



Climate Connections

Girl Scouts make connections to communities and all around the world. Let's make a new connection – to our planet. Climate change and global warming is changing our planet and affects our lives. Let's find out what Girl Scouts can do to help save Earth!

Let's

DISCOVER and learn about global warming

CONNECT the causes & effects of climate change

TAKE ACTION and find out what Girl Scouts can do to help save our planet!

In order to earn this badge, please complete the following requirements:

Daisies – complete one activity from each section

Brownies – complete 4 total activities, with at least 1 from each section

Juniors – complete 6 total activities, with at least 1 from each section

Cadettes, Seniors & Ambassadors – complete 8 total activities, with at least 1 from each section

Section 1: DISCOVER

Read *An Inconvenient Truth*, by Al Gore

Al Gore was the 45th Vice President of the United States, and he wrote this best-selling book, which has photographs, charts and other illustrations that teach about climate change. This book was even turned into a movie! Read the youth edition of this book with your troop or your family, and learn about the causes and effects of global warming.

Learn from an Expert!

Seek out a source of expert information on climate change: a scientist or teacher, a museum exhibit, a research website, or scientific publication. Learn about climate change – what is the cause of climate change, and why is it important? Discuss with your troop what you can do to help.

Click on it, to be a “Hero” and Save the Earth!

Learn more about climate change on the Internet with your parents. There are many sites that you can visit together. Learn about greenhouse gases, your carbon footprint, and the effect of the melting arctic ice caps on polar bears and penguins. Here are a few of the sites just for kids:

www.globalwarmingkids.net/web_sites/index.html

www.ecokids.ca

www.coolkidsforacoolclimate.com

Global Challenge

Climate change affects our whole world. Pick a country, and find out how it is affected by climate change. Do they have the same challenges facing your part of the world, or are they facing different issues? What are they doing about it?

Our Town

What is happening to your town because of climate change? Find out from your local utility company the challenges that your town has to handle because of global warming. Ask your parents what your household can do to help – with their help, perform an energy audit of your house, and find out what everyone in your house can do to reduce your energy or water use.

All living Creatures

Animals, insects, and plants are affected by climate change, just as much as humans. Find out what is happening to the animals who live on the ice caps. How is their everyday life affected by the melting ice caps?

Operation Otter

Take a field trip to your local Aquarium. Observe the otters closely, and take notes on how the otters live. Find out how otters are affected by the changes in sea water temperature. How can you help the otters? If you do not have an aquarium nearby, visit a zoo or an animal rescue shelter, and find out how heat, drought or other Climate Change affects their habitats.

Section 2: CONNECT

Carbon Footprint

All our activities such as riding in a car, using your computer, and turning on lights create carbon dioxide. Things that we buy that are made by factories generate carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, which is affecting our atmosphere, and contributing to global warming. Learn what “carbon footprint” means, and find out what your carbon footprint is. Make a list of things that you can do to reduce your carbon footprint.

Animal Actions

Think of an animal and imagine how global warming is affecting it. With some of your friends, put together a skit. Is there less ice to walk on? Do they have less food to eat? Is there enough water for them? Or are their homes disappearing? After you share your skit, take some time to think about what you can do to help that animal in need.

Plant Patterns

Learn how plants are affected by drought: Plant seedlings into 2 separate pots. Water one seedling regularly for a week, but do not water the other seedling. Observe what happens to the plants over the week. Have a discussion on what you observed. How would drought affect farmers, and the people who rely on the farmers for food? How would drought affect animals in the wild?

Scavenger Hunt (indoor version)

Go on a scavenger hunt in your house. How many items can you find that are recyclable? (Hint: recyclable items are not just limited to newspapers and bottles. There are other things in your house that can be re-purposed or re-made for a new use!)

Make a Change

Think about what you can do to help. Are there actions that you can take, which can reduce your carbon footprint? Can you take shorter hot showers, turn off the lights when you are leaving a room, or use less bottled water? Put together a list of 5 actions that you can pledge to do at home, for at least a week. Perhaps this will lead to a permanent change!

Draw a Solution

Imagine you are a scientist and you need to find a solution to global warming. What would you create to help? Can you think of a solution to help with drought, or with rising water levels, or with reducing your carbon footprint? Draw it, and share it!

Eat Right

There are foods that you can eat that are not only good for you, but good for the planet. Eating foods that come straight from a local farmer is better than factory-made foods because it has a lower carbon footprint. For example, fresh fruit is a better choice than canned fruit cocktail. Find out why locally-sourced food is better than mass-produced food. Make a fresh fruit salad to enjoy!

Predict the Future

Pretend it's 30 years or more into the future. Think about how the Earth might be different, if we do not take action against global warming. If the ocean waters rise, which cities might be flooded? What happens to the people who live in those cities? Will some animals be extinct? Make a list with about 10 changes from now to then.

Section 3: TAKE ACTION!

Recycled Fun

With your troop or friends, think of ways you can re-use material and have fun with junk! Make a craft project or game using items from around the house.

Some examples:

- have penny toss game with an egg carton
- decorate a tin can or jam jar to make a pencil holder
- make a picture frame from a CD case

Let's Bowl!

You will need: 10 empty water bottles, and a few old tennis balls.

1. Fill the bottles $\frac{3}{4}$ full with tap water
2. Set up the water "pins" in a lane.
3. Grab a tennis ball, and start bowling!

Walk Outside

Plan an evening out where you and your family don't use a car. Instead of driving, your family can walk, bike, scooter, rollerblade, or skateboard. Go to a park, enjoy a picnic dinner, and know that you did not add excess carbon dioxide by driving there in a car.

Scavenger Hunt (outdoor version)

Go outdoors to the park, or go on a hike with your troop. Create a list of items to hunt for: acorn, pine cones, leaves, etc, and see how many you can find.

Make a craft project with your treasures: a leaf collage card; or a "critter" from a pine cone – use your imagination!

Keep it Simple

Decorate a plain canvas tote bag. Use fabric paint or markers to make it your own! Then use that bag whenever you go out or go shopping. We can make a difference by reducing our use of packaging. We do not need to take a shopping bag from each store – have the store clerks put your purchase in your tote bag. Encourage your family and friends to reuse or recycle plastic bags, and use less packaging too!

Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22, but we can celebrate Earth every day! With your troop, plan an Earth Day celebration. Perhaps your troop can share fun activities with each other, or create a fair for other troops or your Service Unit. Have games, fun crafts, and teach and inspire others to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Can One Person make a Difference?

Yes, you can make a difference in climate connections! You can recycle, use less water, and ride a bike instead of a car. Discuss with your troop what **YOU** can do, and do it!

Spread the **WORD!**

Friends, family, classmates, and others can help the Earth, too. They might not know of the issues, so you can share with them what you've learned. Think of some ways of how you can be a good role model and see if other people follow your example.