



WATER

Before completing this charm, girls should have completed the Wild Wonders Patch.

Can you imagine not using any water for a day? Almost all man-made objects require the use of water at some point during their manufacture. There is so much water in our everyday lives, it's very easy to take it for granted. It is usually only once rains stop and fresh water supplies dry up or are polluted that we remember we can't afford to use water without thinking about how to ensure clean supplies for the future.

PART 1

Learn about the water cycle and how what we do affects the water around us.

With your troop or family find, learn about the water cycle. You might ask a knowledgeable adult or look online.

- » How does the water cycle work for your area?
- » Is there a lot or a little precipitation?
- » Do you have run-off areas?
- » What happens to water in and around your city?
- » How do all the people in your city get their water?
- » Find out where the water for your city comes from.
- » What happens to wastewater?
- » Where does water go after a storm?

PART 2

Learn about use of water.

To start this part, look at your family's use of water.

- » What are ways your family uses water every day? Remember to count every time you turn on a faucet.
- » Are there ways your family could use less water?
- » How much water is in the food we eat? Are there fruits and vegetables that have more water than others? Search about and discuss with your family and troop.
- » Now look at those around you. Discuss ways to use water wisely. Is there a way you could help the community save water?
- » Create a card game that you can play with your troop or family in which you can continue learning about the water use, water in the food you eat, etc.

PART 3

Learn about drought.

Many people in the world are trying to save water because of drought. What is a drought? How does drought effect your area? Does your city have rules about how much water you can use?



WILD WONDERS

Find out ways you can help save water. Even if there is not a drought, water shouldn't be wasted. What can you do to help? Sometimes small things can make a big difference. Try some of the following things to help save water.

- » Turn off water that isn't being used. Sounds simple but many people run the water while doing dishes, brushing their teeth or showering. How many changes can you make to make a difference?
- » Take shorter showers. There is no need to stand under the running water for minutes at a time. Practice for when you camp and take a "camp shower." Turn off the water when you're soaping up.
- » Hang up clothes that have been worn but aren't dirty. This not only saves water by not having to wash as much, it saves your clothes and can help them to last longer.
- » Plant drought, tolerant plants instead of water guzzling grass. Find out what drought tolerant plants your already have at your house. With your troop or family, plant a succulent garden.
- » How does drought affect the animals and plants in that area?

PART 4

Water at risk.

Water is treated differently in each country. Learn about the quality of water in other countries and in the various states in the U.S.A.

- » The main impacts of climate change on humans and the environment occur through water, would you agree? Research and share your findings with your troop or family.
- » A lot of different techniques have been developed to increase or conserve (save and protect) water supplies. Learn about and create your own filter at home to clean dirty water.

PART 5

Visit a local waterway. It may be a river, lake, stream, reservoir, or beach.

- » Does the area have places to camp, fish, hike?
- » Do people respect it?
 - Notice if there is any garbage in the area. What impact does that garbage have on the water?
 - What structures or landforms near that waterway contribute to the trash? Before you leave the area, pick up trash. All waterways lead to the ocean and trash could end up there eventually.
- » In a group, watch the way water flows. Talk about what you see; is it calm, is it fast, talk about what you hear, and what this makes you feel. Let yourself be inspired and choreograph a 'water dance' together, showing some of the different ways water moves. Perform it for your friends and family.
- » Take photographs of different kinds of water in different lights, capturing the different colors and textures water can have. Print your favorite pictures and hold a photography exhibition for parents and friends to see. Teach them about the native animals from those waters and how to preserve the areas.

PART 6

Investigate nearby native animals by talking to an expert – a ranger at a local park is a great place to get information.

- » What do the animals do when there is not enough water, or if there's too much water?
- » Find out how native plants and animals of Arizona are better adapted for drought.
- » What happens when a drought-stricken area has heavy rain? What do the animals do?

PART 7

Take action.

A Take Action project is a chance for girls to partner with others in their community to solve a problem. They learn about getting to the root causes of issues, mobilizing and engaging community members and volunteers, and striving toward creating lasting change in their world.

- » Investigate ways other Girl Scouts have take action and get inspired.

- » Create a take project to teach others in your community, troop or family about water – its cycle, uses, preservation, effect on the environment, etc.

RESOURCES

The following resources will help in the completion of this charm. There are many more resources online and at your local nature preserve areas.

- » fao.org/3/a-i3225e.pdf
- » water.usgs.gov/education.html
- » watereducation.org/
- » thespruce.com/make-a-succulent-plant-container-garden-848006
- » wrrc.arizona.edu/publications/water-harvesting/low-water-use-drought-tolerant-plant-list
- » **for adults:** my.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-vtk/global/resource/Take-Action-Guide-for-Volunteers.pdf

BADGE CONNECTIONS

By participating and completing this Charms program, you are also on your way to earning Girl Scout badges. Purchase specific badge requirement packets at girlscoutshop.com/ARIZONA-CACTUS-PINE-COUNCIL.

- » Daisy = Take Action
- » Brownie = Take Action
- » Juniors = Take Action
- » Cadettes = Take Action
- » Seniors = Take Action
- » Ambassadors = Water, Take Action
- » Adults trainings available= TCC 1 and TCC 2

RECOMMENDED NEXT CHARMS:

- Leave No Trace
- Sense of Place
- Fire

WILD
WONDERS