



Council-Owned Badges

.....
for Brownie Girl Scouts
.....

Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council
3663 Peters Creek Road, NW
Roanoke, VA 24019-2809
540-777-5100 • 1-800-542-5905
www.gsvsc.org

Climate Change

Complete the **starred (*) activity** and three others of your choice.

- 1. ITSCOOL Education: Participate in the ITSCOOL to Light Up the World Learning and Action Program by participating in the ITSCOOL education and doing the ITSCOOL booklet activities.
- 2. ITSCOOL CFL Sale: Participate in the ITSCOOL to Light Up the World Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Sale and help teach your community about global warming.
- 3. ***Weather – Climate – Climate Change – Global Warming? Learn the difference between weather and climate. What is the difference between climate change and global warming? Why is it happening? Draw pictures to show what you learn and talk about it with another Girl Scout or a family member.**
- 4. Story Discovery: Read a storybook about climate change and discuss the basic content. Below is a list of suggested books, which are all available for checkout from Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council.

The Polar Bears Are Hungry, Carol Carrick, 2002
Why Are the Ice Caps Melting? The Dangers of Global Warming, Anne Rockwell, 2007
This Is My Planet: The Kids' Guide to Global Warming, Jan Thornhill, 2007
Snowy White World to Save, Stephanie Lisa Tara, 2007
Winston of Churchill: One Bear's Battle Against Global Warming, Jean Davies Okimoto, 2007

- 5. Take Action: Plants and trees help absorb pollution that causes climate change. Plant native trees, bushes, flowers, or other plants in your community.
- 6. Electricity Explorer: Visit a local store and look at appliances and light bulbs that use less electricity. Look for the Energy Star label. How are these products better for the environment and climate change? How can you reduce your electricity use without buying new appliances?
- 7. Alternatives: Did you know that most electricity comes from coal, oil, and gas? What else could we use for our electricity that does not pollute the earth? Learn about solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal electricity.
- 8. Polar Bear Search: Learn about polar bears, where they live, and what is happening to their home (the North Pole). Why is this happening? What can you do to help the polar bear? Find information from resources such as books and movies.
- 9. Pledge to Make a Difference: Take the official Girl Scout Climate Change Brownie Pledge (coming soon). Learn about each action of the pledge, sign it, and submit it to Girl Scouts of the USA.



Developed by: Jessica Fagan
Girl Scout Alumna from Blacksburg, Virginia
and Compton Mentor Fellow
(Approved by board of directors: March 2008)





Disaster Preparedness

Complete four activities.

1. Identify various kinds of natural disasters and develop an action plan to handle each kind. Develop a list of what to do before, during, and after. Go to www.fema.gov/hazards, *Safety-Wise*, and the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook* for information.
2. Invite disaster professionals (firefighter, nurse, veterinarian, state trooper, EMT, rescue squad personnel) to a troop meeting to discuss how they prepare for natural disasters. What are their responsibilities? Have they ever had to use their skills in a real disaster?
3. Contact the local chapter of the American Red Cross. Find out how to make a disaster kit for your home.
4. Create safety posters for display at your school, fire station, and police station. Draw and describe how to stay safe during lightning storms, floods, and tornadoes and describe what to do if the power is out at your home or school.
5. Write thank you letters to people who protect us during disasters. The electric company, the water company, emergency rooms at local hospitals, fire departments, local businesses that may donate food or water, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross all have employees who work under difficult situations to make things better as fast as possible.
6. Do a community service project to collect such things as bottled water, canned food, and batteries to donate to the Salvation Army's Disaster Relief Program or to another organization in your community that has a program for disaster relief. Have each troop member bring items for the troop's disaster preparedness box.
7. Tour the local fire station, talk to an emergency dispatcher, or tour the 911 center. Learn about emergency response systems in your neighborhood.
8. Make a disaster connection. Go to www.fema.gov/kids/k2k.htm to write letters to other kids who have survived a natural disaster. Or if you have experienced a disaster, submit a poem or artwork to share your feelings.
9. Find out about various organizations that help to predict the weather. Learn about the Hurricane Hunters, the National Hurricane Center, and the National Weather Service.

.....

**Developed by: Brownie Girl Scout Troop 128
Charlottesville, Virginia
Leaders: Lianne Landers and Bonnie Worsham**

.....

High-Tech Treasure Hunting



Geocaching started as a high-tech game of treasure hunting. If you like to go treasure hunting, you'll like geocaching. Remember to bring food, water, and a first aid kit on your hunt. Also bring some friends and an adult. This makes it more fun and safe too!

Before you go, complete the **two starred activities** and two others of your choice to earn this Try-It.

1. ***Read and sign the online safety pledge located at the end of these requirements.**
2. ***What is geocaching? Visit www.geocaching.com to learn what geocaching is and find the answers to some of the following frequently asked questions:**

How do you pronounce geocaching?

What are the rules in geocaching?

What is usually in a cache?

Finally, decide what you'd like to put in a cache. You should have one item for each of the troop members who will participate in the search.

3. Learn the meaning of the two starred terms and at least two others: GPS, CITO, FTF, Geomuggle, *latitude, *longitude, spoiler, Travel Bug, and virtual (cache).
4. Learn what a GPS unit is and how to use it. Learn to plot points and recall plots that others have entered.
5. Visit www.geocaching.com to find a nearby cache to search for as a troop. Plot the coordinates on your GPS unit. Review in *Safety Activity Checkpoints* what you'll need to do before you go on the trip.
6. Make your own miniature first aid kit to take with you when you go treasure hunting. You can make a container for your first aid kit from an empty film canister, two beads, and a piece of string or yarn long enough to tie around your neck. Place a bandage, a gauze square, and a small package of first aid cream inside.
7. Many geocaches include a coded message. Pretend to be a spy and decode the following message by using the decryption key below:

Juvyr fngryyvgrf ner yvaxvat, tvey fpbhgf ner guvaxvat.

Decryption Key

The letter above equals the letter below and vice versa.

Example: A = N, B = O, C = P

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

3. Now make your own message using the same decryption key.

8. Make your mark! Geocachers usually create fun codenames and special marks to use when they write in the logbooks found in the cache boxes. Create your own codename and, if you'd like to make a special mark in the logbooks for the caches you find, bring along a stamp and an inkpad as well.
9. Seek out a nearby cache and, with your GPS unit in hand and cache items in your backpack, go on your high-tech treasure hunt.

.....

Developed by: Junior Girl Scout Troop 3137, Greene Service Unit
Leaders: Terry Karnes and Rhonda Carpenter
(Approved by board of directors: December 2007)

.....

News Reporting



Complete four activities.

1. Look at a Newspaper: Look at a newspaper and discuss how it is designed. Notice how the newspaper is structured in sections and what is contained in each section. Discover where in the newspaper advertisements are usually found. Learn how to follow a "continued" article.
2. Visit a Newspaper Publisher: During your visit to a newspaper publisher, observe how a reporter's news is selected, placed, edited, set into print or a computer, and eventually placed in ink on the newsprint paper. Discuss the newspaper's circulation and how it is financed.
3. Design Your Own Newsletter: Decide on the structure and title of your newsletter. Collect and report on items of interest to your troop. Plan the order of importance of the items. Discuss how your newsletter will be structured. Organize the news items to follow your newsletter's structure. Print the items for your newsletter and distribute them to your troop members.
4. Discuss News Articles: Bring an interesting newspaper article to your troop. Discuss how it will cause or has caused changes to the troop, your community, or the world around you.
5. Visit a Library: Visit your local library. Ask if they have the local newspaper. Ask what other newspapers they may have. Discuss what they do with the newspapers. Find out if you are able to view older issues of newspapers. Learn what techniques are used in your library and other libraries to store old issues of newspapers and why this is done. Find out where there might be another archive of newspapers.
6. Recycle: Explore various ways newspapers may be recycled in pet bedding, production of artwork, protection of work areas, reproducing paper articles, and packing for shipments.
7. Make Your Own Paper: Discover the many types of paper, how they are created, and their uses. Learn how you can make your own paper.
8. Invite a Reporter and/or Photographer to Visit Your Troop: Be prepared to ask questions about their educational experience, job experiences, and how they perform the duties of their jobs. Discover what equipment they use and ask them how they find the news so quickly.

.....

Developed by: Brownie Girl Scout Troop 531
Central Elementary School, Low Moor, Virginia
Leaders: Alice Carter, Susan Conrad, and Rowena Bennett

.....

Our State



By doing four of the following activities, you will have completed this Try-It. Activity 1 and activity 3 are highly recommended as two of the activities to complete. These two activities will give you a great deal of information on our state, Virginia.

1. Maps are fun. On a globe or world map, find the United States. Look for our state, Virginia. Be able to point to it on the map. Look at a map of the United States. Find Virginia. Look to see what states surround Virginia. Be able to name some of them.
2. Look at a map of Virginia. See if you can find all of the following: the state capital; the county, city, or town where you live; the Potomac River; the James River; the Shenandoah River; Mount Vernon; Jamestown; Charlottesville; Roanoke; Virginia Beach; Norfolk; Williamsburg; the Atlantic Ocean; the Chesapeake Bay; the Dismal Swamp; Smith Mountain Lake; the Blue Ridge Mountains; and the Appalachian Mountains. Draw your own map of Virginia. (You can copy the outline of the state.) Draw in all of the places above.
3. Find out all you can about how Virginia was settled. Be able to tell your troop who settled Virginia first and when. Who was the leader, and who did he marry? What was the name of the settlement?
4. Go to the library and find a book about Virginia or go to your local chamber of commerce or visitors bureau for information about Virginia. Find out all of the following about our state: the state bird, the state flower, the state nickname, the state tree, the state flag, and the state song. Be able to tell what they are. Draw or cut out pictures of each. Share what you have learned with another troop.
5. Virginia is called “the Mother of Presidents.” Why is our state called that? Find out about the presidents who came from Virginia. Find out one interesting fact about each. Several had influence on important documents for our country, such as the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; find out who. Mark where each of the presidents is from on the map that you have drawn.
6. There are many historical places in Virginia. Visit one of them with your troop or your family. Share what you learn with your troop or another troop. Find out five interesting facts about Virginia and share them with your troop or another troop.

.....

Developed by: Brownie Girl Scout Troop 286
Pleasant Valley Elementary School, Harrisonburg, Virginia
Leader: Kathleen Hulse

.....

Skiing



Choose any four activities to learn about skiing. This Try-It may be earned by girls with their troops or by girls skiing with their families.

1. Find out what equipment you need to go skiing. Learn how to make sure your equipment is safe and right for you. Find out what you need to do to take care of your equipment. Find out what you should wear when you go skiing. Be sure your clothing is right for the weather. Visit a store that sells ski equipment and clothing or have an experienced skier talk with your troop about her or his equipment and clothing. Draw pictures of skiers with the right equipment and clothing for skiing. (Leader resource: National Ski Patrol website: www.nsp.org/safety/)
2. Find out what kind of exercises and conditioning you need to do before you go skiing. Try some of the exercises at your troop meeting. Talk about how a skier might get hurt on the ski slopes. How can you keep from getting hurt? What should you do if you get hurt while skiing?
3. Safety and courtesy are important while you are skiing. Learn about trail and traffic signs on the slopes. What do they mean? Learn how they are different on different slopes and at different resorts. Find out about the National Ski Patrol and why they are important on the ski slopes.
4. There are different kinds of skiing: cross-country (Nordic), recreational downhill (Alpine), competitive downhill, slalom, giant slalom, freestyle, jumping, and Nordic-combined. Watch a competitive ski event on television, on video, or at a ski slope. Share what you see with your troop.
5. Go on a cross-country ski outing with your family or troop.
6. Learn how to downhill ski by taking a lesson. Go downhill skiing with your family or troop.
7. Find out about famous skiers like Donna Weinbrecht and Debbie Armstrong.
8. Try some fun games to practice your skills. These can be completed either at a ski facility or at a troop meeting if the necessary equipment is available.
 - Play a relay game without poles over a short course.
 - Have a no-ski start race. Start with your skis off, run about 10 meters, put your skis on, and complete the race.
 - Set up a short slalom course on a short downhill run. Race for the best time.
9. Find out about skiing opportunities for people with disabilities.

.....

**Developed by: Brownie Girl Scout Troop 135
Stuart, Virginia
Leader: Debbie Clark**

.....

Special Grandparents



Everyone is special. Grandparents are no different. You may have grandparents in your family who live very close to you or very far away, or your grandparents may not be living. This Try-It is all about grandparents. To complete this Try-It, your troop will need to adopt a grandparent to be your troop's special grandparent. This grandparent can be the grandparent of one of the troop members, or it can be an older person in your neighborhood who you ask to be your troop's special grandparent.

Complete one activity from each section.

Find out about grandparents.

- There are storybooks about grandparents. Go to your school library or the library closest to you and find a book about grandparents. Bring the book to your troop meeting. Share the story with your troop.
- Tell your troop about your grandparents. Bring pictures of them to the troop meeting. Share with the troop what you do with your grandparents. If she or he lives close enough, ask your grandparent to come to your troop meeting and talk to the troop about what it was like when she or he was your age.

Get to know your special grandparent.

- Meet your special grandparent by visiting her or him at home or inviting her or him to your troop meeting. Share with your special grandparent things that your troop likes to do. Share your *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*. Wear your uniform and talk about the recognitions and patches. Ask your special grandparent to talk with you about what it was like when she or he was your age. Maybe she or he was a Girl Scout or Boy Scout.
- Make a scrapbook for your special grandparent. Include pictures that you have drawn, pictures of troop activities, and pictures of each girl and leader in the troop so your special grandparent can get to know you. The scrapbook can have some blank pages to fill in with pictures of the things your troop does with your special grandparent. Plan a visit with your special grandparent to give her or him the scrapbook.
- Visit your special grandparent. Learn a song or game that you can share with her or him. A get-acquainted game would be fun to play. Make an art or craft project to take to her or him.

Be of service to your grandparent.

- Find out from your special grandparent what you can do to help her or him. You could volunteer to rake leaves or clean up the yard. Maybe your special grandparent would like you to plant flowers for her or him.
- Visit your special grandparent. Play a game that she or he likes to play. Bring your favorite book and share it with her or him. Read to your special grandparent.
- Find out what your special grandparent likes to eat for lunch, dinner, or snacks. With the girls in your troop, try to make something your special grandparent likes. Fix a tray or decorate a box and take the food you have made to your special grandparent.
- Invite your special grandparent to go on a trip with your troop. You could go on a picnic or a trip to a museum. Ask your special grandparent to tell you where she or he likes to go when she or he goes out. Your troop could plan a trip to your special grandparent's favorite place.

Plan a ceremony and celebration for your special grandparent.

Plan a ceremony to honor your special grandparent's birthday or other special occasion. Design your own invitations and decorations. Plan to serve food that your special grandparent will like. Plan activities that both your troop and your special grandparent will enjoy.

.....
Developed by: Brownie Girl Scout Troop 239, Lynchburg, Virginia
Leader: Dottie Mitchell
.....

Watersheds and Me



There are many resources available to support these Try-It activities, including your local soil and water board, water and sewer authority, and nature foundation. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation also have great resources that relate to this Try-It.

Complete the starred activity and three others of your choice.

- 1. *Watersheds are also called drainage systems. Everyone lives in a watershed. Find out which watershed you live in. What kinds of plants grow around you? Which of these plants grow in or near the water? What kinds of animals (wildlife and pets) live around you? Which of these animals live in or near the water? Are there streams, rivers, ponds, or lakes near you? They are part of your watershed. Your watershed might be one that drains into the Chesapeake Bay. Look up your watershed address by using the Environmental Protection Agency's website: www.epa.gov/surf/.**
2. Make a collage of a watershed. Use pictures of streams, plants, and animals that you listed in activity 1.
3. Visit a watershed. Can you find the following parts of the watershed: divide, stream/river, wetlands, stream bank, riparian buffer, and runoff areas? Can you see any of these problems: erosion, sediment, or pollution?
4. Find out ways to prevent erosion. Find out what kinds of plants are good for preventing erosion.
5. Cars and factories pollute the air. Some pollutants in the air create acid rain. Find out why acid rain hurts plants and animals in a watershed. Make a red cabbage indicator to test the waters of your watershed. Healthy water should not be too acidic.
6. Create a poster or drawing to show what you have learned and share it with your class, your troop or anyone else who needs to learn about watersheds.
7. Tour a water treatment plant located in your watershed. Find out how dirty water is made clean enough to drink.
8. Sometimes we don't have enough water. Americans use hundreds of gallons of water every day for cooking, cleaning, and drinking. What can you do to conserve water? Work with your family to conserve the water you use. (Conserve means don't waste it!)

.....

**Developed by: Senior Girl Scout Troop 3053
Rivanna Service Unit
Leader: Ann Murray
(Approved by board of directors: December 2007)**

.....