



# Maine Lobster PATCH PROGRAM

girl scouts   
of maine

# Introduction

The Maine Lobster patch program gives Daisies - Ambassadors the opportunity to learn more about lobsters, and their impact on the state of Maine. You will learn about lobster body parts, Maine history, as well as many of the issues facing lobsters and the lobster industry. You'll then plan a way to make a difference on these issues, right in your local community!

For any of the steps and activities below, if you are not able to visit a location or speak with someone in person, feel free to do your own research online - be sure to use creditable sources.

## Steps

1. Learn about lobsters
2. Discover the history of lobsters in Maine
3. Learn how lobsters have affected people
4. Talk out about the issues
5. Take Action on an issue of your choice

For each of the following steps, select at least one activity.

## Step 1: Learn about lobsters

### Daisies + Brownies

- What makes a lobster a lobster? Draw a lobster, and then draw your favorite animal. What makes them different? Are they similar at all?
- Learn more about the habitat of a lobster. Where do they live? What do they eat? Draw a picture or make a diorama showing what you learned.
- Find a book or website all about lobsters. Learn 2-3 fun facts about lobsters you can share with friends and family.

### Juniors + Older

- Lobsters are very common in Maine. Research why Maine has so many lobsters, and what adaptations they have that makes Maine such a perfect place for them to live.
- Learn about a lobster's outer shell. What is it made of? Why do lobsters have it? Why are some lobster shells different colors, and do they ever change colors? Share stories with your friends about different kinds of lobsters you've seen, or what your favorite colored lobster would look like.
- How do lobsters see underwater? Learn about how lobsters can see so well in dark and murky water. How are a lobster's eyes different from a human's eyes? Share what you learned with your family and friends.





# Step 2: Discover the history of lobsters in Maine

Select one or more of the following topics and create a poster, pamphlet, or a creative way of your choice to present the facts you've learned. Add pictures and all the interesting facts you found to make a fun and colorful way to teach your friends about the history of lobsters in Maine.

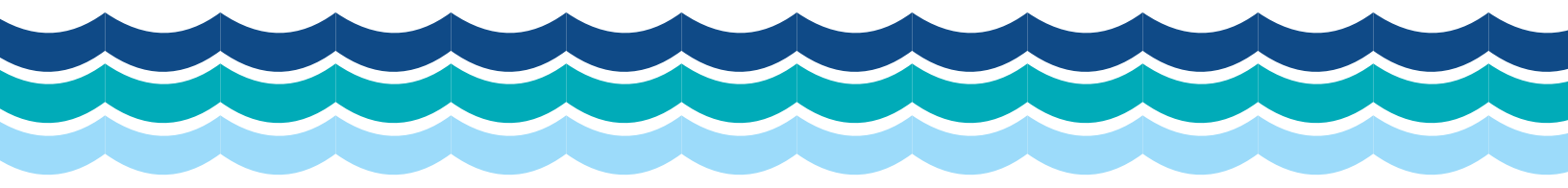


## Daisies + Brownies

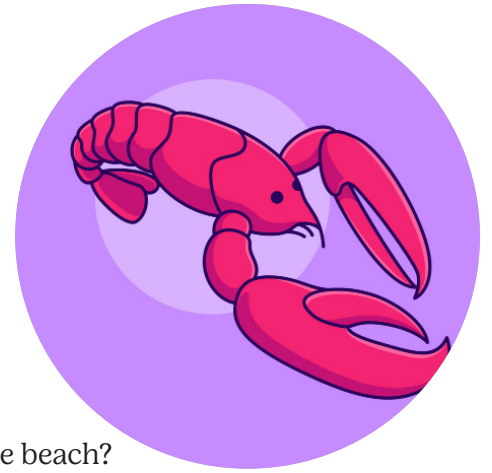
- How did Maine come to be known for their lobsters? Research the beginning of lobster fishing in Maine and how it has changed up until today.
- Pick a coastal town and research how lobsters have affected that town's history. Were they ever a fishing village? Did the town ever have a lobster festival? Did any famous lobstermen/women come from there? Are there any interesting fishing stories from the town? Discover the town's history and how one crustacean shaped it.
- Lobster boats are an important part of lobster fishing. Find out how Maine lobster boats have changed throughout history. Draw the different types of boats you find and put them on a timeline.

## Juniors + Older

- Food is an important part of history and lobsters hold a special place in Maine cuisine. What are some famous recipes that feature this crustacean? When were they invented? Learn the history of lobster cuisine in Maine. Make your favorite recipe to enjoy with friends or family or create a short recipe booklet of some of the recipes you think would be tasty.
- Visit a local lobster fair or lobster festival and find out when it was first established. Why did people want to create this fair or festival? What are the popular things to do there? Take lots of pictures while attending the fair or festival and create a collage about your experience and the history you learned.
- Lobster fishing (or lobstering) has been a job opportunity in Maine for centuries. Often, lobstermen women have their own language and culture associated with a longstanding history of lobster fishing that they pass down to future generations. Learn about the development of lobster fishing in Maine, and how the associating culture of lobstermen/women has changed through history. Talk to a lobsterman/woman about how they became a lobster fisher, and how far back lobster fishing goes in their family history.



# Step 3: Learn how lobsters have affected people



## Daisies + Brownies

- Answer the following questions as a group, or as a family, and find out more about how you and your friends have been impacted by lobsters:
  - Have you ever seen a live lobster?
  - Have you ever eaten or tried a bite of lobster?
  - Have you ever held a lobster?
  - When you visit the beach, have you seen pieces of lobster traps at the beach?
  - Do you know or have you ever met a lobsterman/woman?
  - What other questions can you ask your friends about lobsters? Discuss your findings, and how they may have been different from what you expected.
- Create a story about the life of a lobster. Talk about where it travels, what it does, and how it might come across people.
- Make a skit about some way in which lobsters and humans interact. Act it out to the group.

## Juniors + Older

- Travel to a local fishing wharf, and talk to a lobster expert. Find out how lobsters in Maine have changed overtime, and how the lobster industry has affected your local area.
- Look through a Maine magazine, and count how many times lobsters are mentioned. Talk about your findings, and any interesting information you discovered through your search.
- Visit a restaurant or store that serves lobster. Ask a worker about how they interact with the lobsters, and how their work may be different without the addition of Maine lobsters in their workplace.

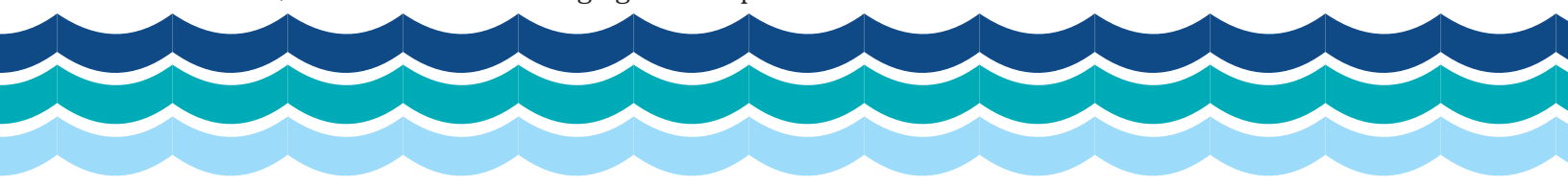
# Step 4: Talk about the issues

## Daisies + Brownies

- Invasive species can take over an area and have huge impacts. What are invasive species? Find out more about what invasive species are and learn about the invasive species that live in Maine's waters by visiting a marine science or wildlife center.
- What are the ways we can conserve Maine's lobster resource? Brainstorm what things lobsters need to survive, and talk about whether or not lobsters have enough of what they need. Why could these resources be changing?
- How has climate change affected lobster habitats and breeding grounds? Have a parent or guardian help you contact a local marine scientist or lobsterman/woman about the changing "sweet spot" for lobster habitat.

## Juniors + Older

- Population sizes change over time. Find out if the lobster population of Maine is booming or if it is shrinking by talking to a local lobsterman/woman or marine scientist. What are the reasons behind this change? What are some other ways lobster population can be affected? Create a chart that illustrates the population levels of lobsters in Maine over the past 100 years and share with your troop, friends, or family.
- Talk to a local lobsterman/woman or representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about lobster fishing regulations and find out how these help in conservation efforts.
- How has climate change affected lobster habitats and breeding grounds? Contact a local marine scientist or lobsterman/woman about the changing "sweet spot" for lobster habitat.



# Step 5: Take Action on an issue of your choice

## Daisies + Brownies

- Participate in a local beach clean up, and write down whenever you encounter pieces or parts of a lobster trap. Use this information to create a flyer about lobster trap waste that you can share in your local area.
- Conservation is an important part in preserving the natural world. However, there aren't too many groups in Maine that focus on lobster conservation. With help from your troop leader or parent/guardian, write a story from a lobster's point of view that raises awareness on issues lobsters face in the ocean. Create a little booklet of your story, complete with pictures, and find ways to share your story with your community.
- Build off of what you learned about how climate change is affecting lobster habitats. Take your newfound knowledge and spread awareness of this local effect of climate change, either by creating and handing out fliers, making posters highlighting the major points of the issue and place them (with permission) in visible areas, or make a short video to share with friends, family, and local community.



## Juniors + Older

- Spend a day helping out on a lobster boat, and discover some of the ways in which environmental issues can impact lobstermen/women. Make an educational video about what you learned.
- Lobster was once used as a fertilizer. Find out how to compost lobster shells and the uses they could have in your community. Lobster shell abundances could come from local lobster fairs and festivals, lobster eating contests, or food processing companies. What plans could you have for these shells? How would you create a program that could reduce waste and aid the community?
- Help preserve the cultural history of lobster fishing in Maine and complete one of the following projects:
  - Reach out to your community and see if there are people who have old or unwanted lobster fishing equipment that they would be willing to part with. Work on creating an exhibit in your local libraries, schools, or museums with the lobster fishing artifacts you find. It is recommended you contact a museum curator for tips on your exhibit.
  - Interview an older generation of men and women in the lobstering business. Find out more about their stories and experiences over time. Create a way to document their interviews and stories to preserve this history.

## Resources

- Gulf of Maine Research Institute: <https://gmri.org/>
- State of Maine website: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/kids/about/wildlife/lobster>
- University of Maine: <https://umaine.edu/lobsterinstitute/educational-resources/lobsters/>

