

# GIRL SCOUTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT



## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Imagine a place that encourages girls from diverse communities and walks of life to explore, study, and appreciate their environments—the water, land, and air. Imagine a place that broadens girls' appreciation of everything from their own streets and backyards to the global community we all share. And imagine that at the same time, they are introduced to exciting possibilities for rewarding careers and lives in which they can make a real contribution to the world around them.

Well, open your eyes and discover the place millions of terrific girls have loved for nearly a century! The Girl Scouts.

## HOLD-YOUR-BREATH ADVENTURE

Breathtaking deep-sea explorations, treks across the tundra of Antarctica, and adventures in the bush of national parks are among the adventures that show Girl Scouts what ecology is, and why it matters. These experiences help them understand that whether they are in Mississippi, Maine, or Moscow, everything on the earth's surface shares in an interdependent relationship with the global environment—and how they can play a part in protecting it.

Appreciation of the earth's surroundings and a philosophy of social responsibility have always been the bedrock of the Girl Scout program. Environmentally focused projects, group chats, games, online activities, and a lot of outdoor fun are all part of the mix.

Key environmental activities in Girl Scouting take place through the Elliott Wildlife Values Project. Girls have hands-on experiences that strengthen and beautify their communities and foster lifelong relationships with the great outdoors. Whether they live in the hills of Montana or bustling neighborhoods in New York City, girls see that nature abounds, and preserving it is a shared social responsibility.

A favorite adventure of girls is the Aquarius Project, a STUDIO 2B<sub>SM</sub> *destination* conducted in partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Girls 15 to 18 spend a week learning marine biology, oceanography, coral reef ecology, and maritime archaeology through several dives, including one to a deep-sea lab.



Other projects are supported by organizations such as the National Audubon Society, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the National Geographic Society, and the Teton Science Schools.

## MORE THRILLS AHEAD

Girl Scouts has been the preeminent organization for girls for nearly a century because it keeps in step with girls and the changing world around them. A terrific cast of partners and friends provide resources and expertise to enhance the Girl Scout program.

New ideas are in the works for projects with several local, state and federal agencies to offer girls opportunities to participate in unique conservation and outdoor programs in parks, sanctuaries, and other facilities around the country.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Here is a sampling of environmental awards:

- Get with the Land Patch. Awarded when girls work side by side with state and federal natural resource agency professionals and participate in an environmental project.
- Water Drop Patch Project. For learning opportunities about watersheds, wetlands, and groundwater/drinking water.
- Oil Up. Earned by girls as young as eight years old for creating and cleaning up a miniature oil spill.

For a closer look at more environmental activities, call your local Girl Scout council or customer service at 1-800-221-6707 to order a copy of some of our resources on the subject, including:

- *Parks Matter*, a STUDIO 2B<sub>SM</sub> Focus book (for girls 11 – 17)
- *Makin' Waves*, a STUDIO 2B<sub>SM</sub> Focus book (for girls 11 – 17)
- *From Sidewalks to Treetops* (a video and guide for adults)
- *Fun and Easy Nature and Science Investigations* (for adults)
- *Fun and Easy Activities — Science and Nature* (for girls 6–11)
- *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting* (for adults)

## PRESS INQUIRIES

With hundreds of Girl Scouts councils around the country, there are always interesting stories to tell. If you'd like learn to more about how girls are exploring the environment, contact your local Girl Scout council or the Communications Department at Girl Scouts of the USA at 1-800-GSUSA4U or [media@girlscouts.org](mailto:media@girlscouts.org).

Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent organization for girls and has more than 3.8 million girl and adult members. Girl Scouting fosters values, social awareness, and self-esteem in girls, while also teaching them critical life skills for future success. It's a very special girls-only place where girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls growing together. The organization strives to serve girls in every part of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. To learn more about volunteering, partnership, or Girl Scout news, visit us on the Web at [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org).