



5 Minute Global Enrichment

May 2025

Learning Opportunity for
Volunteers & Girls

World Environment Day – June 5



What is a '5 Minute Global Enrichment'?

This is a short learning opportunity concentrating on global.

Each is unique, and will add a global aspect to your Girl Scout programming.

So be sure to share with other Girl Scout volunteers and girls.



World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5th. This year marks 52 years since the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, known as the 1972 Stockholm Conference. This conference led to the creation of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the designation of June 5th as World Environment Day.

What is World Environment Day?

World Environment Day is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Held annually since 1973, the World Environment Day has also become a vital platform for promoting progress on the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. With UNEP at the helm, over 150 countries participate each year.

Why do Girl Scouts celebrate World Environment Day?

Our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, was a famous lover of nature. By celebrating World Environment Day, Girl Scouts honor her legacy by promoting respect and love of the great outdoors far and wide. Through Girl Scouting, girls see the Earth as their home. Whether they're developing creative reducing, reusing and recycling projects or working toward a grade-level award, girls focus on care, conservation, and responsibility of our Earth. They make sure the beauty and wonder of our planet endures for future generations to enjoy.

What is the theme for World Environment Day?

Only One Earth was the motto for the 1972 Stockholm Conference, 52 years ago and the motto still holds true - this planet is our only home, whose finite resources we must safeguard. In celebration of the 50 year anniversary, the 2025 theme for World Environment Day is Beat Plastic Pollution. The 2025 World Environment Day campaign #BeatPlasticPollution calls for collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore our planet.

This World Environment Day also highlights the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature by bringing transformative changes – through policies and our choices – towards cleaner, greener lifestyles. The Republic of Korea will host World Environment Day 2025 in partnership with the UNEP.

What can Leaders and Volunteers do?

As Service Units and troops, celebrate World Environment Day with discussion, activities, and community action. Whether at a Service Unit event or in your own troop, talk to girls about World Environment Day and what it means to Girl Scouts.

Some suggested activities to help girls explore World Environment Day:

- **Earn the Girl Scout Tree Promise Patch.** Remember, your group does not necessarily need to plant trees to earn this patch. The requirements are to choose one or more of these three ways to earn the patch: Plant a tree, then enter it on the tree tracker, Protect a tree via the SciStarter's Tree Promise Citizen Science webpage; or Honor a tree at camp or in your community...to honor trees could also include removing invasive species affecting our native trees here in Maine.
- **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle are the three R's of the 3R's concept.** How can you put the 3Rs concept into practice? To begin, avoid purchasing things that come in single-use packaging, such as vegetables and fruits in plastic containers. Second, choose high-quality products that can be reused and repaired rather than being replaced. What comes next? Recycle. Composting is one of the most effective ways to begin recycling at home. Stop throwing away leftover food and vegetable components that aren't edible and instead utilize them to make nourishing soil.
- **Trash to Treasure** – Have the girls collect common items that are thrown away that can't be recycled, such as toilet paper rolls, plastic containers with lids (yogurt, cream cheese, sour cream...), plastic caps from various bottles, plastic drink cups/lids/straws, collection of unknown keys and so much more; even consider a pair of rain boots. Talk to the girls about what to do with these – let's make some treasure!



- **Flower pots from plastic containers with no lids.** Decorate with left-over scrapbook paper, construction paper..., plant a seed or small flower. Maybe give to a neighbor or senior citizen as a gift.
- **Plant a boot!** Use a boot as a flower pot; fill with planting soil and a plant. Great decoration outside by a door.
- **Toilet paper rolls** – Use instead of gift wrapping a small gift; decorate, place the gift inside and turn down the ends. Or how about decorating and using to hold cords so they don't get all tangled in a drawer?
- **Caps from bottles** – Decorate and make into a magnet by adding magnetic dots or strips. Or make a checkers game.
- **Plastic containers with lids make great storage containers** for a girl's secret or prized possessions or even a place to keep extra change for a special purchase. Decorate both the container and lid.

Resources

- GSUSA Global Action Days Toolkit: https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/gsusa/forms-and-documents/members/global/GSUSA_Global-Action-Days-Toolkit.pdf
- World Environment Day website: www.worldenvironmentday.global/
- Girl Scout Tree Promise Patch: www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/at_home/tree-promise/GSUSA_EWVP_TreePromise_ProgramToolkit-Resources.pdf
- Global Action Award: <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/ways-to-participate/global-girl-scouts/global-action-award.html?spMailingID=8266842&spUserID=NDg1NzA1NjYwODES1&spJobID=801797556&spReportId=ODAxNzk3NTU2SQ>

Looking Ahead

Since most Service Units either have end of year celebration meeting or no meetings May - August, there will be no 5 Minute Global Enrichment for these months. The Global Action Team thanks you for sharing these enrichments with volunteers and girls, and ask for your feedback. Also, we are looking for your input on topics for the next membership year. Please email any comments and suggested topics to girlsexperience@gscolorado.org.

Questions?

Have questions on World Environment Day? Or need additional resources? Reach out to GSCO Girl Experience at girlsexperience@gscolorado.org and they can put you in touch with a member of GSCO's Global Action Team.