



Sustainable Maine Patch Program

The goal of the Sustainable Maine Patch Program is to cultivate greater awareness and civic actions among Girl Scouts to create a sustainable future where people are able to live, work, and thrive in Maine. The Sustainable Maine Patch is earned the first year the program is completed. Small supplemental patches are earned for subsequent years.

Paint Recycling Patch

The Paint Care program is a statewide paint recycling program that began in October, 2015. Since it's so new, not many people know about it yet and still have old, used paint cans piled up in their basements and garages. The goal of this program is to keep 200,000 gallons of paint from going to waste.

Flex your citizen muscles to affect positive change in your homes and communities by increasing awareness and participation in Maine's new statewide paint recycling program called Paint Care. Also, provide tips and tricks to help people avoid having wasted paint in the first place. Girl Scouts will focus on increasing awareness and participation in Paint Care. The program can be completed by any level.



What products are covered?

Paint Care Products

These products have fees when purchased and are accepted for free at drop off sites:

- Interior and exterior architectural paints: latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based, enamel (including textured coatings)
- Deck coatings, floor paints (including elastomeric)
- Primers, sealers, under coaters
- Stains
- Shellacs, lacquers, varnishers, urethanes (single component)
- Waterproofing concrete/masonry/ wood sealers and repellents (not tar or bitumen-based)
- Metal coatings, rust preventatives
- Field and lawn paints

Non-paint Care products

These products do not have fees when purchased and are not accepted at drop-off sites:

- Paint thinners, mineral spirits, solvents
- Aerosol paints (spray cans)
- Auto and marine paints
- Art and craft paints
- Caulking compounds, epoxies, glues, adhesives
- Paint additives, colorants, tints, resin
- Wood preservatives (containing pesticides)
- Roof patch and repair
- Asphalt, tar and bitumen-based products
- 2-component coatings
- Deck cleaners
- Traffic and road marking paints
- Industrial maintenance (IM) coatings
- Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) (shop application) paints and finishes

Note: Leaking, unlabeled and empty containers are not accepted at drop-off sites.

Discover: *Girls learn more about themselves in relation to the world*

Daisies and Brownies

- Find out why it is important to recycle paint. With an adult, read more on the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) website to learn about paint stewardship in Maine (www.nrcm.org/projects/sustainability/recycling-and-product-stewardship/paint-recycling). Demonstrate your learning by writing down or drawing five things you did not know before.
- Talk to your parent or guardian about the program and have them check for any old paint cans in your house that could be recycled according to the guidelines. Take a photo of the cans to show how many you found. (Remember: do not handle the cans yourself.)

Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

- Find out why it is important to recycle paint. Read more on NRCM's website to learn about paint stewardship in Maine (www.nrcm.org/projects/sustainability/recycling-and-product-stewardship/paint-recycling) and more about the Paint Care program that is at work in several states across the country. Demonstrate your learning by writing down five things you did not know before and share them with your Girl Scout leader or parent/guardian.
- Research ways that people can avoid ending up with unused or wasted paint. Write them down.
- Talk to your parent or guardian about the program and have them check for any old paint cans in your house that could be recycled according to the guidelines. Make a video of the cans to show how many you found and what you learned in the process. (Remember: do not handle the cans yourself.)
- Do a tour of a recycling facility or transfer station to learn about how things get recycled.

Connect: *Girls connect with others and/or their communities.*

Daisies and Brownies

- Make a poster about the ways that people can avoid ending up with wasted or unused paint in the first place and/or ways they can use leftover paint from a project.
- Engage an adult/parent/guardian in bringing the old paint cans to one of the approved recycling locations. (Remember: do not handle the cans yourself.)

Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

- Engage an adult/parent/guardian in bringing the old paint cans to one of the approved recycling locations. (Remember: do not handle the cans yourself.) Write about or make a video about your experience. Share with someone outside of your family.
- Host a movie night to watch a documentary about recycling and waste.
- Find out if your town/community has a collection site and how much money your town has saved through this program. Why is it important? Alternately, visit your local hardware store that has a collection site and find out about their experiences with the program and the impact it has had on their business.

Take Action: *Girls do something to positively impact the community*

Daisies and Brownies

- Organize a day to have an informational table at a local hardware store or transfer station to remind people about the Paint Care recycling program.
- Teach others about ways they can reduce paint waste and/or ways they can use excess paint.

Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

- Give a brief presentation to a group (school, church, youth group, younger Girl Scout troop) about paint stewardship and include the steps that they can take to participate.
- Organize a day to have an informational table at a local hardware store or transfer station to remind people about the Paint Care recycling program
- Write a letter to the editor and submit it to the local newspaper about the importance of reducing paint recycling. Information on writing an LTE is available at: www.nrcm.org/take-action/writing-letters-to-editors/
- Call or write to your legislator to thank them for passing the paint stewardship program. Find out who your legislator is here: <http://legislature.maine.gov/house/townlist.html>.



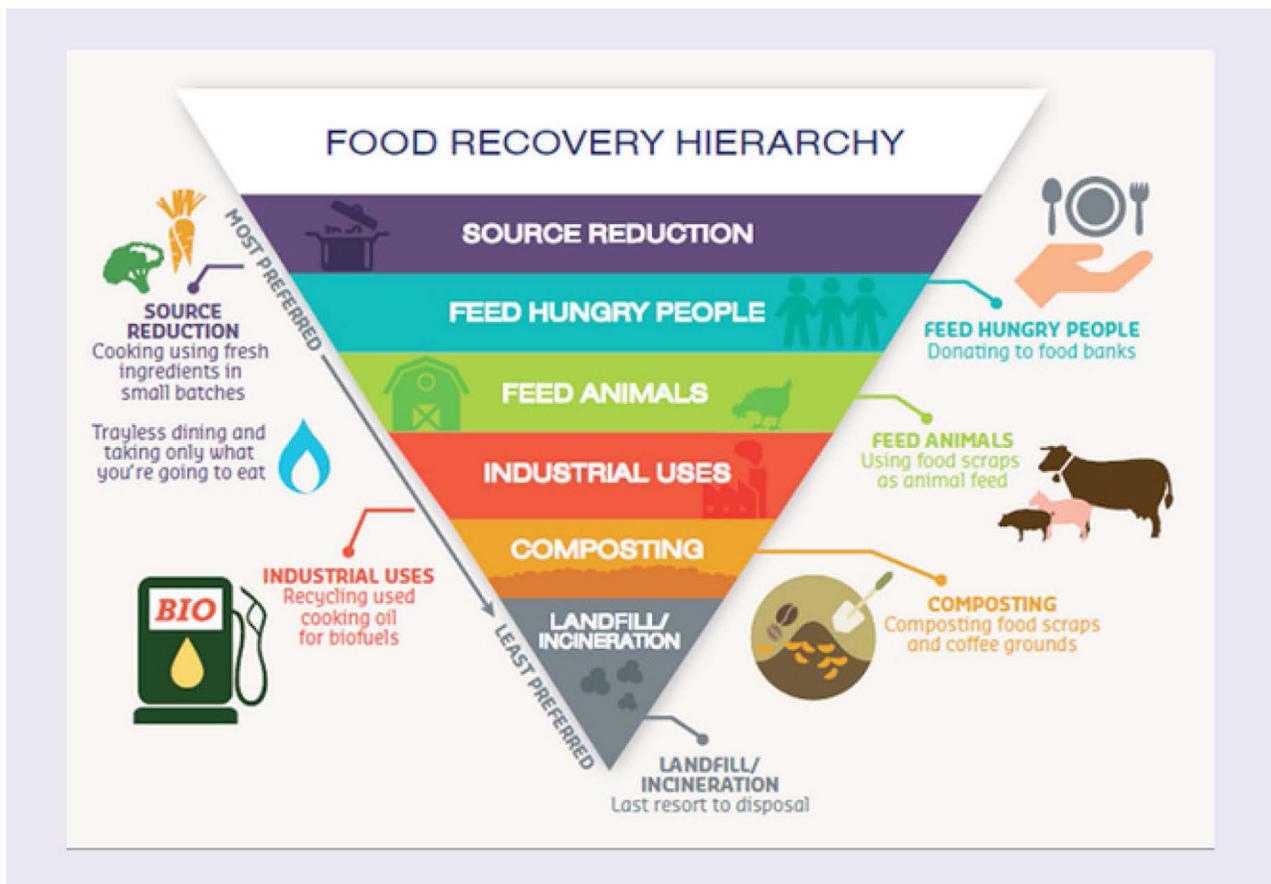
Food Recovery Patch

We throw away almost half of the food we grow, meanwhile one in four Maine children does not have enough to eat, and food decomposing in landfills is contributing to climate change. Learn how you can take action and make a difference to reduce food waste in your home, school, and community.

Girls and leaders will become aware of the problem of food waste and explore solutions that address food insecurity and reduce environmental impact. The program can be completed by any level.



Food Recovery Hierarchy



The Food Recovery Hierarchy shows us the best ways to tackle food waste. The hierarchy prioritizes preventing food waste in the first place, followed by feeding people, then animals, composting, and, as an absolute last resort, landfilling.

Discover: *Girls learn more about themselves in relation to the world.*

Daisies and Brownies

- With an adult, find out why it is important to reduce food waste. Read more on the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) website (www.nrcm.org/projects/sustainability/materials-management/food-waste/) to learn about food waste in Maine; the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Food, Too Good To Waste” campaign, or savethefood.com. Demonstrate your learning by writing down or drawing five things you did not know before and share them with your Girl Scout leader or parent/guardian.
- Learn what “gleaning” means.

Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

- Find out why it is important to reduce food waste. Read more on the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) website (www.nrcm.org) to learn about food waste in Maine; the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Food, Too Good To Waste” campaign, or savethefood.com. Demonstrate your learning by writing down five things you did not know before and share them with your Girl Scout leader or parent/guardian.
- Learn what “gleaning” means.
- Find out where your food comes from. Is it in season? Is it local? If not, are there seasonal/local alternatives that would reduce food waste?

Connect: *Girls connect with others and/or their communities.*

Daisies and Brownies

- Talk to your teacher, custodian, principal, or school kitchen workers about how food waste is currently being managed at your school. Do they compost? Do they have policies aimed at reducing food waste? Where does the unused food go—in the garbage, compost, or elsewhere? Alternately, track the food waste in your classroom for a week.
- Visit a place that benefits from gleaning or other food waste reduction method. Go on a tour and learn more about how it benefits them and the people with whom they work.
- Reduce your food waste as a family for a week and then share with your troop or classmates how it went and what they can do to reduce their food waste.

Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

- Visit a local composting site and see nature’s recycling in action.
- Go to a local grocery store and ask the manager what they do with food that they do not sell. What happens to that food? How much food is wasted?
- Talk to your teacher, custodian, principal, or school kitchen workers about how food waste is currently being managed at your school. Do they compost? Do they have policies aimed at reducing food waste? What else can be done to reduce food waste at your school?
- Host a movie night to watch a documentary about food waste.



Take Action: *Girls do something to positively impact the community*

Daisies and Brownies

- Make a poster for your school/church/town office bulletin board or make a video to share that describes a solution to food waste.
- Organize a day where your class or troop visits a local farm for gleaning. Work with a local food pantry to distribute any food collected.

Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

- Give a brief presentation to a group (school, church, youth group, younger Girl Scout troop) about food recovery and include steps they can take to reduce food waste.
- Work with your school to reduce their food waste
- Organize a day where your class or troop visits a local farm for gleaning. Work with a local food pantry to distribute any food collected.
- Call or write to your legislator to tell them your ideas about reducing food waste. Find out who your legislator is here: <http://legislature.maine.gov/house/townlist.html>.

Sustainable Maine Evaluation

Leader's name or girl's name (if a Juliette): _____ Troop #: _____

Age level: **D B J C S A** Total # of girls who participated: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

What track did you do? Food Recovery Paint Care

Is this the first time you have earned the Sustainable Maine patch? Yes No

How did the girls benefit from this project?

What was the highlight of participating in this project?

How did you (the girls) spread the word about the importance of recycling paint or recovering food?

Additional comments:

Photos:

Please enclose any pictures or stories you'd like to share. Please be sure to enclose photo releases for each girl or be sure they have one on file. Also include names of the girls in the pictures.

Mail evaluation to:

Program Department, Girl Scouts of Maine, 138 Gannett Drive,
South Portland, ME 04106

