

AMBASSADOR WATER BADGE

Badge Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll have dived deep into water—from its scientific origins to the joy of splashing around.

Activity	Materials Needed
Poison or Potable? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep track of your daily water use, then look into current water issues impacting your community and world. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Water log <input type="checkbox"/> Pen <input type="checkbox"/> Phone or computer with internet access
Water Art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create art that reflects your relationship with water. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone or computer with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Various art supplies (depending on project)
Make Waves, Make Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview someone involved in water issues, then raise awareness about a water issue and become a water steward in your community. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone or computer with internet access

Activity #1: Poison or Potable?

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Have fun reflecting on your relationship with water and Step 3 – Find out about water issues

Materials Needed: Water log; pen; phone or computer with internet access

- Access to water is essential to human life and well-being. Though we've always been dependent on it, unfortunately, not everyone has access to clean and safe drinking water. Water is one of those very precious, but often invisible, resources that we take for granted.
- For one day, keep a log of all the times you use water (filling up your glass from the tap, taking a shower, using it to wash fruits and veggies, etc.). Every time you turn on the tap, make a mark in your log. Use water as you normally would.
- The next day, look over your log. Did it surprise you how much you rely on water? (Its utility can be sneaky—without water, for example, you can't even flush the toilet.) Now, imagine that every time you turned on the tap, you're not sure if the water's going to be contaminated with harmful bacteria. You have to boil your water for use—even the water for brushing your teeth. Then, imagine every time you turn your tap on, brown, murky water—possibly laden with lead—gushes out. You have to use bottled water for all your needs—even to shower—because it's not safe to use and can result in severe health issues.
- You might think these scenarios are from Third World countries, but that's the reality millions of Americans face today. The water crisis in Flint made major headlines—and their challenges are not an anomaly. Look into water challenges affecting your community (it might hit closer to home than you thought) and your country:
 - Minnesota's own water crisis: www.mepartnership.org/minnesotas-own-water-crisis
 - Wisconsin's ground water crisis: www.circleofblue.org/2017/water-management/wisconsin-towns-face-groundwater-crisis-alone



- Lead in the water: www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-lead-testing
- America's water crisis: www.discovery.com/tv-shows/discovery-impact/americas-water-crisis
- Drought in the USA: droughtmonitor.unl.edu and adventuresinmapping.com/2016/07/12/five-years-of-drought

Activity #2: Water Art

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Celebrate water art—and create your own

Materials Needed: Phone or computer with internet access; various art supplies (depending on project)

1. The interactive exhibit, Surface Tension (visit it here: dublin.sciencegallery.com/surfacetension/exhibits), included more than 50 different exhibits developed by scientists, engineers, artists, and designers that explore human's relationship with water.
2. After you've viewed the exhibit, create a piece that speaks to your personal relationship with water. Perhaps you were inspired by the previous activity exploring water crises affecting citizens across the country. Or, maybe you want to pay homage to the element that sustains us.

NOTE: If you do choose to create art that raises awareness about a particular water issue, you can combine this step with Step 5 – Educate and inspire others with a splash.

Activity #3: Make Waves, Make Change

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Explore water solutions and Step 5 – Educate and inspire others with a splash

Materials Needed: Phone or computer with internet access

1. Minnesota and Wisconsin both claim acres of rivers and lakes, but those water sources are in danger of being polluted. Humans contributed to the problem, but they can also be part of the solution. Find out how to be a water steward in your community. How can you protect and preserve clean water for today and generations to come?
2. Interview someone in your community working on issues about water preservation, cleanliness, or access. (If you want to find an organization in your area, a good place to start is Minnesota Water www.cleanwatermn.org and Clean Wisconsin www.cleanwisconsin.org). How and when did they first become interested in water issues? What issue(s) do they think is/are most pressing for our time? What are some ways ordinary citizens can help with water issues?
3. After you've conducted your research and interview, create a resource to raise awareness in your community about your specific water issue. Can you facilitate a workshop at your local library about water conservation? Lead a crew to clean up a local lake or river? Create a poster to inform others about invasive species (such as the zebra mussel) and the importance of preventing their spread?



Water Log

What you do	How many times each day (mark one box per water use)							
Bathroom <input type="checkbox"/> Flushing toilet <input type="checkbox"/> Showers <input type="checkbox"/> Baths <input type="checkbox"/> Brushing teeth <input type="checkbox"/> Washing hands								
Kitchen <input type="checkbox"/> Food prep <input type="checkbox"/> Washing dishes by hand <input type="checkbox"/> Washing hands <input type="checkbox"/> Dishwasher <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water								
Laundry <input type="checkbox"/> Washing machine								
Outside <input type="checkbox"/> Washing car <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening <input type="checkbox"/> Watering lawn								
Other <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____								
								Total use: (count up your boxes) _____