



# Global Action Days

## World Environment Day

### June 5

### What is World Environment Day?

World Environment Day is a day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action on urgent environmental issues. It is the “people’s day” for doing something locally, nationally or globally to take care of the Earth. World Environment Day is also a time to highlight, celebrate and discuss the importance of environmental awareness and action and to drive a change in consumption habits, as well as in national and international environmental policy.

### Why do Girl Scouts celebrate?

By celebrating World Environment Day, Girl Scouts promote the awareness of the environment. Whether learning about endangered plant and animal species, developing creative recycling projects, or working on environmental take action projects, Girl Scouts focus on care, conservation, and responsibility of the environment. They work make sure our planet endures for future generations to enjoy.

### How can GSME Girl Scouts celebrate?

As Service Units and Troops, celebrate World Environment Day with discussion, activities, and community service. Whether at a Service Unit event or in your own troop, research the current theme for World Environment Day and discuss it with the girls. Discuss how to bring awareness to this environmental issues and how each girl can help locally.

### Activities for World Environment Day

The theme for World Environment Day changes each year, and is announced on the World Environment Day website. These are suggestions for generic activities that can be modified based on any theme.

- How about upcycling an old t-shirt into a reusable tote? Suitable for any level. Check out the instructions at: [www.instructables.com/id/No-Sew-10-Minute-T-Shirt-Tote/](http://www.instructables.com/id/No-Sew-10-Minute-T-Shirt-Tote/). What else could be upcycled? Maybe an old pair of jeans to a purse? Discuss with the girls about things that are thrown in the trash and how they could be repurposed.
- Get outside in the fresh air and make a difference at the same time! Around your meeting space (or local park, community building...) pick up trash, plant some flowers and enjoy the time together. Of course, get permission first.
- Another, get outside activity! Take a walk or hike; enjoy the environment. Ask the girls what they see, smell, hear, feel and so on. Lay down and take time to watch ‘Mother Nature’s TV’; the clouds. What do the girls see? Discuss what they think girls across the world would see, smell, hear, feel, etc. if they did the same activity.
- Research this year’s theme and host(s) for World Environment Day. Talk to your troop about the theme, and using a world map, show the girls where the host county(s) are located. Help the girls brainstorm a Service Project they can accomplish in celebration of World Environment Day.

### Resources:

- GSUSA Global Action Days Toolkit: available on Volunteer Toolkit & GSME website
- World Environment Day: [www.worldenvironmentday.global/](http://www.worldenvironmentday.global/)
- United Nations: [www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day](http://www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day)
- UNESCO: [www.unesco.org/en/days/environment](http://www.unesco.org/en/days/environment)
- World Environment Day: [www.worldenvironmentday.global/about/theme-host](http://www.worldenvironmentday.global/about/theme-host)