

WONDER WHY WITH WATER



A clean water responsibility, risk and conservation program for Daisy to Ambassador Girl Scouts. This introduction to the world of water is designed to let Girl Scouts 'get their feet wet,' as they put conservation practices into place and gain a strong knowledge of water, its environmental importance, as well as the limitations and environmental dangers that exist which threaten to deplete and or contaminate our water supplies. Ideally this program will set Girl Scouts on the right path towards their own campaign to make the world a better place in whatever way they can. Many organizations are listed within which Girl Scouts can partner with on projects as small as clean-up days to projects much more elaborate. The future of the World's Water supply depends on the actions we all do today. What will you do today?

Wonder Why With Water

Girl Scout Daisies:

Discover

In the Daisy Journey *Between Earth and Sky*, the flowers travel all over the United States and discover many different bodies of water. From the stone beaches of Maine to the sandy beaches of California, they learned about the Great Salt Lake, the invading vinca plants in the Spicewood Tributary and the Klamath River Salmon problems. What body of water is important to you? Create a folder or scrapbook that describes this body of water. Draw a picture of that water and describe what makes it so important to you. Collect information about the water and keep it in the folder. What do you consider to be a problem or danger to that particular body of water? Make a list which describes why that problem(s) exists and give suggestions as to how those problems could be solved. Share your folder with family and your troop sisters, showing and describing the problems and solutions you have come up with.

Connect

Have a professional who works in some capacity with water speak to your troop, or interview her individually. Examples include your school science teacher or a college professor, a fisherman or restaurant owner, a scientist or other environmentalist (many listed at the end of this program), a plumber or pool technician. Ask about the measures they take to test and maintain water quality at their job. Ask about different ways water can become contaminated or polluted and methods used to prevent that from happening. Ask about how water quality affects other parts of her job.

Take Action

Get involved with a community beach sweep or similar event or create your own day of cleanup efforts around a body of water of your choice. Be sure to have all needed permissions as well as plenty of adult participation and be mindful of the dangers that exist in and around water habitats.

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Girl Scout Brownies

Discover

Make contact with a Brownie troop in another part of the world which also has wetlands. Share with them some of the troubles that your wetlands face and ask that they do the same with you. Then discuss with each other different ideas about those problems and possible solutions as well as who could help make those issues less of a danger for your wetlands and how you could help ensure those people are doing what they can to help. Become pen pals with this other troop, sharing stories and pictures about the wetlands of our area and the wetlands where they live.

Connect

In the Brownie Journey *Wonders of Water*, the Brownie friends briefly discussed the wetlands. Take a hike through a wetland area, many state and local parks have some very nice boardwalks and safe hiking trails for you to use. See if you can spot any of the following wetland elements and discuss the importance of each: alligator, frog, dragonfly, beaver, duck, eagle, cypress knees, water lilies, broadleaf cattails. Choose your favorite wetland element (even if it is not listed above) to draw, sculpt, or paint a picture of that element and enter it into a local art contest.

Take Action

Volunteer your time to a local Wetland Conservation group. Help them with office needs such as stuffing envelopes for a mailer to go out or pass out brochures for them at a local event or special location. Be sure to know the material for which you are disseminating and be sure that it matches your ideals as well, and be sure to have all needed permissions for passing out material at a certain location, as well as adult supervision.

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Girl Scout Juniors

Discover

In the Junior Journey *Get Moving*, you are asked to Dream Up your Dream Green Home. Did you consider your source of water? Where does the water in your current home come from? Have your troop take a tour of your local water treatment plant if possible. If a tour is not possible, set up an interview with the community relations supervisor. Ask him or her about the different methods used to ensure your drinking water is safe and find out exactly what happens to the water once it runs down the drain?

Connect

Organize a cleanup day at a local marina, boat landing, or other waterway entrance. Challenge area boaters to participate throughout the area as they utilize the waterways that day. Challenge your friends, neighbors, school, local businesses, community partners and other Girl Scouts to participate. Be sure to have all needed permissions as well as plenty of adult participation and be mindful of the dangers that exist in and around water habitats.

Take Action

Take a close look at an industrial business or organization within your community such as a refinery or production company or assembly plant or even the water treatment facility in the Discover portion of this project. Make contact with the community relations department of that organization and invite him or her and their family to one of your meetings to discuss the company's environmental practices concerning waste, conservation, and restoration. One idea, if possible, is to make the meeting a dinner in which you or your troop prepares a meal using fresh seafood items. Discuss reasons why you chose certain meal items and what dangers might exist for those items, as well as what measures are used to ensure the safety of that item. Be *sure* to have done your homework and be able to impress your guests, then challenge them to do their part to ensure the conservation and restoration efforts in his or her business are being exercised to the fullest.

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Girl Scout Cadettes

Discover

In the Cadette Journey *Breathe*, one topic discusses Green Roofs. Are there any green roofs installed on buildings in your community? If so, make arrangements to tour that building and its roof to see firsthand how it operates. If there is not one in your area, research the architecture and engineering behind such projects as Green Roofs. Could a project like this be implemented in your area? Draw up your own plans for implementing a Green Roof to a current or new building. Have a local Engineer critique your plans and explain how feasible such plan are to implement.

Connect

Engineers are the designers of plans, techniques, equipment, and many other resources which operate to make the things we see as well as the things that protect us such as bridges and levees. Research and formulate the ideal location for a simple residential rain garden then invite a local engineer that deals with landscaping and outdoor development or similar field to meet with you or your troop. Share your plans with her and ask that she advise you on the many different aspects involved with creating such gardens.

Take Action

Volunteer to help build or maintain a Rain Garden within your community, or create your own Rain Garden project at a local park, nursing home, residence or other location. This would require a major commitment as well as an organized budget and possible building permits and permissions, so make sure you have the professional guidance you need in order to begin.

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Girl Scout Seniors

Discover

In the Senior Journey *Sow What?*, you find many stories about the different ways food items are harvested. Track a seafood item of your choice from your favorite restaurant all the way back to the very beginning of its existence. Research the methods used to cultivate this product as well as what procedures, regulations, and organizations are in place to ensure the quality of this item from its beginning until it reaches the restaurant. Create a presentation that you can give to a Junior Girl Scout Troop. If possible, invite that Junior Girl Scout Troop to dinner at the restaurant and give them your presentation there. If not, come up with your own creative way to present your findings to the Junior Girl Scouts.

Connect

Make contact with a local Environmental Protection Agency or conservation group professionals who are specifically involved with a water related subject you want to learn more about. Assist these individuals in their various activities over your summer vacation spending at least 20 hours with them conducting activities that directly benefit the cause for which you all are interested in.

Take Action

Choose a local wetland or water area. Create your own day of planting trees and vital plants and removing invasive plant species in a natural habitat. Challenge your friends, neighbors, school, local businesses, and other community partners to participate. Be sure to have all needed permissions as well as specific instructions from professionals as to where, how, and what to plant or remove from the area. Be mindful of the dangers that exist in a natural wild habitat.

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Girl Scout Ambassadors

Discover

In the Ambassador Journey *Justice*, you will find how residents of a community were able to halt the construction of a trash incinerator within their community citing the dangerous mercury, dioxins, and other dangerous chemicals the incinerator would release into the environment. Research the laws governing how corporations must report on their environmental waste procedures, and then investigate the procedures used by a local industrial business of your choice located near a water source. Is that company adhering to safe standards and eco-friendly practices? How safe do you feel that body of water is to swim in? Would you want your friends and family to eat the fish or other seafood items that grow in it?

Connect

Make contact with Girl Scouts or an organization from another state that is actively involved with efforts to conserve, revitalize, or condemn a wetland or contaminated body of water. What caused the need for these efforts in their community? Find out what actions are being taken as well as the obstacles that they face and how other people could help. How can you help to raise awareness for their issues? How does the situation they are facing relate to issues with water in your community? Document these facts and ideas and use them in your take action project portion of this program.

Take Action

Citizen's Monitoring is the term used for the act of everyday citizens taking water samples over time, recording their findings, and reporting them to local agencies and institutions. Kits are available that can compare dissolved oxygen levels, bacteria, mercury, and much more. Conduct your own citizen's monitoring program for 5 months, comparing your findings to state standards. Record your data and draft a report about your findings, describing what the results indicate and what should be done as well as the consequences for inaction supported by historical facts. Share your report with the world by submitting it to newspapers, politicians, businesses, and any other organization that will publicize your findings. Resources, information on field kits, and other assistance can be found on our website www.gsle.org.

Who can help?

Want to get even wetter? Earn your Girl Scout Water Drop Patch. The Water Drop Patch Project inspires Girl Scouts to learn about water quality and to take action in their communities to protect and restore local water resources, including their local rivers, lakes, streams, **wetlands** and **ground water**. This resource is updated periodically and is available for free through the National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) by calling toll-free (800) 490-9198 or e-mailing nscep@bps-lmit.com. It is also available online at www.epa.gov/adopt/patch.

Contact your local area **Resource Conservation and Development Council** Watershed Coordinator:

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
Andrea Bourgeois-Calvin
(504) 836-2235
P.O. Box 6965
Metairie, LA 70009
andrea@saveourlake.org
www.saveourlake.org
Chelsea Core
chelsea@saveourlake.org

Capital Resource Conservation & Development Council
Leah Latiolais
(985) 345-6570
109 S. Cate Street, Suite 1
Hammond, LA 70403
leah@saveourlake.org
www.capital-rcd-org

Bayou Land Resource Conservation & Development Council
Jennifer Roberts
(504) 828-1866 ext. 3
2420 Athania Parkway, Suite 300
Metairie, LA 70001
Jennifer Roberts
Jencarterroberts@bayoulandrcd.org

Acadiana Resource Conservation & Development Council
Kristen Kordecki
(337) 323-9228
3419 NW Evangeline Thruway, Suite B-9
Carencro, LA 70520
kkordecki@gmail.com
Scott.edwards@la.usda.gov
www.acadianarcd.com

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, JoAnn Burke, Education Coordinator 504-723-0700. LPBF Fostering Girl Scout Stewardship through Beach Sweeps, Meeting presentations, vegetative plantings, water quality testing and more. Visit www.saveourlake.org for more information.

University of New Orleans Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences Coastal Education Program. Dinah Maygarden. 504-280-1374 www.pies.uno.edu/education

Bayou Rebirth

Bayou Rebirth was founded in 2007 partly in response to the environmental and community needs present in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Bayou Rebirth envisions a revitalized and restored city through local and visiting citizens' connection to the ecology of the coastal wetlands. These coastal wetlands not only protect the city from storm surges during hurricanes, they also support an intricate and unique biodiversity. 504-267-5724, Colleen Morgan 5700 Loyola Ave New Orleans, LA 70115. www.bayourebirth.org

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge Education and Outreach Department, 61389 Hwy 434, Lacombe, LA 70445. 985-882-2021.

LSU Coastal Roots Program, Dr. Pamela Blanchard. 225-578-2297 <http://coastalroots.lsu.edu>

The LSU Coastal Roots Radio is a school-based environmental stewardship program in which students at more than 40 schools in Louisiana raise and transplant restoration seedlings and grass plugs at partner restoration sites in southern Louisiana.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful

Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Inc., a nonprofit organization, was originally formed to assist the state in its litter reduction efforts. An affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, its mission is to "promote personal, corporate and community responsibility for a clean and beautiful Louisiana." For more information, contact Melanie Peck at (949) 413-9084. mpeck@keeplouisianabeautiful.org www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org.

Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Alma Robichaux. alma@btnep.org

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Al Hindrichs. al.hindrichs@la.gov

Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals

Gary Balsamo. Gary.balsamo@la.gov

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium

Murt Conover. mconover@lumcon.edu

Sparta Aquifer Foundation

Lindsay Gouedy. lgouedy@latech.edu

Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration

Jacquelyn Johnson. Jacquelyn.johnson@la.gov

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Cheryl Fischer. cfischer@wlf.louisiana.gov

www.WorldWaterMonitoringDay.org

Wonder Why With Water Patch Order Form

Leader name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Comments about this program: _____

Check enclosed (payable to GSLE)

Credit Card

Credit Card # _____ / _____ / _____ Exp _____ / _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Mail or fax order form to
Girl Scouts Louisiana East:**

Corporate Headquarters
841 S. Clearview Parkway
New Orleans, LA
70121-3119
Fax: (504) 733-8219

Regional Service Center
545 Colonial Drive
Baton Rouge, LA
70806
Fax: (225) 927-8402

Number of patches:

_____ @ **\$2.50 ea. (includes tax)** = _____
Shipping & handling (needed if mailing) + \$1.00

Total = _____

