

# World Environment Day



## 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 day. 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

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**WHAT IT IS:** World Environment Day is a global occasion to highlight and discuss the importance of environmental awareness and action.

**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.

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<sup>1</sup> and Life on Land,<sup>2</sup> available at [www.globalgoals.org](http://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.

## JOURNEYS AND BADGE CONNECTIONS

On the **It's Your Planet—Love It!** Leadership Journey—one for each level from Daisy through Ambassador—girls get the opportunity to learn about environmental issues, such as clean water and air, noise pollution, global warming, soil contamination, and agricultural processes. Each Journey is packed with current environmental information and offers ways to interact on topics that affect everyone on the planet.

Girl Scouts at every program grade level can explore the environment through the **Naturalist** legacy badge series.

Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors explore STEM and the planet through the **Think Like a Citizen Scientist** Journey series.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

Plant a tree.

Recycle paper, glass, plastic, metal, and old electronics. Make sure to check the recycling restrictions in your community first.

Teach girls and families about composting. Composting food scraps can reduce climate impact while also recycling nutrients.

## RESOURCES

[Girl Scout Outdoor Resources](#)

[The Green Belt Movement and Wangari Maathai](#)

[UN Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water](#)

[UN Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on Land](#)

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1. The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, "14: Life Below Water," <https://www.globalgoals.org/14-life-below-water>.

2. The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, "15: Life on Land," <https://www.globalgoals.org/15-life-on-land>.