

Keep the Sea Plastic Free

Girl Scouts of Orange County Patch

Purpose : To learn about the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans, including how plastics harm marine life and put dangerous chemicals in the water. To take action by making positive changes in your life to reduce and reuse plastic, and encouraging others to make positive changes.



This patch is a Silver Award Project created by Catalina Alonzo of Troop 1085, Irvine, CA. Earning the patch will help Girl Scouts become aware of the problem of plastic pollution in the ocean, and take steps to help keep the sea plastic free.

Complete the following to earn the Keep the Sea Plastic Free Patch:

Girl Scout Daisies: One Discover and one Connect to Take Action requirement.

Girl Scout Brownies: One Discover and two Connect to Take Action requirements.

Girl Scout Juniors: One Discover and three Connect to Take Action requirements.

Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors: One Discover and four or more Connect to Take Action requirements.

Discover

1. Watch the Keep the Sea Plastic Free video, [available here](#) **OR**
2. Research the issue of plastic pollution to learn how plastics hurt the ocean and what you can do to help **OR**
3. Ask an expert about the science behind ocean pollution and ask for their recommendations.

Connect to Take Action

1. Make your own posters and use them to raise awareness about ocean pollution.
2. Spread the word at home and at school. Encourage others to reduce plastic use and put plastics in their proper recycling bin.

3. Everyday choices add up to make a difference. Reduce plastics use by bringing your own reusable water bottle, not using plastic bags in school lunch and not using plastic straws. Put plastics that you do use in the proper recycling bin.
4. Support organizations addressing plastic pollution. Join a non-profit organization that supports ocean health, and get involved in their activities.
5. Start an Ocean or Environmental club at school and rally students to get involved in ocean issues.
6. Make a short film about ocean health and share it with others. Get your troop involved in making the film.
7. Join or organize a beach clean up. These do not have to be large events as every little bit helps. Be sure to wear gloves and not pick up anything dangerous.
8. Join or organize an inland trash clean up. Much of the trash you see on the beach actually started in inland communities. Be sure to wear gloves and not pick up anything dangerous.
9. Find out about a local issue affecting your coastline and write a letter to an elected official urging action on the issue.
10. Investigate whether an ocean related issue is coming up for vote in your community and speak out. City Council meetings usually allow public comments and you can make a statement during a council meeting.

Resources

1. <https://www.5gyres.org/plastic-pollution-facts>
2. <https://newportbay.org>
3. <https://newportbeach.surfrider.org>
4. [http://www.beachapedia.org/Great Pacific Garbage Patch](http://www.beachapedia.org/Great_Pacific_Garbage_Patch)
5. <https://www.coastkeeper.org/>

The patch is available for purchase at the Girl Scouts of Orange County Shop