



A Linking Girls to the Land Patch

Linking Girls to the Land (LGTTL) is an interagency partnership between Girl Scouts of the USA's Elliott Wildlife Values Project and federal natural resource agencies. This partnership works toward giving every girl an opportunity to participate in conservation and outdoor programs. *Linking Girls to the Land* encourages partnerships between Girl Scouts and federal natural resource agency representatives on local and national levels to offer more joint conservation and outdoor projects to 2.8 million girls across the country. LGTTL offers:

- funding
- travel opportunities
- awards
- workshops
- environmental education
- volunteer service
- outdoor skills development
- career exploration

...and more.

A Web site has been developed at www.epa.gov/linkinggirls.

The *Linking Girls to the Land* partnership is built on the existing infrastructure of the Girl Scouts. It recognizes the handbooks, earned age-level awards, participation patches, and Girl Scout program already in place with extensive outdoor and conservation education components. It builds on Girl Scouts' longstanding emphasis on volunteer service and the work of Girl Scout troops and groups serving many communities both near and distant from public lands. This interagency effort is unique because of the extent to which natural resource agencies and the Girl Scouts, working together since 1995, have collaborated on its design, development, communication, implementation, and evaluation.

Brownie Girl Scouts, Junior Girl Scouts, and Girl Scouts 11-17 are eligible to wear the Get with the Land Patch and receive an official certificate of appreciation from the Girl Scouts of the USA Linking Girls to the Land Committee when they complete the following patch criteria. The patch order form and certificate are available through your local council and are also downloadable from the LGTTL Web Site at www.epa.gov/linkinggirls.

GET WITH THE LAND PATCH

The purpose of the patch is:

- to give natural resource agency professionals and Girl Scout girls and adults a reason to become more familiar with federal natural resource agencies, so that both groups understand the benefit of working collaboratively.
- to encourage girl-to-girl, leader-to-leader, and girl-to-leader discussion about the initiative by having a visible award recognizing the LGTTL partnership.
- to encourage leaders and girls to go to environmental experts when they have questions while earning environmental Badges, Try-Its, Interest Project Patches, or STUDIO 2B_{SM} charms.
- to show girls a way to focus their earned awards when working toward the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.

To earn this patch girls will:

1. Learn about the *Linking Girls to the Land* partnership and the federal natural resource agencies that are involved by using the *LGTTL Resource Guide*, Web site, video, and other resources. At least one copy of the resource guide and video were sent to all Girl Scout councils. Girl Scouts and leaders can contact their local council for help in borrowing or printing a resource guide. The resource guide is also available on the LGTTL Web Site, www.epa.gov/linkinggirls.
2. Work side by side with a federal* natural resource agency professional in a joint volunteer conservation service, research, or other collaborative project. The names of agencies and contacts are listed in the resource guide and on the LGTTL Web site. Girl Scouts are encouraged to make contact with the agencies through their council. Some of the volunteer service opportunities available through the federal natural resource agencies are Take Pride in America, www.takepride.gov, National Public Lands Day, www.npld.com, National Public Trails Day, www.americanhiking.org, International Migratory Bird Day, www.birdday.org, National Wildlife Week, and World Water Monitoring Day, www.worldwatermonitoringday.com Note: It is not required to have council involvement to participate in these service opportunities.
3. In collaboration with one or more federal* natural resource agencies, complete one Girl Scout Earned Age-Level Award related to the environment, outdoors, or science or fulfill at least two requirements from each of three Girl Scout Earned Age-Level Awards related to the environment, outdoors, or science. For suggested awards, see the section of the resource guide called "How the Girl Scout Program 'Links' Girls to the Land" or the Girl Scout Program Links section on the LGTTL Web Site.

OR

Learn about *Linking Girls to the Land* national programs and opportunities such as the Linking Girls to the Land Council Grant Projects, Water Drop Patch Project, Aquarius Project, or a National Conservation Event. Participate in at least one.

OR

Interview someone who works for a federal natural resource agency. Ask how s/he became interested in working there and how you might be able to develop a career in this field or with that agency. If possible, try to shadow this person for a few hours or even a day. Share what you have learned.

OR

Participate in a science, outdoors, or environmentally related STUDIO 2B_{SM} *destination* or use STUDIO 2B_{SM} materials on the Web site, www.studio2b.org and in print (Focus Books, Collections, etc.) that are related to the **environment, outdoors, or science**.

OR

Improve your skills in outdoor recreation and environmental protection by demonstrating Leave No Trace ethics, or teaching others the Tread Lightly Pledge.

***Where there is no federal natural resource agency personnel available, state natural resource agencies may be contacted.**