

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY PATCH PROGRAM

To earn this patch, complete one activity from Section 1, one activity from Section 2 depending on your program grade level, and one activity from Section 3. When you have finished the requirements, submit [this form](#) to receive a patch. Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Council will provide the patch free of charge for GSHNC girls only who complete the requirements from June 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

**WHAT IT IS:** World Environment Day is a global occasion to highlight and discuss the importance of environmental awareness and action. It is celebrated annually on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**WHY WE CELEBRATE:** Our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, was a famous lover of nature. By celebrating World Environment Day, Girl Scouts honors her legacy by promoting respect and love of the great outdoors far and wide. Through Girl Scouting, girls see the Earth as their home. Whether they're learning about endangered wildlife, developing creative recycling projects, or working toward a grade-level award, girls focus on care, conservation, and responsibility. They make sure the beauty and wonder of our planet endure for future generations to enjoy.

### SECTION 1: Activities for All Program Grade Levels

**Get outside.** Spend an hour enjoying a local natural area. Observe what you see: What plants or animals do you notice? What human impact do you observe? More options for hosting your troop meeting outdoors can be found in the Get Girls Outside option on Volunteer Toolkit (VTK).

**Measure one square foot.** Go outside and choose an area of land—it doesn't matter where as long as it's about one-foot square. Carefully observe this small space. See how many things you can notice within that foot, things that no one has ever looked at before. This particular blade of grass. This unique pebble. Maybe an insect or a worm going about its day. How many unique things can you find in one square foot?

### SECTION 2: Daisy/Brownie/Junior Activities

**Where's the water?** Find out where your community's water originates. A river? Mountain snow? Is there enough water for everyone? What can you do to protect it? If possible, take a field trip to see where your water comes from or is stored. If that's not feasible, you might also consider taking girls on a field trip to a local water treatment plant to find out what happens to water after it runs down the drain.

**Create connections.** Connect with a local environmental group to find out about the issues affecting your local community. Find another part of the world that is experiencing similar issues and what they are doing about it. Is there anything you can learn from them to help address the issue in your own community?

**Open a book.** Read out loud *Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from South Africa* by Jeanette Winter to the girls. Talk with girls about what qualities helped Wangari Maathi succeed. What problem did she see? What did she do to address it? What can you learn from her? What problems do you see?

## **Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Activities**

**Dig into a book or movie.** Read *The Green Belt Movement* or watch *Taking Root: the Vision of Wangari Maathi*. Talk as a group about the connection between poverty reduction and environmental conservation. What struggles did the Green Belt Movement face in getting started? What can you learn from them as you take action on an issue you care about?

**Hit the target.** Print and cut out the targets for Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15: Life below Water and Life on Land, available at [www.globalgoals.org](http://www.globalgoals.org). Randomly draw one target and quickly research what it means, then make a case about why this target matters. After everyone has presented their targets, have each girl place a sticker on the target she believes is the most important. Brainstorm ways that your group can raise awareness or take action on this issue. Ask girls: Why do the goals and the targets matter? What is the most important part to you and why?

**Examine how it's made.** Look at five items you use every day, such as a soda bottle, jeans, a cell phone, hair ties, or shampoo. Find out how one of these items is made and what the environmental impact of the item is. For example, the mining of rare minerals for cell phones leads to land degradation. Brainstorm more sustainable options. Maybe there is an easy change you can make, or maybe there's something you can innovate.

## **SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Attend a river, stream, or lake cleanup to protect local watersheds. Don't see one in your area? Organize your own.

Local resources for river cleanups:

[Mecklenburg County Adopt-A-Stream](#)

[Catawba River Keepers](#)

[City of Concord Adopt-A-Stream](#)

[Rowan County Creek Week](#)

Walk around your neighborhood or local community and pick up trash, or attend a clean-up organized by your local Keep America Beautiful chapter. Find out more information about the annual Great American Cleanup [here](#). Be sure to follow safety laws and avoid picking up dangerous items. Litter Be Gone has great guidelines, which can be found [here](#).

Learn about composting. Composting food scraps can reduce climate impact while also recycling nutrients. Start a compost in your home (with permission from your family!) or ask your school if they can start a compost.

Local composting resources:

[Simple Steps for Composting at Home from York County, SC](#)

[Composting: A Guide for SC Schools from York County, SC](#)