Friday Family Activity

World Environment Day

June 5th is World Environment Day, a global occasion to highlight and discuss the importance of environmental awareness and action.

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.

Directions:

On the following page, you’ll find activities by program grade level (Daisy/Brownie/Junior and Cadette/Senior/Ambassador) and activities suitable for all ages. Complete one activity and share what you’ve learned by posting photos on the GSK Facebook Page!

Global Action Days Toolkit
There are many other ways for girls to engage with the global sisterhood throughout their Girl Scout experience. Find the Global Action Days Toolkit on the GSK website to learn about or take part in the nine Global Action Days. This is a resource for volunteers and parents to help girls connect to our global movement and to the issues that affect girls around the world.
Activities for All Program Grade Levels

Get outside. Host your troop meeting outdoors or spend an hour with friends 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. Ask girls to 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 daily. How many unique things can you find in one square foot? After ten minutes or so, ask girls to share what they found.

Daisy/Brownie/Junior Activities

Where’s the water? With the Girl Scouts in your troop, 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. Have girls randomly draw one target and quickly research what it means, then make a case to the group 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, 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.

Pass it on. Partner your troop with a group of younger girls or students (a troop of Daisies or Brownies, or a class at their school) and lead a nature walk. This can be a hike in the wilderness, or a walk through your neighborhood. The important thing is for the older Girl Scouts to share and connect with younger girls about what they’re seeing and appreciating.