

Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore - Virtual Badge Breaks

June 16, 2020: Taking Care of Nature

Brownie Eco Friend Badge:

Step One: Think of ways to help the outdoors. - Did you ever think about what it means to be a friend to nature whenever you're outside? You learned how to do that during the **Virtual Badge Break** when you went over=

Seven Principles to Help Us Keep Nature Safe.

1. Know before you go
2. Choose the right path
3. Trash your trash
4. Leave what you find
5. Be careful with fire
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be kind to other visitors

Watch this "Leave No Trace Video" for more information: <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/adults/volunteer/tips-for-troopleaders/programming/what-is-leave-no-trace.html>. Then use the attached S.W.A.P. (Some Whatchamacallit Affectionately Pinned) template: print out, color, cut, cover in tape to protect and attach to a safety pin. Pin it to a SWAP hat or your Girl Scout Uniform as a reminder of "Leave No Trace" that you were even there. Make for others as well to Take Action and spread the word.

SWAPS TEMPLATE



Step Two: Observe outdoor spaces - Take a trip outdoors to your own backyard or somewhere else you and your family like to visit. DRAW a picture of your favorite thing to see in nature. (Did this during the **Virtual Badge Break**) If you look closely at objects in nature, you can see how different living things create homes for themselves. Find some outdoor objects (like rocks and branches) and gently turn them over. Then use a magnifying glass OR use a cell phone camera and zoom in very close to see if anything lives underneath. Remember that plants are living things too! When you've finished looking, carefully turn the objects back over. Talk about what you saw with your friends or family. Did anything surprise you?

Step Three: Build a safe campfire - Campfires are a lot of fun – and they're great for marshmallow toasting – but they can be dangerous too. That's why you want to learn how to build and put out a campfire safely. First WITH AN ADULT go over the attached copy of "Practice safe cooking with open fire" for anytime you are around a campfire. Next watch this video, "Fire Building the Girl Scout Way" on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMxzdDaEX00> and WITH AN ADULT practice building and putting out a fire safely. Leaders AND parents as members of the Girls Scouts of the USA have access to the "Volunteer Tool

Kit” by logging in on your Council Website and clicking on MYGS/VTK. The Eco Friend Badge Requirements must be added to your “Year Plan” and then you will have access to the two following attachments that are great OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL resources for this badge: 1. Campfire Safety Rules and 2. Build a Teepee Fire.

Practice safe cooking with open fire. If cooking over open flames:

- Build fires in designated areas, and avoid establishing new fire sites. An established fire site is clear of overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotted stumps or logs, dry grass and leaves, and cleared of any burnable material, such as litter, duff, or pine needles.
- Use existing fire rings if a fire is necessary.
- Tie long hair back on girls and adults or cover hair with bandanas
- No plastic garments, such as ponchos, are to be worn around open flames.
- Where wood gathering is permitted, use only dead, fallen wood, and keep the cooking fires small. Store wood away from the fire area. Watch for flying sparks and put them out immediately.
- Before leaving the site, check that the fire is completely out by sprinkling the fire with water or smothering it with earth or sand, stirring, and then sprinkling or smothering again. Do not douse the fire with water, as it will create steam which can cause severe burns.
- Hold hands over coals, ashes, partially burned wood, or charcoal for one minute to verify coolness.
- Make a plan for disposing of cold ashes and partially burned wood. You may scatter ashes and burned wood throughout the woods away from the campsite. Do not put ashes and burned wood in a plastic pail; do not leave a pail with ashes or burned wood against the side of a building or on a wood deck.
- Obtain wood from local sources to avoid bringing pests and diseases from one location to another.
- Practice safe cooking with charcoal fires. If using charcoal, fires should be started with fuels explicitly labeled “charcoal starters.” Never use gasoline as a fire starter. Never add charcoal lighter fluid to a fire once it has started.

Step Four: Take care of wildlife - Make a poster of ways that humans can take care of nature and wildlife. The seven principles to help us keep nature safe is a great place to start. Also think of a time you ever had friends or family come to stay with you at your house... Can you imagine how it would be if your guests came to your home and ate all your food, broke all your toys, and left trash all over the living room? Now imagine your favorite wild animal. Can you think of ways that humans might be disrespectful of that animal’s living space? Maybe there are no flowers left for a rabbit to eat because people picked them all, or a deer is afraid to come to its favorite place in the woods because it hears loud music playing. How do you think humans can treat the animal’s living space with kindness? Maybe picking up trash, keeping water sources clean, putting dogs on leashes for walks, or staying on trails when hiking.

Step Five: Practice Being Kind - Help improve an outdoor space. Do you know an outdoor space that could use a little love? Come up with some ideas for ways to leave an outdoor area better, then talk to an adult about how you could put your plan into action.

Share a photo of your drawing from Step 2, something you discovered in nature when exploring, of your poster from Step 4 or of how you Took Action in nature with the hashtag #GSJSChallenge or via the photo submission page on our website for other Girl Scouts to follow along. [GSfun.org/photoshare]