

## Junior Community Cleanup for Water Quality Activity Plan

**Purpose:** When girls complete these activities, they'll know about water quality and pollution prevention.

**Planning Guides Link:** Outdoor Awareness & Environmental Stewardship, and STEM

**Fun Patch Link:** Planet Saver

**Activity Plan Length:** 1.5 hours

**Involve Family and Friends:** Participation from family and friends can enrich your troop's Girl Scout experience, both for the girls and for you. Use the suggestions below to make it easier for you to connect with additional support.

- Before the meeting
  - Send a note to families to find those with interest or expertise in the topic. Ask them to lead or support a specific activity/activities, or to lead the meeting.
    - Offer this activity plan as a starting place; point out that they may choose alternative activities using the Customize It! section as a guide. For example: If an activity plan directs girls to sit outside and observe animal habitats, you may choose to go to the zoo and learn about animal habitats there, instead.
- At home:
  - Encourage families to ask questions about their girls' badge activities. Some examples that work for any badge include: *What did you learn? What surprised you? What does it make you think of trying next?*
- Throughout the Year:
  - Suggest to the girls and their families ways that they may share or display their Girl Scout accomplishments. Possibilities include a bulletin board, a scrapbook, a special memories box or family sharing time.

**Girls Take the Lead:** Include girl leadership through long-term planning, short-term meeting prep and specific activities at meetings.

- Long-Term Planning
  - If you use "Plan Your Junior Year," share this with the girls at the start of the year. Have them ask friends and family to help out with specific meetings or activities. Let the girls brainstorm ways to make the plans on their own, such as thinking of related field trip activities. If a girl has experience with a field trip, ask her to be assistant tour guide.
  - If you are adapting the "Plan Your Junior Year," get the girls' input on which badges to choose. Offer just a few choices in each category or timeframe to make decisions easier. Every girl should have at least one badge or journey she's excited about.
- Short-Term Planning
  - Ask a family to help lead a badge. Make sure they have access to activity plans and any resources you might have. Keep additional requested materials to a minimum.
  - Choose two helpers to stay after a meeting for 15 minutes. Give them each an activity to introduce and either instruct or help guide at the next meeting.
  - Before a meeting, ask everyone to vote on some aspect of the activity: draw posters or perform skits, open with a song or game, etc.

- Use a rotating list of helper tasks, called a kaper chart to share responsibilities. Examples include acting as emcee of the meeting, leading an opening game, bringing a snack next meeting or taking attendance.
- At the Meeting
  - During the opening, have 1-2 girls share their answers to a get-to-know-you question.
  - Have girls fulfill their kaper chart responsibilities.
  - Try to find something in each activity that you can let girls decide or manage.

### **Tips and Tools**

- Check out ways to stay safe using Safety-Wise at <http://gsrv.gs/safetywise>.
- Ensure that your activities are accessible to everyone. Ask in advance if any special accommodations need to be made. If you have questions regarding specific adaptations, please contact River Valleys at 800-845-0787.

### **Resources**

- Alternative water activities can be found at: <http://gsrv.gs/1IKFYgM>

## Getting Started

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Optional: Girl Scout Promise and Law printed out on poster board

Steps:

1. Welcome everyone to the meeting.
2. Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Use repeat-after-me or say it as a group if girls know it by heart.

Girl Scout Promise	Girl Scout Law
<i>On my honor, I will try:</i> To serve God and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.	<i>I will do my best to be</i> honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, <i>and to</i> respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

3. Play this water related game so girls can get to know each other better (source: Groundwater Foundation: <http://www.groundwater.org/>)

Some communities in developing countries have to transport all the water they use from a single source (well, river, or lake) to their home. Collecting and transporting the water they need is a lot of work. Each drop of water is valued and used wisely. Can you transport water without spilling any?

Materials:

- 2 containers of the same size
- 2 small plastic cups or ladles of the same size
- 2 buckets
- Water

Divide the group into two teams. Line the two teams up, side by side, in single file lines, behind the empty container. Put a bucket of water a set distance away from each team. Both buckets should be the same distance away and contain the same amount of water. Give the first person in each line a small cup or ladle. On "go," the first person will run to the bucket of water, scoop up water and travel back to the start line. They will empty the water retrieved into the team's start line container and hand off the cup or ladle to the next team member. Teams rotate through until one team's start line container overflows with water.

## Activity #1: Salt Water Vs. Freshwater

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Note: this activity can be done together as a troop or in smaller groups of 2–4 girls. If you choose to break into smaller groups, you will need one set of materials for each group.

Materials Needed:

- 1 egg
- 1 jar or glass
- Water

- 12 tablespoons of Salt

Steps:

1. Explain to the girls the importance of water quality in both freshwater and saltwater ecosystems. Can you think of examples of a freshwater system? How about a saltwater system? What is the difference between salt water and freshwater? Let's try this experiment to find out.
2. Fill the glass with water until it is half full.
3. Put the egg in the glass. What happens? Does it sink or float? The egg sinks in freshwater. Why do you think that happens?
4. Now add the salt, one tablespoon at a time. Now what happens to the egg? As salt is added to the water, the egg begins to float. The salt makes the water denser. The denser a liquid is, the more likely it is that an object will float.

## **Activity #2: Storm Drain Markers**

Time Allotment: 25 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Images of storm drain markers (see below)
- Paper
- Coloring Utensils

Steps:

1. Ask the girls to brainstorm ways to keep our rivers, lakes, streams and oceans clean. Ideas may include:
  - Pick up trash and litter
  - Rake leaves and grass clippings
  - Use biodegradable soap when camping
  - Use natural lawn fertilizer
  - Keep trash and debris out of storm drains
2. Tell the girl that storm drains, which can also be called catch basins, are the openings along street curbs and corners. They catch water as it runs down the street. Many storm drains and catch basins drain directly to rivers, lakes, streams or oceans. That's why storm drains and catch basins are for water only—not trash or debris.
3. Tell the girls that many cities and organizations choose to mark their storm drains with small markers or stencils. Storm drain markers remind people that only water should go down the drain. Look at a few examples of storm drain markers. Here are a few questions for discussion:
  - How are the storm drain markers similar?
  - How are they different?
  - What phrases are used? Which phrase would make the biggest impact?
4. Now it is your turn to design your own storm drain marker! Think about what phrase and image you would use. Would it be small or large? Circular or square?
5. Have girls share their designs when they are finished.

## **Activity #3: Snack Chat**

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Steps:

1. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
  - Why do you think it is important to keep our lakes and rivers clean?
  - What projects could our troop do to help with water pollution and conservation?
  - What things can you do at home to conserve water?
  - What is your favorite thing about lakes, rivers, and oceans?

## **Wrapping Up**

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Optional: Make New Friends printed on poster board

Steps:

1. Instruct girls to get into a Friendship Circle. Have girls stand in a circle and cross their right arms over their left, holding hands with the person on each side of them.
2. Sing "Make New Friends."

Make New Friends		
Verse One	Verse Two	Verse Three
Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, the other is gold.	A circle is round, it has no end. That's how long, I will be your friend.	You have one hand, I have the other. Put them together, We have each other.

3. After the song, ask everyone to be quiet.
4. One of today's Badge Buddies should start the friendship squeeze by gently squeezing her neighbor's hand with her right hand. Then, that girl squeezes with her right hand. One by one, each girl passes the squeeze until it travels around the circle. When the squeeze returns to the Badge Buddy who started, she says "Goodbye Sister Girl Scouts" and the girls unwrap and face outward instead of inward.
5. Optional: Have girls make a wish after their hand has been squeezed and before they pass the squeeze along. Girls can also put their right foot out into the circle when they receive the friendship squeeze so that everyone can see it travel along the circle.

### More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas
  - Visit a local or state park and talk to the rangers or Parks and Recreation staff about how they work to protect our water.
- Speaker Ideas
  - Invite a Department of Natural Resources employee to talk about taking care of water and other natural resources.
  - Talk to someone at your local watershed. Find yours at <http://www.mnwatershed.org/>.

### Suggestions

Do you have any suggestions to improve this activity plan? Do you have ideas for other possible badge-earning activities? Please email [troopsupport@girlscoutsvr.org](mailto:troopsupport@girlscoutsvr.org).

### Family Follow-Up Email

Use the email below as a template to let families know what girls did at the meeting today. Feel free to add information, including:

- When and where you will be meeting next.
- What activities you will do at the next meeting.
- Family help or assistance that is needed.
- Supplies or materials that girls will need to bring to the next meeting.
- Reminders about important dates and upcoming activities.

Hello Girl Scout Families:

We had a wonderful time today learning about water quality and conservation as we prepare to participate in the community clean-up.

We had fun:

- Participating in a water relay.
- Doing an experiment to see the difference between saltwater and freshwater.

- Learning about storm drain markers and designing our own.

Continue the fun at home:

- Explore rivers, lakes and streams in your community. Pick up trash near these areas with your girl.
- Look for ways around the house that you and your girl can conserve water. Try fixing a leaky faucet, turning off the water when brushing teeth, taking a shower instead of a bath, and monitor the use of the hose.
- Participate in activities to celebrate World Water Day on March 22 by visiting: <http://gsrv.gs/1TlbkF9>
- Participate in activities to celebrate World Water Monitoring Day on September 18 by visiting: <http://www.monitorwater.org/>

Thank you for bringing your Junior to Girl Scouts!

## Storm Drain Markers

