

Getting Girls Outdoor Initiatives

Tree Promise



What is a Girl Scout Tree Promise?

Girl Scouts everywhere are being called to help by planting, protecting, and honoring trees in their backyards, communities, states, across the country, and even across the world.

Mission:

Girl Scouts is joining forces with the [Elliot Wildlife Values Project](#) and [American Forests](#) to launch a bold tree-planting initiative. We're setting out to plant, protect, or honor 5 million trees by 2025.

[Learn more about earning the Girl Scout Tree Promise Patch](#)

Why Trees? The Facts

- Planting trees is one of the best ways we can improve the environment- we are able to better conserve water, reduce air pollution, create jobs, improve wildlife habitat, and contribute to climate change solutions.
- 5 Million Trees will provide habitat for wildlife and capture and store over 2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over the next 50 years.
- Here's the good news: planting 5 million trees means capturing, storing, and filtering 1.5 billion gallons of water a year, enough to fill 2,340 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
- Learn more facts about trees and their impact on the environment [here](#), from our partner Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership

Explore Trees in Your Outdoor Space

- Observe Nature: Relax in a hammock, sit or lay under a tree and watch the leaves and branches move in the wind
- Become a Citizen Scientist: Use the [Girl Scout Tree Promise on SciStarter](#) to participate in a citizen scientist project. The Girl Scout will help a real scientist with research!
- Get Moving: Play fun games like tree tag, tree bingo, play in a treehouse, or try canopy ziplining.
- Make & Create: Read, write, draw, and/or do art projects next to a tree without the distraction of electronics.

Types of Trees to Plant

Balled and Burlapped Trees

Dig Deeper

Did you know that you can complete the Girl Scout Tree Promise patch as a stand-alone piece, or you can connect it to other badges, patches, Journeys, and Awards!

- [Connect the Girl Scout Tree Promise with Badges and Journeys](#)
- Connect with Take Action Projects and Highest Awards
 - Highest Awards gives girls the chance to create a sustainable project that solves a problem and makes a difference in the world.
 - Here are some examples where Highest Awards meet GS Tree Promise:
 - **Take Action Project:** A troop of Girl Scout Daisies from New Mexico Trails visited a nursery to learn more about plants and how important they are to the environment. Then, the girls used cookie earnings to purchase a tree and four bushes, which they planted in front of their school.
 - **Bronze Award Project:** During their Outdoor Journey, Juniors from GSHPA realized that the trees in a neighborhood park were damaged by flooding and the ash-borer plague. They worked with an arborist to plant 46 new trees as well as to make physical and digital posters to educate the community. They also used the Girl Scout Tree Promise Tree Tracker to schedule care for the trees.
 - **Silver Award Project:** Five Cadettes from Greater Los Angeles educated young children about global warming, recycling, habitats, carbon footprints, and acid rain. They partnered with two schools to hold three tree plantings of drought-resistant plants and trees on Earth day and asked for continued care from the schools' maintenance crew. They left lesson plans for teachers to continue to use and held two park cleanups.
 - **Gold Award Project:** A senior in Central Texas focused her Gold Award on the urban heat island effect. First, she evaluated five residential neighborhoods for properties with room to plant trees. Then, she connected with the homeowners to make arrangements for trees to be ordered, delivered, and planted. Initially 500 trees were planted through the project, so the Girl Scout partnered with a local nonprofit to continue maintenance of the plantings for the next three years. She also publicized the project and asked for others to join through various local news outlets.

- Other Awards and Opportunities
 - **My Promise, My Faith Pin**
 - **Global Action Award**
 - Community Service Bars and Torch Awards
 - Service-Learning Travel Opportunities
 - **Clean Water Grows on Trees Fun Patch** via Chesapeake Bay Foundation

RESOURCES

- GSHPA has partnered with **Ten Million Trees** for trees, resources and support. View more resources [here](#), including DIY, finding your own local partners, and educational support.
 - **Ask an Arborist: How do I plant bare-root trees?** (Tip: Use this video to help prepare Girl Scouts for their upcoming planting day.)
- This is a list of handouts and resources via GSUSA that you can use to support your Girl Scout Tree Promise experience. All resources are available in Spanish and English.
 - **Girl Scout Tree Promise- The Power of One Tree** : Use this handout at events, meetings, or anywhere else you need to share information about the importance of trees.
 - **Girl Scout Tree Promise- Tree Planting**: Use this handout at events, troop meetings, and anywhere else you'll be planting trees. It includes information on how to correctly plant balled and burlapped trees, containerized trees, and bare-root seedlings.
 - **Girl Scout Tree Promise Tracker**: Use this site to log your tree planting data
 - **Make the Girl Scout Tree Promise**: After girls earn the patch, they can take the Promise to continue helping trees as environmental stewards. Each certificate includes one part for a girl to sign (can be collected) and part to take home to remind her of the benefits of trees.
 - **Girl Scout Tree Promise- Schedule for Tree Maintenance & Care**: Use or share this handout with whoever will be taking care of any trees you plant. It includes space to create a maintenance schedule to ensure continued care for your trees.
 - **Tree Promise- Tree Care Pledge**: If someone else will be caring for planted trees, ask them to sign this Pledge to promise continued care for your trees.
 - **Tree Promise- Host a Tree-Planting Event Resource Guide**: This guide includes information to help councils, volunteers, and partners plan their own tree-planting events. It includes a sample timeline and budget with tons of information to help make any tree-planting events a success!
 - **Girl Scout Tree Promise- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**: This is a reference document that covers questions and sensitive issues that may arise when supporting the Girl Scout Tree Promise.

Partners

Why Collaborate?

Building partnerships is a great way to...

- Find places to plant trees
- Find volunteers to help plant and plan
- Find opportunities to recruit new members to Girl Scouts
- Find sponsorships for your trees
- Find ideas for honoring youth and other leaders with tree plantings
- Other support including supplies, equipment, in-kind materials, and funding

With Whom Do I Collaborate?

- That's easy- Tree Partners, Funding Partners, and Faith Partners like...
 - This **list of partners** who have specifically indicated their interest in supporting GSHPA Girl Scouts or you may create your own partnerships from such organizations as the following:
 - **Tree-planting agencies, business, and organizations:** They can provide you with information and advice, supplies and resources for events, and connections with other groups interested in tree planting.
 - **Businesses:** Businesses like gardening centers, home improvement stores, and banks may be able to provide funding, volunteers, and/or supplies and resources.
 - **Faith-Based Organizations:** Most faith traditions have values and traditions related to environmental stewardship and care for neighbors that relate well to the GS Tree Promise. They can engage their congregations and community members in service opportunities. See **Faith Partners Toolkit**.
 - **Local Government:** Call your city council and mayor's office or federal and state forestry assistance programs to find out more about tree planting and resources.
 - **Schools and Community Organizations:** Connect with your school or local higher education campus to find out how you can collaborate on the Girl Scout Tree Promise.

Testimonials



"Look what we found!" - Ilse, Brownie Girl Scout, happily pulling a ring-neck snake out of her coat pocket.



"One thing that that makes this camp so beautiful is the nature that surrounds it, which is why I wanted to plant trees for my Gold Award, to replace trees that were cut down in 2018 due to poor tree health, and safety concerns for campers." - Lauren, Gold Award Girl Scout



"One of my Brownies said to me, 'I've always wondered what is under here!' (referring to dirt, while digging a hole for a tree)." - Michelle, Girl Scout Troop Leader

Have questions about our Tree Promise initiative? Reach out to our Member Services team at 800-692-7816 or MemberServices@gshpa.org.