

Do you care about the environment and want to do something about it?

You and your troop can become advocates for greener schools and community areas!



Take Action!

Girl Scouts Forever Green is the perfect way for girls to make a difference. Troops or individual Girl Scouts design and implement community action projects which bring about lasting and sustainable change. Schools, community agencies and government entities will be great partners.

Girls will live the Girl Scout Leadership Experience by~

Discovering more about themselves and the world around them by learning more about environmental issues.

Connecting with members of their school and community to find out what can be done to improve the environment of their school/community.

Taking Action - planning and implementing a girl led action project that results in a long lasting change within their school/community.

Sound like fun? Use the following pages as a reference guide to determine if your troop/girl wants to participate and what type of project to work on. We are asking you to advocate for environmental responsibility in schools and community areas – the rest is up to the girl and/or troop's passions and interests!

Vision Statement: Girl Scouts will be at the forefront of environmental sustainability, leading schools and communities in using resources wisely.



GETTING STARTED

Action Project Guidelines:

- Girls must choose a project that addresses an environmental issue at their school or community that will result in a long term positive change to the environment.
- *The proposed project must be completed by April 15, 2010.*

Tips for a successful take action project:

- **Keep it Simple:** Don't select a project that will take time or resources your girl or group does not have or cannot get. Look over the five Focus Areas and assist the girl or group in choosing a topic they feel passionate about **and** that can be achieved by April 15th, 2010.
- **Make Connections:** The more people participating in this project, the greater chance for the project to be a success. Who are good people to include in the project? Obvious choices for connections might be a science class or an environmental club, but ask around for ideas on who else might want to help.
- **For the Future:** Will your solution fix something for the future or is it only a one time project this winter/spring? Are there ways to make sure the solution lasts beyond your effort? Is this a project that can inspire all students and all grades at your school?

DISCOVER

- Find out if your girl(s) would like to participate in a Forever Green Community Action Project.
- Start by learning more about environmental issues in one or more of these five focus areas:
 - Air Quality**
 - Energy Conservation**
 - Green Space**
 - Waste Management**
 - Water**
- Have the girls determine how they can make an impact in their school and community.

Not an expert on environmental issues? That's ok! There are plenty of resources available to help you. Contact your district project manager for more information.

We encourage your girl or troop to go on the new leadership journey: *It's Your Planet – Love it!* There are a lot of great activities, ideas and information on many areas of environmental concern and could give you a great idea for a community action project.

It's Your Planet – Love it! by grade level:

Daisy – Between Earth and Sky (Environmental Awareness)
Brownie – WOW! Wonders of Water (Water Quality and Conservation)
Junior – Get Moving (Energy Use)
Cadette – Breathe – (Air Quality)
Senior – Sow What? (Land & Food)
Ambassador – Justice (Environmental Justice)

CONNECT

- Have girls brainstorm ideas (based on the five focus areas) that might be important at their school or other community location.
- Encourage girls to make a list of people in their school and community who could help with each project idea.
- Pick one or two project ideas.
- Plan for your girl or troop to meet with school officials, community leaders or others who may be affected by the potential projects to see if it is acceptable and to ask for their help with the project.
- Once you have approval from the school to move forward with a project fill out the registration form. **Submit the form along with your project timeline and budget** to your district office. The district project manager will be in touch with you throughout the timeline of your action project to help your girl or group along the way.

Remember: The deadline for submission of registration is December 4, 2009.

TAKE ACTION

Time to put the plan into action!

Log on to www.girlscouts.org/forevergreen. We will be working with GSUSA to measure the environmental impact of all projects in action this year!

District Project Managers

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Project supported by:

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