



## Recycling

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### Recycling Badge

#### For Girl Scout Juniors

A patch program for troops or groups who are interested in learning about recycling. Complete five (5) of the following eight (8) sets of activities, including the required Take Action component.

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#### Junk Collector

Learn how to save and store five different types of recyclable materials. Find out how these recyclable products are used and if you could recycle these materials in your community.

#### Trash Watcher

1. Keep a record of the garbage discarded by your family or school for one week. Weigh the garbage each time it is taken out. At the end of the week, total the amounts.
2. After one week, analyze your survey and make some suggestions as to how you could decrease the amount.
3. Set up a system for your family or school to recycle at least three types of materials: newspapers, aluminum cans, cardboard, tin cans, plastic, etc.

#### In Your Community

Visit a recycling center or landfill. Talk with the landfill manager to find out how much garbage is collected each day, week, month, year, and how much garbage recycling could eliminate. If you visit the recycling center, find out how much recycling is collected each day, week, month, year, and how much more could be collected if everyone recycled.

#### Pitching in the Past

Interview a senior citizen. Ask them what they remember about their family's garbage when they were young. What did they do with it? Was it picked up? Did they take it to the dump? What was in their garbage?

#### Decay and Compost

Take four different items of trash and cut a strip 2cm x 6cm of each. Bury the strips separately in soil in a container. Keep the soil moist and remove the strips each week. Is there any decay? Make a chart and keep a record of what happens for a month or two. Which items will decay fastest and slowest when thrown away?

## Write it Down

Write an essay entitled "Recycling is Not a Waste."

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Make something useful out of something that is no longer used or recycle a toy, game, or article of clothing by giving it to someone in your family, a friend, or an organization that offers things to people in need.

## Take Action \*Required\*

Help your troop plan and carry out a recycling project (example: arrange to collect newspapers and take them to a recycling center.) Help advertise and promote the project by making posters and flyers, talking to the neighbors, etc.

## Recycling Interest Project

### For Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors

A patch program for troops or groups who are interested in learning about recycling. Complete eight (8) of the following eleven (11) sets of activities, including the required Take Action component.

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### Junk Collector

Learn how to save and store five different types of recyclable materials. Find out how these recyclable products are used and if you could recycle these materials in your community.

### Trash Watcher

1. Keep a record of the garbage discarded by your family or school for one week. Weigh the garbage each time it is taken out. At the end of the week, total the amounts.
2. After one week, analyze your survey and make some suggestions as to how you could decrease the amount.
3. Set up a system for your family or school to recycle at least three types of materials: newspapers, aluminum cans, cardboard, tin cans, plastic, etc.

### Garbage Journey

Find out what happens to trash that leaves your home. Is any of it recycled? If possible, visit the disposal site and find out how trash is handled.

### Get Creative

Plan and take part in a skit, play, puppet or slide show that shows what will happen if people do not care about recycling. Present it to another group such as younger Girl Scouts, school children or civic groups.

### On the Job

Learn about a career associated with recycling. What education is required? What future careers may be created?

### Share Your Knowledge

Talk with a younger troop or group about recycling and its importance. Encourage them to work on recycling.

## Composting

1. Discuss compost – what is it, what’s the process in making it, and how can it be used?
2. Have each girl bring a plastic bag full of organic waste materials such as apple cores, coffee grounds, grass clippings, egg shells, etc.
3. Break and chop the organic waste into small pieces and mix.
4. Put materials into a large container, alternating layers: a thick layer of organic materials, a thin layer of soil, a sprinkle of fertilizer, and repeat. Moisten with water.
5. Cover the mixture with an inch of soil and add earthworms to aid other soil decay or other organisms to “stir” the soil.

## Community Cleanup

Participate in a Community Cleanup project.

## Write On

Conduct a poster, poetry or essay contest on recycling awareness. Set rules, deadlines and criteria for winners.

## Environmental Friend

Learn about different kinds of environmental pollution and things that can be done to control each kind.

## Take Action \*Required\*

Help your troop carry out a recycling project. It may include a letter-writing campaign to a local business or industry to encourage them to recycle or use recycled products, a recycling day to encourage neighbors to recycle, a garage sale to recycle household goods to different families, a uniform exchange to recycle uniforms to younger Girl Scouts, etc. Try to involve your whole community!

## Recycling Try-It

### For Girl Scout Brownies

A patch program for troops or groups who are interested in learning about recycling. Complete four (4) of the following six (6) sets of activities, including the required Taking Action component.

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### Junk Collector

- Learn how to save and store five different types of recyclable materials. Find out how these recyclable products are used and if you could recycle these materials in your community.
- Visit a recycling center to see the process of collecting and sorting useable products if possible.
- Help advertise a recycling project by making posters, etc.

### Trash Watcher

Did you know that we each produce 4.5 pounds of garbage per day? Try this experiment: Check out how much trash you throw away each day. Set aside a box – call it a “trash watch box.” For one day, put all your trash in that box, putting food and “yucky” stuff in a plastic bag first. At the

end of the day, lay out all the trash on a newspaper and see what you have. Make a list and ask yourself, "What could I have recycled? What could I have repaired, reused, or given away?" Try it again in a month and see if you can do better!

### **Paper Saver**

How many times do you use just one side of a piece of paper and then throw it away? Start a "scrap paper box" in your home. Place all one-side-used paper in it. Get the whole family in on the project. Then use the scrap paper for drawing, grocery lists, etc. You'll want to save unused business reply envelopes, too. They're handy for sending money to school or carrying important documents. All the while you'll be saving trees and cutting down on garbage!

### **Fast Food Trash Detective**

Buy lunch at a fast food restaurant. Save all the wrappings, cups, napkins, plastic silverware, straws, cartons, etc. Take it all home and write down how much garbage you got with your meal. How much of it is recyclable? Try a different restaurant next time and order the same lunch. Compare the two. Wouldn't you rather eat somewhere that doesn't give you all that trash?

### **Use it Again... and Again... and Again...**

- Keep a cloth towel by the sink and use that instead of paper towels.
- Make a "Rag Bag" by putting a grocery bag under the sink or in the kitchen closet. Put old clothes in it and you'll have a supply of rags handy for messy chores. Wash them up and use them again!
- Save plastic bags and aluminum foil, and use them again. Wipe them off if they're a little bit messy and hang them up to dry. Put leftovers in reusable plastic food containers instead of using plastic wrap.
- Use a lunch box to take lunch to school...or if you use a bag, bring the bag home and use it again!

### **Get Growing**

Start a garbage gardening project by cutting the tops off carrots, sweet potatoes or pineapples. Stick toothpicks into the top so that half of it will sit in a jar of water. When your plants have roots, plant them in pots of dirt.

### **Take Action \*Required\***

Help your troop plan and carry out a recycling project (example: arrange to collect newspapers and take them to a recycling center). Help advertise and promote the project by making posters and flyers, talking to the neighbors, etc.

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