juniors must complete four activities, Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors must complete five activities from this section.

- __1. Make an environmental awareness poster, and post it somewhere it can be seen. Make sure to ask permission wherever you post it.
- __2. Create a skit or puppet show (with recycled puppets) to teach another troop about the environment. (Example topics: recycling, water cycle, pollution, etc.)
- __3. Create a self-guided nature trail for a local park or for one of our council's camps.
- __4. Write and present a community service announcement about environmental concerns on your local radio station.
- __5. Write a song or poem about the environment, and teach it to a younger troop.
- __6. Find a business or school that does not recycle. Try to convince them that recycling is a good idea. Create a presentation of the benefits and purposes.
- __7. Write environmental news articles for council publications or your local newspaper.
- __8. Create a game that teaches about environmental concerns. Play it with other troops.
- __9. Pick an environmental issue. Write to the people who make the decisions regarding that issue. Write a letter to the paper. Create signs to put up to educate people about this issue.
- __10. Plan and carry out a Girl Scout Fun Day to help a younger troop earn a section of this patch.
- __11. Talk to your local day camp, program specialist, or community coordinator about a large Girl Scout event. Offer to plan the activity and volunteer on the day of.
- __12. Help a younger troop earn an environmental related badge.
- __13. Attend or participate in a celebration of life and the environment such as Earth Day or Arbor Day.

