

Project Green Tree



The products of trees are all around us, from the paper we write on, the pencils we write with to the houses we live in. It is truly amazing what we can make with trees. This diverse utility has led to deforestation at a rate of 18 million acres a year. Cutting trees down can be helpful, but it also leads to a loss in animal habitats, a decrease in oxygen quality and erosion.

Luckily there are many things Girl Scouts can do to aide the forests and trees around us! There are both small and big actions we can take to make an impact from planting a new tree to using both sides of a sheet of paper. During this tree saving initiative, explore what you can do to make a difference by following the steps below!

To earn the Project Green Tree Patch, complete at least 6 activities below. You must complete one activity from each step.

1. Grow Your Roots

Before you save them, learn about the trees around us! Middle Tennessee is home to many amazing tree species.

o Take a hike and learn how to identify 5 of the trees around you.

o Visit a tree nursery and learn how to raise a tree to be healthy and strong.

o Go online, visit a local nature center, state park or other wildlife agency and learn about 5 different animals that make their homes in trees.

o Create a photo collage of trees and identify the different species that are shown.

o Trees have had many uses, both in the past and present. Research their uses and then record how many tree products you use a day. You will be surprised.

o Trees change as the seasons do. Find out how trees change (such as bark changing, losing leaves, fruit). Compare and Contrast how three different trees.



2. Spread Your Leaves

Take what you have learned and put it to use! Help our forests by:

- o Plant a tree. Find a good place either in your yard or a park (with permission of course). If you do not want to purchase a tree, there are several places where you can apply for trees. Try these links:

Before you dig visit <http://www.tenn811.com/>.

Water it frequently! Baby trees need lots of care. For instructions check <http://tectn.org/programs/tree/>.

- o Recycle, Recycle, Recycle! In your home, school, church, city center or local business find out if you can place a box to put all your paper instead of the trash can. When the box is full, take it to a recycling bin or make something new out of it!
- o Challenge your self to use a piece of paper 2 times before you discard it. Try this for at least a week.
- o Host a recycle craft day for your friends or family. Show them how to make new unique sheets of paper, paper mache and toilet paper roll owls.

<http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-and-Recycle-Paper/>

<http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Cardboard-Tube-Owls/546>

<http://www.kidspot.com.au/kids-activities-and-games/Messy-activities+24/Make-paper-mache-glue+11458.htm>

- o Research how you can repurpose different material made of paper or cardboard and implement a few of them.

http://www.somedayilllearn.com/toilet-paper-rolls/#_a5y_p=2842454

<http://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/20-more-ways-to-reuse-old-plastic-paper-bags>

- o Participate in a tree planting project. Check out these opportunities, they give you the tree and the place to plant it!

<http://cumberlandrivercompact.org/>

<http://www.nashvilletreefoundation.org/>

3. Branch Out and Share

Share your experience with others

- o Create a presentation, skit, or speech to share with others, what you have done and what they can do to help the trees.
- o Create banners and posters using your new knowledge. Hang it at school, church, where your troop meets, or a community center.
- o Find new ways to cut down on tree use and promote others to participate. Examples: Use reusable bags at the grocery store (both Kroger and Publix have cloth bags), have receipts sent to their email instead of printing, clothe diapers instead of disposable, urge your parents to make lists on electrical devices instead of paper, etc.
- o Now that you have recycled, hold your own recycling drive. Have troop members, friends and family collect their paper and cardboard and bring it to a central location. Count up (by pound) how much you have and take it to a recycling bin or center.
- o Lead a troop of younger girls on a tree identification hike at a local park or camp.
- o Research other products that are potentially harmful to the environment. Find new ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle them to help not only our trees, but the earth as a whole.

When you have finished, let others know that you participated and buy a patch to put on your uniform. Fill out the tracking sheet below, take it to the shop and turn it in when you go to purchase your patch. **Contact Meredith Banaszak at mbanaszak@gsmidtn.org or call (615) 460-0213 for more information.**



Form to be completed, is on the third page of this packet.

Project Green Tree



Troop #: _____ Program Level: _____

Number of Girls: _____ Number of Adults: _____

How many types of trees did you learn?

How many pounds of paper did you recycle?

How many pounds or boxes of cardboard did you recycle?

How many trees did you plant?: _____

How many times did you use both sides of the paper? _____

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