

DAISY ECO LEARNER BADGE

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll have learned three ways to protect the environment when they go outdoors.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster
15 minutes	Be Prepared! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will prepare to go outside and explore how to protect nature once they're there. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Jump rope
20 minutes	Go Take a Hike <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls learn how to choose the right path when hiking and camping. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensil
15 minutes	Snack Chat + Trash Your Trash <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls enjoy a healthy snack and discuss the importance of packing out what they pack in. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage (banana peel, clean soda bottle, empty granola wrapper, plastic sandwich bag, etc.) or garbage cards (at end of activity plan)
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster

Note to Adults/Leaders

The majority of these activities will be completed outside. Be sure to let guardians and families know, and request that girls dress appropriately for the weather.

Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.



Activity #1: Be Prepared!

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Be prepared to protect nature before you go outdoors and Step 2 – Keep living things safe when you walk in nature

Materials Needed: Jump rope

1. It's fun to be outside and explore nature! Explain whenever they go out in nature, girls will first need to be prepared to be outside. What do they need to stay safe and comfortable outdoors?
2. Use the jump rope to make a line in the middle of your space. Have girls stand on or close to the jump rope. Explain that you'll be calling out some items; their job is to decide whether or not they should wear or bring that item with them when hiking. If they *should* bring the item, girls should move to the right side of the jump rope. If they shouldn't bring the item, girls should move over to the left side of the jump rope.
3. Call out:
 - Jacket
 - Flip flops
 - Snack
 - Water bottle
 - Stuffed animal
 - iPod or other music player
 - Sunscreen
 - Comfortable sneakers or hiking boots
4. Explain to girls that part of being prepared to be outside is remembering that there are rules for how we behave when we're in nature. Ask girls, what do you think some of these rules are, and why do we have them?
5. Say, we have these rules to help protect and keep nature safe while we're enjoying it! Just like how we need to be prepared to keep ourselves safe while we're outside, we also have to be prepared to keep nature safe too!
6. Introduce girls to the Seven Leave No Trace principles, or review if they're already familiar with them:
 - Know before you go
 - Choose the right path
 - Trash your trash
 - Leave what you find
 - Be careful with fire
 - Respect wildlife
 - Be kind to other visitors
7. Say that one of the ways we can keep nature safe is by choosing the right path. Ask girls to guess what this rule means. Explain that choosing the right path means that when you're outdoors, you should walk and camp on durable surfaces, like established trails and campsites. "Durable" means something that will last a long time without being damaged.
8. Other kinds of durable outdoor surfaces include: sand, gravel, and dry grasses.
9. When we stick to durable surfaces, we minimize our impact on nature.

Activity #2: Go Take a Hike

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Keep living things safe when you walk in nature

Materials Needed: Paper; writing utensil

1. Tell girls that they'll be going on a short hike today. Ask girls to name some things they expect to see while hiking. Jot these down on a sheet of paper. While on your hike, encourage girls to keep their eyes open for these signs of wildlife!
2. While on the hike, point out the trails that have been demarcated for hikers and campers. Tell girls to observe what is on either side of the path.



Activity #3: Snack Chat + Trash Your Trash

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Learn how to protect nature from trash

Materials Needed: Healthy snack; garbage (banana peel, clean soda bottle, empty granola wrapper, plastic sandwich bag, etc.) or garbage cards (at end of activity plan)

Prep Needed:

- If using, print and cut out garbage cards.
1. After your short hike, gather in a circle for snack. Hand out snack, then discuss:
 - What did you see while you were walking? Did you see any of the wildlife or plants you expected to see before we headed out? (Refer to the list if girls can't remember specifics.)
 - What was on either side of the hiking trail?
 - How do we make sure we protect nature by staying on the trail?
 - Can anyone remember the other ways we can protect nature? (Refer to the Leave No Trace principles.)
 2. Once girls are done with snack, ask, "What do we do with our trash now that we're done eating?" That's right! We have to throw it out. We follow this Leave No Trace principle when we're in the outdoors too: "Trash your trash."
 3. Tell girls that you'll be holding up a piece of litter/garbage (or garbage cards). As you hold the litter up, ask girls to guess how long it will take until that piece of garbage decomposes. (If needed, explain that "decompose" means to break down into smaller and smaller pieces.)
 - Plastic soda bottle: 450 years
 - Banana peel: 3 – 5 weeks
 - Granola wrapper: 20 years
 - Plastic sandwich bag: 10 – 20 years
 - Juice box: 5 years
 - Tin can: 100 years
 - Paper bag: 2 – 4 weeks
 - Styrofoam: Never
 4. When you've gone through the cards, explain that a handful of garbage your troop makes and leaves might not seem like that big of a deal, but imagine if every troop everywhere left a handful of trash—that would be a mountain of garbage! Tell girls that we can all do our part to care for nature when we take our trash with us to throw away later, and pick up litter (with adult permission/assistance) when we see it when we're outside.

Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Visit a scientific natural area to see the different types of wildlife and plants that live there.
 - Help pick up litter at a local park.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite an older Girl Scout troop to talk about the seven principles of Leave No Trace and how they've practiced them while camping.



- Invite a park ranger to your meeting to talk about how they help maintain and protect state and national parks.



