

Earth Day 2021 Clean Up Patch Challenge



Let's make the Earth a cleaner place for everyone
and make every day Earth Day!

If each Girl Scout from Girl Scouts of Nassau Count picks up just TWO pieces of trash, we could pick up 21,000 pieces of trash for 2021! This challenge will run from April 22 until December 31, 2021. Let's educate others and make our environment a safer and cleaner place for plants, animals, and humans

Studies show that about 51 billion pieces of litter are released on American roadways each year—that's 6,729 items per mile of roadway annually. That is not including litter found in parks, schools, or anywhere in nature! As Girl Scouts, it's our responsibility to take action and make the world a better place.

This activity is divided into three sections: Know Before You Go, Make The World A Better Place, Reuse Repurpose Restore. Once you have completed the challenge, submit your trash count using [this Wufoo link](#). We'd love to hear from you too! Send pictures and a short description with your full name and troop number or Juliette status to GSNC at marketing@gsnc.org.

Patches are available for \$1 from the GSNC shop for pick up by appointment. Shipping is available for an additional cost. The GSNC shop will contact you once you complete the link. Patch design may change due to availability.

This patch challenge can be done as a troop following current Girl Scout of Nassau County COVID-19 guidelines or as an individual girl.

Badge Connections: Daisy Eco Learner, Brownie Eco Friend, Brownie Outdoor Adventurer, Brownie Girl Scout Way, Junior Eco Camper, Junior Girl Scout Way, Cadette Eco-Trekker, and Senior Eco Explorer. This challenge also qualifies for the Create it, Find it, and Do it! requirement of the Girl Scouting at Home Patch.

girl scouts
of nassau county



Know Before You Go

Before we go out and pick up litter it is important to know why trash pollution is a problem and what we can do to prevent it in our everyday lives!

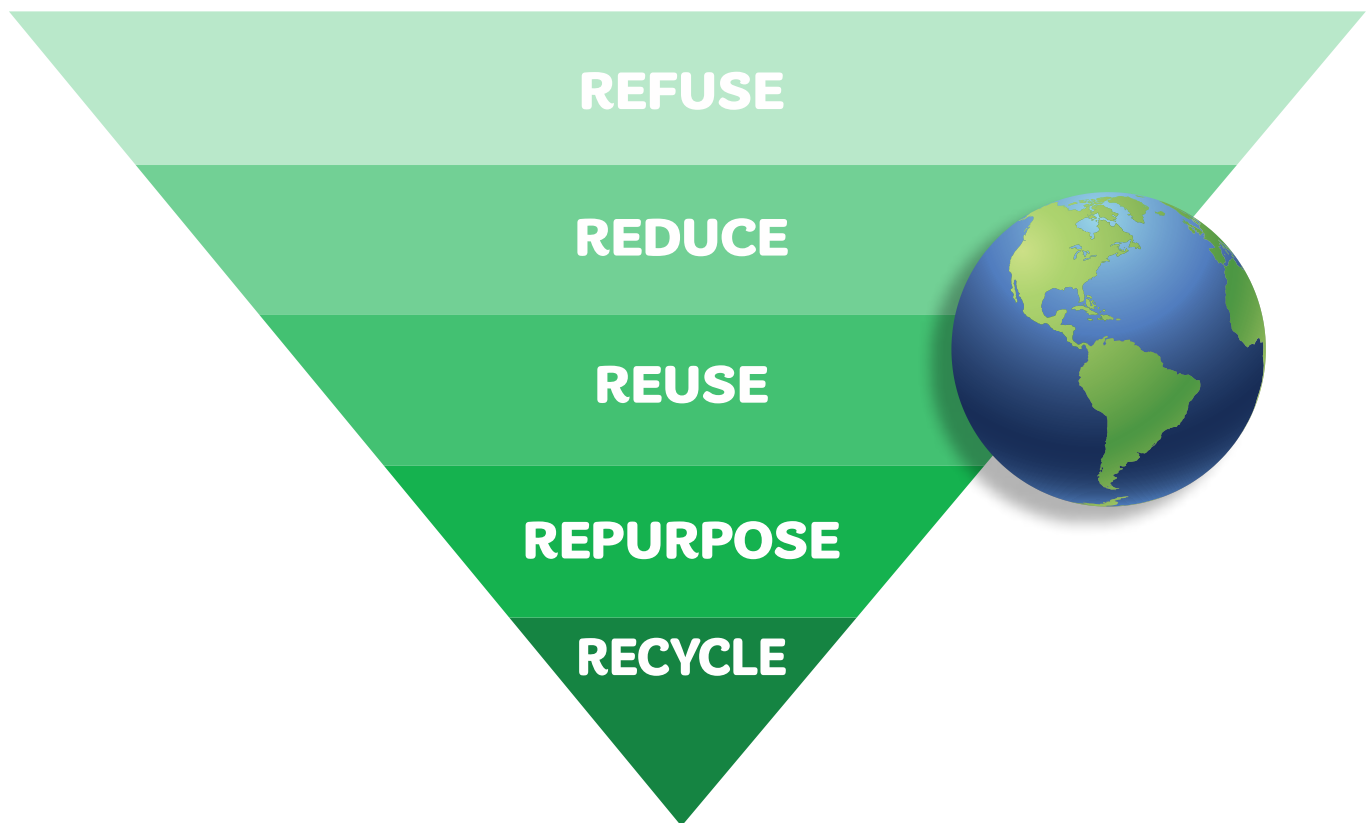
Why is trash pollution a problem?

Trash pollution is an immediate problem because it can affect plants and animals. Trash takes up space and can block light both of which plants need to grow. Animals can be affected by trash because they eat it and can become very sick. Both plants and animals can be seriously harmed by trash.

Trash pollution can become a long-term problem when it is not cleaned up. Our garbage breaks down and sometimes has chemicals that are not healthy for the soil. If these chemicals get into the soil it can be absorbed by the plants and then become a part of the food chain.

How can we make sure that we are not contributing to trash pollution?

Always throwing our trash out properly, being careful with items like snack wrappers and water bottles when we're outdoors and by following the 5 R's will all help protect our environment.



THE FIVE R'S INSTRUCTIONS: Below is a list of the five R's and their definitions mixed up. Draw a line from the word to its definition on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Refuse ○ | <input type="checkbox"/> When you take an item and change what it is used for. |
| Reduce ○ | <input type="checkbox"/> The process of collecting and processing materials and turning them into new products. |
| Reuse ○ | <input type="checkbox"/> When you say no to an item that you don't necessarily need. |
| Repurpose ○ | <input type="checkbox"/> When you use an item that might have been thrown out more than once. |
| Recycle ○ | <input type="checkbox"/> Minimizing the amount of waste we create |

When it comes to waste and trash try and see if you can follow the 5 R's in order! Below are the correct definitions for the five R's.

Refuse: Say "no" to an item that you don't necessarily need. Next time, skip the plastic straw and instead bring a reusable straw with you.

Reduce: Minimize the amount of waste you create. This could mean cutting down on single-use plastic by using a reusable water bottle.

Reuse: Use an item more than once that might have been thoughtlessly thrown out. If you go to a store and get a plastic bag, try using it a few more times.

Repurpose: Take an item and change what it is used for. If you keep going with this patch challenge, you'll learn how to repurpose water bottles and bottle caps into art!

Recycle: The process of collecting and processing materials and turning them into new products. If you can't do any of the other R's with your waste, check with your local county departments to see what type of recycling they offer before putting it in the trash!



Reuse, Repurpose, Restore

INSTRUCTIONS: Take a look at some of the trash you have at home, is there a way to REUSE, REPURPOSE, or RESTORE some of these items? Use a piece of trash to create a craft.

Choose one of the crafts below or one of your own.

Bottle Cap Fish

Supplies: Bottle caps, googly eyes, construction paper, permanent marker, glue

1. Start by cutting a triangle of construction paper for the tail of your fish.
2. Add glue to the rim of your bottle cap and then press down overlapping the bottle cap with the top of your triangle.
3. Next glue a googly eye onto your fish.
4. Using a permanent marker add some squiggly lines to make gills and add a smile to your fish.
5. If you have a few bottle caps, repeat this step and glue the fish to a piece of construction paper to make a whole school of fish!

Plastic Bottle Flower

Supplies: Clean empty 16.9 oz. plastic bottle with bottle top, scissors, paint, paintbrush, recycled straw

1. Start by painting the cap of the bottle yellow and place it to the side to dry.
2. Then paint your straw green and place it to the side to dry.
3. Next, cut off the top quarter of the bottle—typically just above the label and toss the bottom part of the bottle in a recycling bin!
4. Make cuts up to the neck of the bottle about an inch apart These are going to be your petals.
5. Now bend the slit sections up all the way around so that they are spread out like petals on a flower.
6. Paint the flower the color of your choice.
7. Once the paint is dry, twist your yellow cap back onto the bottle.
8. The last step is to glue your straw to the back of your flower and now you have a repurposed bottle decoration!