



Girls Go Green Council Patch

(Daisies & Brownies)



Description: This program is intended to raise the girls' awareness and concern for the wellness of the planet. We hope that all troops will participate in this council-wide patch program.

Leaders: Please do these activities to the level that the girls are learning and enjoying the experience. Make it appropriate to your troop. There is a list of many good "green" websites further on in this document that you can refer to for more activities, tips, and facts.

Below are the 4 required activities to earn the patch.

1. Talk About It

Ask questions:

- What do you think it means to Go Green?
- What do these words mean?
 - Earth
 - Environment
 - Pollution
 - Global Warming
 - Recycle
 - Reuse

Discuss the facts. Some things that are happening to our planet when we are not careful are:

- Half the people in the United States live where air quality is considered poor. (Do you know anyone with allergies or asthma?)
- People of the United States use nearly \$1 million worth of energy every minute.
- In the United States, we throw away into the landfill 29 billion water bottles a year. (That number has 9 zeros- it's a million times 29 million or 29,000,000,000)
- Half of all the world's trees have been cut down.
- One third of all our food is thrown away.
- People in the United States use an average of 600 lbs. of paper a year. (About the same weight as twelve 2nd graders.)
- Over the past 50 years, the population of Antarctic Emperor penguins has declined by 50 percent.

2. Practice It - A Recycle Activity

Have the girls guess what can and cannot be recycled. Challenge them with some of the items listed below or substitute your own choices. You may choose to show several examples from the list.

Item	Recyclable?
Plastic milk carton	Yes
Cardboard milk carton	No, because the wax coating keeps it from being recyclable
Water bottle	Yes
McDonald Happy Meal toys	Yes, donate to council for Family Fun Day
Detergent containers (HDPE#2)	Yes, items with HDPE#2 or PETE#1 in the "Recycle Triangles" can be recycled
Grass clippings	Yes, according to pickup instructions or compost them at home
Paper plates	No, no food in recycling
Tin cans	Yes
Computers	Yes, according to instructions-usually one Saturday a month
Sweaters	Yes, either textile recycling or donating to a charity
Leftovers	Yes, either by reheating to eat or composting to add to the soil

You may check county recycling instructions for you area at these sites:

Essex County Recycling - <http://www.ecuanj.com/faqs.html>

Hudson County Recycling - http://www.hcia.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=54

Hunterdon County Recycling - <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/swr/hcua.htm>

Middlesex County Recycling - <http://www.mciauth.com/recycleframe.htm>

Somerset County Recycling - <http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle.html>

Union County Recycling - <http://www.ucnj.org/recycle/index.html>

Warren County Recycling - <http://www.co.warren.nj.us/Recycling/>

3. Have Fun With It

Choose a related activity, game, story, or quiz from the Girls Go Green links or an activity of your own.

1. Pick an activity from the Girls Go Green link suggestions.
2. Make a penguin and discuss the melting of the Antarctic ice. See <http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mpenguin.html>
3. Plant a small tree (seedling).
4. Color a picture. See some easy ones at <http://www.hippoworks.com/kids/coloring/>

4. Commit to It

At this point, please ask each girl what she will do to become a "Greener Girl Scout". Have them write it as a pledge to the environment.