



# LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

Girl Scouts of the USA and  
Federal Natural Resource Agencies

Partnering to Protect the Earth

Resource Guide

Spring 2006



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## LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

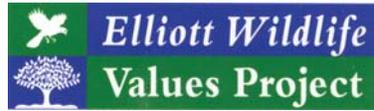
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA AND FEDERAL NATIONAL RESOURCE AGENCIES  
Resource Guide, Revised Spring 2006

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Resource Guide, Revised Spring 2006



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This resource guide is updated periodically and distributed electronically to agency partners and Girl Scout volunteers and councils. It may be downloaded, printed, or copied in its entirety for use with Girl Scouts. Inquiries and suggestions related to the *Linking Girls to the Land Resource Guide* should be directed to: Manager, Linking Girls to the Land, Elliott Wildlife Values Project, 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798; 800-223-0624; [Linkinggirls@girlscouts.org](mailto:Linkinggirls@girlscouts.org); [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org), [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls).

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## I. Introduction

*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, initiatives, and partner organizations.

*LGTTL* serves as a pathway for the Girl Scout program model, which supports girls' leadership development and personal growth. Through *LGTTL* and this unique Girl Scout leadership model, girls discover, lead, and take action. As the result of cooperative and experiential learning, girls acquire skills that build courage, confidence, and character, inspiring them to become environmentally responsible and make the world a better place.

### **The partnership:**

- Works toward the vision that every girl have an opportunity to participate in conservation and outdoor programs through partnerships between Girl Scouts and federal\* agency representatives on national and local levels.
- Offers joint conservation and outdoor programs to nearly four million girl and adult members nationwide. Focuses on environmental education, outdoor recreation skills, volunteer service opportunities, and career awareness.
- Recognizes the Girl Scout handbooks and earned age-level awards, which already include extensive outdoor program and environmental education, emphasis on volunteer service, and Girl Scout troops and groups serving communities near and distant from public lands.
- Started in 1995 with five federal natural resource agencies:
  - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS)
  - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
  - U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
  - U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service
- Has since expanded to include the following:
  - Federal Natural Resource Agencies**
    - U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
    - U.S. Department of Interior, Take Pride in America (TPIA)

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- U.S. Department of Interior, United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

#### **Additional Partners**

- Center for Wildlife Stewardship, Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign
- Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics
- National Environmental and Training Foundation, *National Public Lands Day* (NEETF)
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF)
- National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)

*\*When no federal agency personnel are available, Girl Scouts are encouraged to work with state agencies. Many Girl Scout troops, groups, and councils also collaborate with county, city, and other local natural resource agencies to offer conservation and outdoor programs to girls. Additional collaborators may include nonprofit and volunteer groups that offer environmental education and outdoor programs, with which Girl Scouts and councils can work.*

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### **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

## II. Benefits of Working with Natural Resource Agencies

Girl Scouts and agencies benefit from the wide range of projects that are available. The natural resource agencies can provide settings for day hikes, overnight campouts, and hands-on service projects. Through such projects, girls can develop outdoor skills, learn about the land, and explore careers in the outdoor and environmental fields. Agency specialists can also help Girl Scouts work toward earned awards as outlined in “*Linking Girls to the Land Resources*” (see p. 85).

The agencies benefit from many extra pairs of hands to complete planned projects and the large volunteer base of girls and adults to participate in nationwide conservation events. They also benefit from the opportunity to build a pipeline for future conservation jobs. The agencies can provide information about national projects or they can work with local Girl Scout offices to develop projects designed to benefit Girl Scouts and the agency. Through these experiences, Girl Scouts learn how to use the land responsibly and become good stewards in the future. Multitroop, group, or councilwide activities are encouraged to best utilize time and effort and allow for the greatest number of girls to experience outdoor activities.

### Natural resource agencies can participate by:

- Sharing information with a Girl Scout council representative about agency programs.
- Involving girls in hands-on service, scientific research, and conservation projects.
- Serving as short-term consultants to groups of girls working on badges, patches, and awards in areas such as wildlife, ecology, plant life, eco-action, outdoor survival, camping, and hiking.

### Girl Scouts can partner with natural resource agencies by:

- Disseminating information about the agency’s programs and natural environments.
- Co-sponsoring service, research, and conservation projects.
- Highlighting the work of the agency in the community.
- Gathering Girl Scouts to assist in projects on agency lands.

#### Power in Numbers

A project that might take two professionals 100 hours to complete would only take 50 girls two hours to complete.

### **How to Contact a Federal National Resource Agency**

Contacts for agencies are listed at [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls) and in the “Federal Natural Resource Agency Partners” section of this guide (see p. 14). Girl Scouts and other partners can contact federal agencies by looking up the name of the agency in the “blue” or government pages of a local telephone directory to find the location of the nearest national wildlife refuge, national park, or national forest. Sometimes these are listed by local name, and sometimes under the U.S. Department of Agriculture or U.S. Department of Interior. Listings are also available for the county offices of the National Resource Conservation Service and for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) state and field offices found mainly in the western United States.

### **How to Contact a Local Girl Scout Council**

Go to the Girl Scouts of the USA homepage, [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org), and click on “Find a Council” or find the name and telephone number of the local Girl Scout council by looking under “Girl Scouts” in the telephone directory.

### III. Getting Started

A designated council person contacts the local office of a federal or state agency to discuss potential projects or events focusing on subjects such as field ecology, ecosystem monitoring, biological research, and local environmental issues. The council distributes the information to volunteers, troop leaders, and girls.

For a project on council property, the council contact person would be designated to meet with agency professionals to request help from the agency.

Another way to get started is to organize a regional workshop, where members of neighboring councils can meet agency representatives and learn more about *Linking Girls to the Land*. For help setting up a workshop, contact GSUSA. A workshop can include a panel of representatives from various agencies that would share ways partnerships have worked as well as help participating Girl Scouts contact their local agencies.

**Before a Girl Scout calls a natural resource agency, she should be thinking about or have answers to the following questions:**

1. Which federal natural resource agency do you think would be the best to work with? You will need to do some research on different agencies. The Internet should be a good starting point.
2. What are the mission statements of the federal natural resource agencies you want to approach? (Look in the “Federal Natural Resource Agency Partners” section on p. 14 or on the agency’s website for this information.) How do they differ from one another?
3. How could your project fit into the mission of the federal natural resource agency?
4. What can your project and Girl Scouts do for federal natural resource agencies?
5. What current programs does the federal natural resource agency support or sponsor?
6. What times of the year are especially busy for the agency? How could this affect the completion of your project?
7. Based on your project idea, what is the job title of the person to contact at the federal natural resource agency? (The environmental education coordinator? The volunteer coordinator? A ranger?)

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Before you call, also know the answers to the following questions about *Linking Girls to the Land*, your project, and Girl Scouting:

1. What is *Linking Girls to the Land*?
2. Why do you want to do a *Linking Girls to the Land* project?
3. What is a brief description of your project idea?
4. How many Girl Scouts will participate in running the event or project?
5. How many Girl Scouts will be helped or taught by your project?
6. How will your community be helped?
7. Are there other organizations, businesses, or clubs that will be working with you on your project?
8. Is there funding for the project?
9. What skills do you bring to the project?

Once contact has been made and a plan developed, councils can request a packet to apply for a *Linking Girls to the Land* grant. Packets can be requested through the website or via e-mail at:

[linkinggirls@girlscouts.org](mailto:linkinggirls@girlscouts.org).

#### **Tips for Girl Scouts as They Develop *Linking Girls to the Land* Project Partnerships**

- Start with the local conservation or community need. Know your local population and target audience; incorporate the diversity of your community into your project design. Have girls choose project content that meets their interests.
- Prepare your girls and have them approach the agency.
- Be prepared to explain your project needs, the Girl Scouts' age range, skill level, and project time commitment to the agency with which you wish to collaborate.
- Ask the agency about existing partnership opportunities with possible volunteer service projects, career programs, special events, or nature conservation activities that are already in the planning process of the local agency.

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## IV. History of *Linking Girls to the Land*

Girl Scouts have been involved in volunteer conservation projects and have been learning about natural resource careers since the organization's start in 1912. Troops hike and camp in national parks and many summer camps have special-use permits in national forests or are forest neighbors. Many women professionals in the natural resources agencies gained their passion for and competence in the outdoors through Girl Scouts or similar youth organizations. Over the years, there have been countless local projects and relationships between agency professionals and the Girl Scouts. Annually, over 35000 Girl Scouts are served through *Linking Girls to the Land* activities.

The first *Linking Girls to the Land* activity, an interagency workshop with 42 Girl Scout professionals, was held at Camp Joe Sherman in Southern California. From 1997 to 2003, the agencies have sponsored regional interagency *Linking Girls to the Land* workshops in Florida, Arizona-New Mexico, southern and northern California, Maryland-Virginia, Georgia-Carolinas, Kentucky, New England, Louisiana-Texas-Arkansas, and West Virginia-Ohio. These one- to two-day workshops have introduced Girl Scout professionals and volunteers to local agency professionals for the purpose of learning how to build partnerships, networking, developing local events, and learning how to apply for a *Linking Girls to the Land* grant. More workshops are planned and can be requested.

Since the founding of the grant program in 1998, 105 Girl Scout councils have been awarded a total of 131 grants for projects that served more than 17,000 girls and adults. Before the *Linking Girls to the Land* Council Grant Program was established, many agencies rarely directed their declining resources to environmental education. This seed money brings together ideas and staff with the professional expertise to create programs and outdoor experiences for girls that otherwise may not happen. Projects include cooperation with local natural resource professionals, a communications and media plan, and post-event follow-up and evaluation.

### **National Interagency Meetings**

Agency professionals meet two or three times annually to plan, develop, implement, and evaluate *Linking Girls to the Land* projects. The meetings are generally coordinated by GSUSA's Elliott Wildlife Values Project staff.

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## V. Federal Natural Resource Agency Partners

Nine federal natural resource agencies, ranging from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service, now partner with *Linking Girls to the Land*. Knowing the details of each agency's work and mission and the *Linking Girls to the Land* opportunities available can help Girl Scouts choose the best partner for their project.

### Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

BLM's mission is to help sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing 261 million acres of America's public lands—about one-eighth of the land in the United States. The BLM manages a wide variety of resources and uses, including energy and minerals; timber; forage; rangelands; wild horse and burro populations; fish and wildlife habitat; wilderness areas; archaeological, paleontological, and historical sites; and scenic lands. The BLM manages these resources under the principles of multiple use to provide for the present and future needs of the American people.

Most of the lands the BLM manages are located in the western United States, including Alaska. These lands are dominated by grasslands, forests, mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts.

### BLM Programs and Volunteer Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts

- **Adopt a Horse and Burro Program:** Unique opportunity for qualified individuals to care for, and then own, a wild horse, or burro. For information go to: <http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov> or call toll-free 866-4-MUSTANGS.
- **Learning and Volunteer Opportunities:** To join in and help manage our public lands, go to <http://www.blm.gov/education/LearningLandscapes/explorers/joinin>.
- **National Public Lands Day (NLPD):** An annual event that brings thousands of volunteers

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together in all 50 states to improve our country's public lands. Go to [www.npld.com](http://www.npld.com) or call 800-865-8337 for information.

- For information on recreational opportunities, go to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

## Contacts

For project information, contact your nearest BLM office environmental education coordinator through [www.blm.gov/education](http://www.blm.gov/education), “Contact us.” The coordinator can put you in touch with the appropriate resource specialist.

### For general information about BLM’s *Linking Girls to the Land* program, contact:

Carolyn Cohen  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Office  
1849 C Street, NW (LS 406)  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-785-6583 Phone  
202-452-5199 Fax  
[carolyn\\_cohen@blm.gov](mailto:carolyn_cohen@blm.gov)

## Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA’s mission is to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment—air, water, and land—upon which life depends. The EPA ensures that federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively.



### EPA Programs and Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts

- **Adopt Your Watershed:** Search an online database to locate a watershed group active in your community and learn about opportunities to help protect your watershed. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/adopt](http://www.epa.gov/adopt).
- **Environmental Education Grants Program:** Some Girl Scout councils have received

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## LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

financial support for environmental projects through EPA's Environmental Education Grants Program. The solicitation is generally posted in the fall. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html).

- **EstuaryLive/National Estuaries Day:** *EstuaryLive* uses satellite technology and the Internet to give classrooms around the world the opportunity to take live and interactive tours of several of the nation's estuaries. *EstuaryLive* is targeted to middle and high school students, but anyone with a computer and Internet access can participate. The broadcast is usually transmitted in conjunction with National Estuaries Day, which is celebrated annually on the last Saturday in September. For more information, visit [www.estuaries.gov/](http://www.estuaries.gov/).
- **Hands on the Land (HOL):** A network of field classrooms stretching across America from Alaska to Florida, HOL is sponsored by Partners in Resource Education, a collaboration of five federal agencies, a nonprofit foundation, schools, and other private sector partners. For more information, visit [www.handsontheland.org](http://www.handsontheland.org).
- **National Public Lands Day:** See the 2006 Calendar of National Conservation Events (p. 66), visit [www.npld.com](http://www.npld.com), or call 800-865-8337 for information.
- **Presidential Environmental Youth Awards:** Since 1971, the EPA has sponsored the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The program recognizes young people across America for projects that demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Young people in all 50 states and the U.S. territories are invited to participate in the program. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/enviroed/awards.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/awards.html).
- **Water Drop Patch Project:** Described in this resource guide (see p. 54).
- **Wetlands Five Star Restoration Projects:** The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth organizations, citizen groups, corporations, landowners, and government agencies to provide environmental education through projects that restore stream banks and wetlands. The program provides challenge grants, technical support, and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star).
- **World Water Monitoring Day:** See the 2006 Calendar of National Conservation Events (p. 66).

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## Other EPA Resources

- EPA Drinking Water Website for Students: [www.epa.gov/ogwdw/](http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/)
- EPA Environmental Education Center: [www.epa.gov/teachers](http://www.epa.gov/teachers)
- EPA High School Environmental Center: [www.epa.gov/highschool](http://www.epa.gov/highschool)
- EPA Student Center: [www.epa.gov/students](http://www.epa.gov/students)

## How to Contact Your Regional EPA Office

- Visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) (click on “About EPA”) to contact any of the EPA’s 10 regional offices.
- For *Linking Girls to the Land* projects, call or e-mail the Environmental Education (EE) coordinator in your EPA regional office. For a map and a list of contacts, visit [www.epa.gov/enviroed/otherepa2.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/otherepa2.html). The EE coordinators can also provide information about the EPA’s Environmental Education grants program: [www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html).
- If you are interested in organizing a water-related project, ask to speak to one of the Office of Water national communicators.

**Region 1: Connecticut, Maine,  
Massachusetts, New Hampshire,  
Rhode Island, Vermont**

Kristen Conroy  
U.S. EPA, Region 1  
Environmental Education Grants (MGM)  
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100

**Region 5: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,  
Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin**

Megan Gavin  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
Environmental Education Grants  
Grants Management Section (MC-10J)  
77 West Jackson Boulevard

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Boston, MA 02114

[conroy.kristen@epa.gov](mailto:conroy.kristen@epa.gov)

**Region 2: New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands**

Teresa Ippolito

U.S. EPA, Region 2

Environmental Education Grants

Grants and Contracts Management Branch

290 Broadway, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10007-1866

[ippolito.teresa@epa.gov](mailto:ippolito.teresa@epa.gov)

**Region 3: Delaware, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia**

Bonnie Turner-Lomax

U.S. EPA, Region 3

Environmental Education Grants

Grants Management Section (3PM70)

1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

[lomax.bonnie@epa.gov](mailto:lomax.bonnie@epa.gov)

**Region 4: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee**

Alice Chastain

U.S. EPA, Region 4

Environmental Education Grants

Office of Public Affairs

61 Forsyth Street, SW

Chicago, IL 60604

[gavin.megan@epa.gov](mailto:gavin.megan@epa.gov)

**Region 6: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas**

Jo Taylor

U.S. EPA, Region 6

Environmental Education Grants (6XA)

1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75202

[taylor.jo@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.jo@epa.gov)

**Region 7: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska**

Denise Morrison

U.S. EPA, Region 7

Environmental Education Grants

Office of External Programs

901 North Fifth Street

Kansas City, KS 66101

[morrison.denise@epa.gov](mailto:morrison.denise@epa.gov)

**Region 8: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Christine Vigil

U.S. EPA, Region 8

Environmental Education Grants

999 18<sup>th</sup> Street (80C)

Denver, CO 80202-2466

[vigil.christine@epa.gov](mailto:vigil.christine@epa.gov)

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Atlanta, GA 30303

[chastain.alice@epa.gov](mailto:chastain.alice@epa.gov)

**Region 9: Arizona, California, Hawaii,  
Nevada, American Samoa, Guam,  
Northern Marianas, Palau**

Kathy Goetz and Bruce Sivils

U.S. EPA, Region 9

Environmental Education Grants (PPA-2)

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

[goetz.kathy@epa.gov](mailto:goetz.kathy@epa.gov)

[sivils.bruce@epa.gov](mailto:sivils.bruce@epa.gov)

**Region 10: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,  
Washington**

Sally Hanft

U.S. EPA, Region 10

Environmental Education Grants

Public Environmental Resource Center

1200 Sixth Avenue (ETPA-124)

Seattle, WA 98101

[hanft.sally@epa.gov](mailto:hanft.sally@epa.gov)

**Contact:**

Patricia Scott, Environmental Protection Agency

Ariel Rios Building (4501T)

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460

202-566-1292 Phone

202-566-1544 or 202-566-1326 Fax

[scott.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:scott.patricia@epa.gov)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

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## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social, and environmental needs.



As the federal agency charged with collecting and applying scientific information to help us understand, predict, and manage our Earth-changing systems, NOAA has broad scientific responsibility, including forecasting weather, tracking climate variability, mapping our nation's navigable waters, and protecting and managing the natural resources in our oceans and estuaries. For a wealth of information about NOAA activities, visit the NOAA homepage at [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov) or use the following links to specific science topic areas:

- **Charting and Navigation** ([www.noaa.gov/charts.html](http://www.noaa.gov/charts.html)): nautical and navigational charts, mapping, remote sensing, etc.
- **Climate** ([www.noaa.gov/climate.html](http://www.noaa.gov/climate.html)): drought assessment, global climate change, El Niño and La Niña, paleoclimatology, etc.
- **Coasts** ([www.noaa.gov/coasts.html](http://www.noaa.gov/coasts.html)): estuarine research reserves, marine protected areas, coastal zone management, etc.
- **Fisheries** ([www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html](http://www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html)): marine mammals, sea turtles, shark information, essential fish habitat, etc.
- **Ocean** ([www.noaa.gov/ocean.html](http://www.noaa.gov/ocean.html)): marine sanctuaries (our national system of underwater parks), coral reefs, tidal prediction, ocean charts, Aquarius underwater laboratory, etc.
- **Research** ([www.noaa.gov/research.html](http://www.noaa.gov/research.html)): ocean exploration, Sea Grant, undersea research centers, etc.
- **Satellites** ([www.noaa.gov/satellites.html](http://www.noaa.gov/satellites.html)): real-time imagery, geostationary and polar satellites, etc.
- **Weather** ([www.noaa.gov/wx.html](http://www.noaa.gov/wx.html)): severe weather (such as hurricanes, tsunamis), space weather (such as sun spots, solar flares, auroras), fire weather prediction and tracking, etc.

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## NOAA Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts can learn about and get involved in NOAA science directly by interacting with local NOAA offices, laboratories, and field locations such as sanctuaries and reserves. Activities range from field trips, tours, and site visits to educational programming, volunteer activities, and internships. To learn more about options in your area, visit NOAA in your state and territory at [www.legislative.noaa.gov/noaainyourstate/noaainyourstate.html](http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/noaainyourstate/noaainyourstate.html).

- **Ocean Education Fairs:** NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration holds port call events during the summer and fall to highlight major expeditions. Local school and civic groups are invited to learn firsthand about ocean exploration science and technology.
- **STUDIO 2B Focus book *Makin' Waves*:** [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls/makinwaves.html](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls/makinwaves.html).

## NOAA Programs with Major Educational Activities

- Coral Reef Program: [www.coralreef.noaa.gov/](http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/)
- Marine Protected Areas: [mpa.gov/](http://mpa.gov/)
- National Estuarine Research Reserves: [www.nerrs.noaa.gov/](http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/)
- National Marine Sanctuaries: [www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/](http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/)
- Ocean Exploration: [www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/](http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/)
- Protected Resources: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/)
- Sea Grant: [www.seagrant.noaa.gov/](http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/)

## NOAA Resources, Information, and Educational Materials Targeted Toward Public Audiences, Teachers, Students, and Recreational Groups

- NOAA Education: [www.education.noaa.gov/](http://www.education.noaa.gov/)
- NOAA Library: [www.lib.noaa.gov/](http://www.lib.noaa.gov/)
- NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) Education: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/welcome.html>
- Questions about NOAA: <http://answers.noaa.gov>

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### LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

**Contact:**

Kimberly Benson

NOAA Office of Education and Sustainable Development

Herbert Hoover Building R, 6863

Washington, DC 20230

202-482-3384 Phone

202-482-0742 Fax

[kim.benson@noaa.gov](mailto:kim.benson@noaa.gov)

**National Park Service (NPS)**

The National Park Service mission is to preserve unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.



The National Park Service administers more than 350 national parks, seashores, monuments, historic sites, and recreation areas. These lands help define our national identity and tell the story of America's history. They are also a great place to go for a vacation or troop camping trip.

The National Park system encompasses approximately 83.6 million acres, of which more than 4.3 million acres remain in private ownership. The largest area is Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska. At 13,200,000 acres, it is 16.3 percent of the entire system. The smallest unit in the system, at one-fiftieth of an acre, is Tadeus Kosciuszko National Memorial in Pennsylvania.

The National Park Service, which is under the U.S. Department of the Interior, has nearly 400 units in its park system. Each of these units, along with the national and regional offices, is listed on the NPS website at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). Many names are descriptive—lakeshores, seashores, battlefields—but others cannot be neatly categorized because of the diversity of resources within them.

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**LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

## **Where Can You Find a National Park?**

Each year, millions of people visit America's national parks. National park sites are in every state except Delaware. Have you heard of Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park in northern California, which celebrates the role of women in World War II? You can also visit the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York, where women came together to fight for the right to vote. You can walk the Black Heritage Trail in Boston to learn about the history of Boston's nineteenth-century African-American community and visit the Abiel Smith School, which was built in 1834 to educate the city's African-American children. And if you explore Olympic National Park's beaches at low tide, you may discover petroglyphs (pictures) that were carved into seaside rocks 300–500 years ago by American Indians.

## **NPS Programs and Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts**

- **Inviting a national park ranger or superintendent** to your Girl Scout troop meeting or visiting them to find out how they work to protect and manage national parks.
- **The Job Corps:** A vocational/educational training program created in 1964 to provide economically disadvantaged young people with an environment where they can learn job skills, attain their General Educational Development (GED) diplomas, and learn social and character-building skills. Since 1964, the Job Corps has provided more than 1.8 million young people with vocational, job, and academic skills to become productive citizens. All students who attend Job Corps centers must volunteer to enroll. The National Park Service has three Job Corps centers. The Youth Programs Division has agreements in place for all three centers, whereby students can be hired into the NPS through the Student Career Experience Program or the Cooperative Education Program.
- **National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC):** NASCC serves as a national umbrella organization for local youth groups that provide training and public relations services for local youth organizations servicing young adults between the ages of 16–25. NASCC works as a cooperating partner with the National Park Service in bylining youth corps agencies with conservation projects in national parks. In most cases, participants are paid the minimum wage for their services.

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### **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

- **Public Lands Corps (PLC):** Exposes young men and women ages 16–24 to public service while furthering their understanding and appreciation of the nation’s natural and cultural resources. The program is designed to:
  - Partner with nonprofit youth organizations
  - Provide young Americans an opportunity to work, learn, earn, and enjoy using our national parks as a resource
  - Help alleviate backlog maintenance of needed repair and restoration projects in national parks
  
- **The Student Conservation Association**, founded in 1957, is a private nonprofit educational organization that provides high school and college students with the opportunity to improve the management and conservation of our nation's parks, public lands, and natural resources. The students undertake conservation projects or assist park staffs in a variety of resources management, visitor services, and maintenance work. The National Park Service participates in such youth programs as described below to accomplish many worthwhile projects that would not have otherwise been completed. Girl Scouts are eligible to participate in:
  - ***The High School Program:*** This program offers volunteers ages 16–18 opportunities to work for a month or more in an outdoor setting, while living in a backcountry camp and working on conservation projects.
  - ***The Urban Initiatives:*** Year-round programs for middle and high school youth to include environmental education, outdoor field trips, community service projects, weekend camping excursions, and special crew opportunities in which members build trails, restore riverfront environments, and conserve habitats in and around the cities in which they live.
  
- **STUDIO 2B Focus: *Parks Matter.*** [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls/parksmatter.html](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls/parksmatter.html)
- **Volunteering** for community service projects.
- **Youth Conservation Corps (YCC):** Public Law Act 93-408 established the YCC in partnership with the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. The YCC is a summer employment program for young men and women ages 15–18 who work, learn, and earn together on projects that further the development and conservation of the nation’s natural resources. The purpose of the YCC is to accomplish needed

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## LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

conservation work on public lands; to provide gainful employment for 15- to 18-year-olds of all social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds; and to instill within the participating youth an environmental understanding and appreciation of the nation's natural, historical, recreational, and cultural heritage.

### **Local National Park Contact Information**

- Call 800-NAT-PARK, ext. 122, for a free map of national park sites across the country.
- Visit the NPS website at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).
- Contact one of the regional offices and ask for the volunteer coordinator or the chief of interpretation:
  - Alaska Area Region, Anchorage, Alaska: 907-644-3525
  - Midwest Region, Omaha, Nebraska: 402-661-1892
  - Intermountain Region, Denver, Colorado: 303-969-2500
  - Pacific West Region, San Francisco, California: 510-817-1340
  - Northeast Region, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 215-597-7013
  - National Capital Region, Washington, D.C.: 202-619-7246 or 202-619-7457
  - Southeast Region, Atlanta, Georgia: 404-562-3108

### **Contact:**

Minerva Woodard, Youth Programs Division

National Park Service

1201 Eye Street, NW

Mail Stop 7431

Washington, DC 20005

202-513-7163 Phone

[minerva\\_woodard@nps.gov](mailto:minerva_woodard@nps.gov)

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

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## **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

The NRCS puts nearly 70 years of experience to work in assisting owners of America's private land with conserving their soil, water, and other natural resources. Local, state, and federal agencies and policymakers also rely on our expertise. NRCS delivers technical assistance based on sound science and suites the customer's specific needs. Cost shares and financial incentives are available in some cases. Most work is done with local partners. Partnerships with local conservation districts serve almost every county in the nation, as well as the Caribbean and the Pacific Basin. Participation in our programs is voluntary.

### NRCS Activities and Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts

#### Volunteer Projects with the NRCS

The NRCS needs Earth Team volunteers willing to commit their time and talent to conserving and protecting soil, water, and wildlife for their communities and everyone in it. NRCS accepts Earth Team volunteers to increase soil and water conservation efforts by working closely with the nation's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In every state in the U.S., the Earth Team is a growing volunteer workforce making a difference. The concept of Earth Team includes not only volunteers, but also NRCS staff and Soil and Water Conservation districts. The mission of the Earth Team is to provide an effective volunteer workforce within the NRCS to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our resources and environment.

#### You can work:

- **On the Land**—with professional conservationists who are working directly with farmers and ranchers.
- **In schools**—with elementary and high school, college, and university students.  
Through camps and classes, you can introduce young people to the wonders of nature.

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### LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

- **With organizations**—youth groups, professional societies, or civic groups. All types of organizations are joining together to sponsor water quality education campaigns, community beautification, and erosion control projects. Cooperative Earth Team efforts can help solve many natural resource problems in your area.
- **In offices**—where the NRCS or your conservation district may want to use your talents for clerical assistance, organizing information in a computer, preparing newsletters, or educating others about natural resource conservation.

<b>On the Land</b>	<b>In the Community</b>	<b>In the Office</b>
Conservation	Conservation	Drafting
Planting Trees	Conservation Planning	Computer
		Data Entry
Surveying	Writing	Map Interpretations
Water Sampling	Special Tours and Fairs	Typing
Soil Mapping	Photography	Telephoning
Establishing	Nature Areas	Editing
Wildlife Habitat		
Native Grass Seeding	Public Speaking	Reception
Resource	Working with Youth Groups	Filing
Inventories		
Practice Layout	Outdoor Classrooms and Conservation Education	

### **What Volunteers Have to Say**

*"Being an Earth Team volunteer put me in touch with more resources that I can pull into my classroom to teach environmental concepts and nurture the responsibility each of us has for our environment."*

—Teresa Bufkin, Prattville, Alabama, Kindergarten Teacher

*"I am majoring in an agri-related field and wanted experience in agriculture. I was not raised on a farm or exposed to agricultural information in my family so I needed a way to get this knowledge for my future career."*

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## **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

—Student Volunteer, Arkansas

*"One of my major responsibilities is presenting programs on Conservation Education to school children which I find both rewarding and a lot of fun. The place to start is with our youth. They need to learn the difference between 'Conservation' and 'Preservation' and the importance of both."*

—George McNeil, Texas Weatherford Field Office

*"Being an Earth Team volunteer through the Green Thumb program truly gave me a purpose in life—a reason to get up each morning. Having had the opportunity to work with the Windbreak Field Trial Tree Plot and the Living Snow Fence has been a real inspiration (education) for me. I love the outdoors, the plants, and the experience of helping to maintain, expand, and improve these two projects. I hope to be able to work with the Tree Plot and Snow Fence again this summer."*

—W.O. "Dub" Adkins, Pampa, Texas

### **Where Can I Find a Local NRCS Office or Volunteer for the NRCS Earth Team?**

Go to the NRCS Earth Team website at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers/vol/join.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers/vol/join.html).

#### **Contact:**

Linda M. Greene

Conservation Communications

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

6121 South Building

Washington, DC 20250

202-720-7881 Phone

202-720-1564 Fax

[linda.m.greene@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:linda.m.greene@wdc.usda.gov)

[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

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## **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

## Take Pride in America

Take Pride in America® is a national partnership program that encourages, supports, and recognizes volunteers who work to improve public parks, forests, grasslands, reservoirs, wildlife refuges, cultural and historic sites, local playgrounds, and other recreation areas. Take Pride involves federal, state, and local governments; conservation, youth, and recreation groups; and national corporations and organizations that work together to protect and enhance public lands. For more information, please visit [www.takepride.gov](http://www.takepride.gov).



### Activities and Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts

- **Volunteer for Take Pride in America events:** Visit [www.takepride.gov](http://www.takepride.gov) to find events on public lands near you.
- **Earn the Get with the Land Patch** for volunteering in collaboration with a federal or state natural resource agency on federal or state lands.
- **Receive a Take Pride in America National Award:** Nominate your Girl Scout troop or group project for an award at [www.takepride.gov/awards/index.cfm](http://www.takepride.gov/awards/index.cfm).
- **Publish your work** in the Take Pride in America newsletter at [www.takepride.gov/news/newsletters.cfm](http://www.takepride.gov/news/newsletters.cfm).

### Contact:

Michelle Cangelosi, Executive Director

Take Pride in America

U.S. Department of Interior

1849 C Street, Mail Stop 3459

Washington, DC 20036

202-208-5848 Phone

202-659-0650 Fax

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## LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA AND FEDERAL NATIONAL RESOURCE AGENCIES  
Resource Guide, Revised Spring 2006

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)



The Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The USFWS manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores vital wildlife habitat, protects and recovers endangered species, enforces Federal Wildlife Protection laws such as the Endangered Species Act, monitors international wildlife trade, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.

### **The USFWS also manages and operates the following to conserve natural resources:**

- 95 million acres of National Wildlife Refuge Systems
- 542 individual refuges, wetlands, and special management areas
- 69 national fish hatcheries
- 64 fishery resource offices
- 81 ecological services field stations

### **USFWS Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts**

- **The Nature of Learning Program and Grants:** <http://refuges.fws.gov/education/natureoflearning/index.html>. The USFWS National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) System's community-based environmental education initiative. The Nature of Learning grants provide financial and technical assistance to help Girl Scout councils and their communities use NWRs as outdoor classrooms to promote a greater understanding of local conservation issues. Contact Deborah Moore at 703-358-2386 or [deborah\\_moore@fws.gov](mailto:deborah_moore@fws.gov).
- **Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program:** <http://duckstamps.fws.gov>. Girl Scouts of all ages can participate in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program, a dynamic arts curriculum designed to teach wetlands and waterfowl conservation. Girl Scouts design a Junior

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## LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

Duck Stamp and enter their designs in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest. E-mail [duckstamps@fws.gov](mailto:duckstamps@fws.gov) or call 703-358-2000.

### **How Do You Contact Your Local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office?**

The local USFWS office is listed in the “blue” or government pages of the phone book under the Interior Department. The work of the Service is also described on USFWS websites:

- Region 1 [www.fws.gov/pacific/](http://www.fws.gov/pacific/) 503-231-6828
- Region 2 [www.fws.gov/southwest/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/) 505-248-6911
- Region 3 [www.fws.gov/midwest/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/) 612-713-5360
- Region 4 [www.fws.gov/southeast/](http://www.fws.gov/southeast/) 404-679-4000
- Region 5 [www.fws.gov/northeast/](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/) 413-253-8200
- Region 6 <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/> 303-236-7905
- Region 7 <http://alaska.fws.gov/> 907-786-3542
- Region 9 [www.fws.gov/](http://www.fws.gov/) 800-344-WILD
- Customer Service Center E-mail: [contact2@fws.gov](mailto:contact2@fws.gov) 800-344-WILD

### **How to Implement Projects with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Call for an appointment to visit your local USFWS office. Request to speak with the manager, outdoor recreation planner, project leader, park ranger, or volunteer coordinator.

### **What Information is Available on the Website?**

- General information: <http://www.fws.gov/>
- Information for students of all ages: <http://www.fws.gov/educators/>
- Information for formal and informal educators: <http://www.fws.gov/educators/>
- Website resources for environmental educators: <http://library.fws.gov/> or call 304-876-7399
- Where can I find volunteer opportunities? <http://www.fws.gov/volunteers/>
- Publications, index/site map, agency field locations, permits, questions and answers: <http://www.fws.gov/faq/>
- Where can I get information about refuges? <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>

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## **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

- Where can I get information about fisheries? <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/>
- How do I get a job with the USFWS? <http://www.fws.gov/jobs/> or <http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/>

**Contact:**

Attention: USFWS National Girl Scout Coordinator

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Conservation Training Center

698 Conservation Way, MS-19

Shepherdstown, WV 25443

304-876-7314 Phone

E-mail: [scouting@fws.gov](mailto:scouting@fws.gov)

## U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

The U.S. Forest Service’s mission is to help people share and enjoy the national forests, while conserving the environment for future generations.



The Forest Service, under the U. S. Department of Agriculture, manages 193 million acres of public land in national forests and grasslands—about 8 percent of all of the land in the United States. These lands are managed under the multiple-use principles to provide for the present and future needs of the American people. There are 155 national forests and 20 national grasslands located in 44 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The Forest Service has the leading U.S. research and development organization for forest and rangeland sciences. It is responsible for promoting the sound management of all the nation’s forests, both public and private. It does this by offering support and assistance for state, tribal, and private forestry. It also has a strong international program. Each forest is composed of several ranger districts, varying in size from 50,000 acres to more than one million acres. Most on-the-ground activities occur in the ranger districts, including trail construction and maintenance, operation of campgrounds, and management of vegetation and wildlife habitat.

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### LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

## Forest Service Programs and Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts

- **Job opportunities:** The Forest Service employs about 30,000 full-time employees and almost as many seasonal temporary employees. They are ecologists, wildlife biologists, foresters, hydrologists, engineers, archaeologists, firefighters, research scientists, business managers, public affairs specialists, and many more professionals and technicians. The Forest Service prides itself on serving the public, getting the job done on the ground, working in teams, and providing work and training to the underemployed, the elderly, youth, and the disadvantaged. For career and other employment information, call your local Forest Service office or visit this website: [www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs](http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs).
- **Recreation opportunities:** People enjoy many leisure activities in national forests, including backpacking in remote wilderness areas, staying in a campground, mastering an all-terrain vehicle over a challenging trail, enjoying the views along a scenic byway, fishing in a trout stream, and learning about natural history at a visitors' center. The website, [www.fs.fed.us/recreation](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation), includes information about how to reserve individual and group campsites, cabins, picnic areas and day use sites, and wilderness permits.
- **Volunteer opportunities:** Call or visit your local office and ask to speak with the volunteer coordinator or public affairs specialist. Be ready to explain what your girls are interested in, their ages and skills, and the time commitment you have. Come to the office to talk about natural resource and outdoor careers with a Forest Service professional. Offer to assist with a volunteer service project that has already been organized. Get further information on the Web page [www.usafreedomcorps.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov) and click on "Parks and Open Spaces".

## More Information About Forest Service Programs

- The main Forest Service website is [www.fs.fed.us/](http://www.fs.fed.us/).
- There is a "Just for Kids" section on the Web page <http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/cc> that has links for teachers (Girl Scout leaders and advisors) and students. It also links to the "Kids' Page" at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Information about Smokey Bear and fire prevention can be obtained at most Forest Service offices and at [www.smokeybear.com](http://www.smokeybear.com).
- Information about various Forest Service management activities can be accessed at [www.fs.fed.us/pages/nfs](http://www.fs.fed.us/pages/nfs).

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### LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

**Contact:**

Sue Cummings

USDA Forest Service

Conservation Education

1400 Independence Avenue SW, MS 1147

Washington, DC 20250-1147

202-205-0986 Phone

202-690-5658 Fax

[scummings@fs.fed.us](mailto:scummings@fs.fed.us)

[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

**U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**

USGS is a world leader in the natural sciences. The USGS serves the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.



**Contact:**

Deana Demichelis

Eastern Region Environmental Protection Specialist

United States Geological Survey

MS 153 National Center

12201 Sunrise Valley Drive

Reston, VA 20192

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**LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

703-648-7943 Phone

703-648-4688 Fax

[ddemichelis@usgs.gov](mailto:ddemichelis@usgs.gov)

[www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)

## VI. Additional Partners

### **Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign**

The Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign is a cooperative partnership of youth groups, community groups, educational organizations, outdoor recreation groups, and state and federal wildlife and land management agencies and their professional support organizations. The campaign's goal is to educate the public about how to enjoy all wildlife safely and responsibly, which will reduce human-wildlife conflicts that can result in people and animals being injured and killed. The campaign provides bear avoidance and wildlife safety and stewardship education materials and training to people who recreate in the outdoors—whether it is a park, in the middle of a city, a summer camp, a national park, forest, nature center, or refuge—and people who live in residential areas where there is frequent contact with wildlife. The materials and training program provided by the Campaign have been produced in partnership with state and federal wildlife and land management agencies to provide a consistent message about how to avoid human-wildlife conflicts.

### **Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts**

- **Train-the-Trainer Program** provides an excellent opportunity for older Girl Scouts to learn the latest safety techniques for avoiding conflicts with wildlife while hiking, camping, viewing, and photographing wildlife. Trainers will learn how to set up educational trails that will highlight recognizing wildlife activity signs and avoiding confrontations with animals (ranging from small rodents to large predators) common to their region. The program also teaches how to set up a safe campsite.

Graduates of the Train-the-Trainer Program learn presentation, public speaking, and leadership skills and go on to train younger Girl Scouts and members of their local communities. The training program can be tailored to fit local and regional needs.

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### **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

- **Wildlife Stewardship Interest Project Patch (IPP):** The Campaign, in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of Big Sky Council, has developed a local IPP focused on wildlife stewardship and career opportunities in nontraditional fields such as forestry, wildlife biology, wildlife management, and conservation.
- **Bear Avoidance and Wildlife Stewardship Educational and Training Materials:** These support materials are available for individuals and groups who complete the Train-the-Trainer Program and are conducting their own training programs.

**Contacts:**

Chuck Bartlebaugh

Center for Wildlife Information

P.O. Box 8289

Missoula, MT 59807

406-721-8985 Phone

[bearinfo@qwest.net](mailto:bearinfo@qwest.net)

[www.bebearaware.org](http://www.bebearaware.org)

or

Dr. Deborah Hyde

Girl Scouts of Big Sky Council

704 Continental Way

Missoula, MT 59803

406-543-8405 Phone

[drhydemt@cs.com](mailto:drhydemt@cs.com)

**Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics**

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and inspiring responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. Leave No Trace builds awareness, appreciation, and respect for our wildlands.



As part of the Girl Scout Law, Girl Scouts have been taught since 1912 to “use resources wisely” and to leave a place better than they found it. But, they need not be in the back country to practice this. This ethic is applicable to the backyard, local park, and Girl Scout camp as well. Leave No Trace builds awareness, appreciation, and respect for the outdoors. It builds girls’ courage, confidence, and character so that they can plan and be prepared for the situations they encounter in the outdoors, enjoy their outdoor recreation experiences, and make a less harmful impact on the Earth. When Girl Scouts practice Leave No Trace skills and ethics, they truly do make the world a better place. Leave No Trace concepts are strongly woven into the Girl Scout handbooks and resources, earned age-level awards, and training objectives.

**Seven Leave No Trace Principles are rooted in scientific studies and common sense:**

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Leave No Trace has regional adaptations for different areas and ecosystems: North America; Northeast Mountains; Southeast; Pacific Northwest; Sierra Nevada; Alaska Wildlands; Deserts and Canyons; Western River Corridors; Tropical Rainforests; Lakes Region; Rocky Mountains; Mountain Biking; Rock Climbing; Sea Kayaking; Horse Use; Fishing; Caving.

**Leave No Trace Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts** are outlined in the Leave No Trace Scholarships, Training, and Materials section on p. 48.

**Contact:**

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**LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

Laura Nilo or Ben Lawton

P.O. Box 997

Boulder, CO 80306

800-332-4100 Phone

303-442-8217 Fax

[laura@lnt.org](mailto:laura@lnt.org) or [ben@lnt.org](mailto:ben@lnt.org)

## National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF)

The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation believes environmental education is linked to core goals such as better health, improved education, environmentally sound and profitable business, and volunteerism in local communities. The NEETF manages National Public Lands Day, which is held annually on the last Saturday in September. Visit [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org).



### Contact:

National Public Lands Day

National Environmental Education and Training Foundation

1707 H Street, NW, Suite 900

Washington, DC 20006

202-261-6462 Phone

202-261-6464 Fax

[robb@neetf.org](mailto:robb@neetf.org)

## National Marine Sanctuary Foundation



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### LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA AND FEDERAL NATIONAL RESOURCE AGENCIES  
Resource Guide, Revised Spring 2006

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is the private, nonprofit partner to the federally managed National Marine Sanctuary Program. The Foundation was created to inspire all people to preserve, protect, and promote our national marine sanctuaries. Through public and private sector partnerships, the Foundation creates conservation-based research as well as educational and outreach programs designed to connect the public with these special ocean and coastal resources.

**Contact:**

Jennifer Black

Outreach Coordinator

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 201

Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-608-3040 Phone

301-608-3044 Fax

[jennifer@nmsfocean.org](mailto:jennifer@nmsfocean.org)

[www.nmsfocean.org](http://www.nmsfocean.org)

**National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)**

The NPCA, its members and partners, work together to protect the park system and preserve the nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage for future generations. The NPCA is working to encourage Congress and the administration to meet the annual needs of the national parks to preserve America's heritage and provide 300 million visitors annually with memorable and educational park experiences.



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**LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

### Activities and Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts

- **National Parks Scrapbook:** Share your photos and memories of the national parks with the world. Visit the online scrapbook and post your photos at <http://www.npca.org/scrapbook>.
- **Protect the Parks:** Get information about other ways to help protect the national parks at [http://www.npca.org/take\\_action](http://www.npca.org/take_action).
- **Service Projects:** Troops across the country are encouraged to complete *Linking Girls to the Land* service projects and take on leadership roles as protectors of the national parks.
- **STUDIO 2B Focus: Parks Matter:** [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls/parksmatter.html](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls/parksmatter.html)

### Contact:

Andrea Keller Helsel

Director of Media Relations

National Conservation Association

1300 19th Street, NW, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20036

202-454-3332 Phone

202-659-0650 Fax

[akeller@npca.org](mailto:akeller@npca.org)

<http://www.npca.org/>

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## LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

## VII. Grant Opportunities and Trainings

### *Linking Girls to the Land Council Grants*

Girl Scouts of the USA's Elliott Wildlife Values Project, along with the federal natural resource agencies partnering in the *Linking Girls to the Land* program, have contributed funds and support for *Linking Girls to the Land* Council Grant projects.

#### Objectives

- Encourage Girl Scouts to become leaders and stewards of conservation and natural resources by inviting girls to help plan, implement, and participate in projects related to environmental education, volunteer service, or outdoor skills development.
- Encourage Girl Scouts to explore careers in environmental, outdoor, and science fields.
- Create positive environmental impact or improvement on the natural land or water resources.
- Strengthen federal\* natural resource agency participation in the Girl Scout program by helping girls earn conservation-related awards such as badges, patches, charms, and Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects.
- Encourage councils and federal\* natural resource agencies to develop meaningful and sustainable conservation-related partnerships.

#### Guidelines

The project submitted for a grant award must focus on **one or more** of the following content areas:

- **Environmental Education:** Nature Observation; Developing Human/Environment Connections; Field Ecology; Ecosystem Monitoring; Scientific Research; Interpretive Programs; Leave No Trace
- **Outdoor Skills Development:** Frontcountry Camping (at established campsites, including those that are owned by councils); Backcountry Camping; Horseback Riding; Cross Country Skiing; Rock Climbing; Hiking; Canoeing; Fishing
- **Volunteer Service:** Environmental action or conservation service projects on public or private land

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### LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

**The following criteria are used to determine which councils receive grant awards. The project must:**

- Serve at least 100 Girl Scouts ages 5–17 and adult volunteers.
- Involve the interest of girls and involve girls in the planning and implementation.
- Involve the investment of the community and meet a community need.
- Be focused on local land or natural resources.
- Be reviewed and approved by the applicant's Girl Scout council.
- Be planned and completed within one year.
- Involve at least one federal\* natural resource agency as a project partner and show a written commitment.
- Present a plan that incorporates the diversity of girl and adult membership within the council's jurisdiction and reaches out to serve underrepresented populations.
- Encourage creative and innovative use of community resources.
- Include natural resource, science, or environmental career development and awareness for girls.
- Be able to measure the positive environmental change or impact the project has on the land or water resources.
- Present a plan for post-event followup and evaluation.
- Be sustainable and replicable within your council and other Girl Scout councils nationwide.
- Adhere to and support Girl Scouts of the USA policies, safety standards, and guidelines.

*\* In areas where there are no federal natural resource agencies available, state natural resource agencies may serve as collaborative partners.*

### **How Many Girl Scouts are Being Served Through *Linking Girls to the Land* Council Grants?**

Since 1998, more than 70,000 Girl Scouts have been served through 131 grants, awarded to 105 Girl Scout councils.

### **Who Can Submit a *Linking Girls to the Land* Council Grant Application?**

Any Girl Scout adult volunteer, council staff member, Campus Girl Scout, or Girl Scout ages 15–17 who has **the full support of her council** can submit a *Linking Girls to the Land* Council Grant application.

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## **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

Request for proposals for *Linking Girls to the Land* Council Grant projects are announced annually, pending funding. Information is announced to the public on the *Linking Girls to the Land* website at [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls) and to Girl Scout councils via the Online Council Network. For more information, contact: Jodi Stewart, Girl Scouts of the USA, [linkinggirls@girlscouts.org](mailto:linkinggirls@girlscouts.org) or call 800-223-0624, ext. 8076.

## **Developing Projects Without Grant Funding**

Keep in mind that it is not possible for all *Linking Girls to the Land* projects to be funded through the *Linking Girls to the Land* Council Grant fund. Even without grant funding, Girl Scouts and natural resource agencies can develop partnerships and projects that meet the needs of all parties involved and seek creative ways of making the projects sustainable.

**Project ideas can be simple or elaborate. Girl Scout councils and professionals from federal (or state) agencies may work together to:**

- hold an event at an historic site exploring archaeological digs
- build an accessible walking trail
- count migratory birds or survey plant communities
- conduct a low-impact camping workshop for girls
- co-sponsor a National Public Lands Day event
- offer wildlife research opportunities for girls, such as catching, identifying, and tagging fish
- involve girls as interpreters at an education center in a natural area
- run a day camp where girls can make bird and bat boxes or create brush piles
- co-host a career day with hands-on activities
- participate in a soil erosion control project, such as replanting a stream bank

**There are many successful *Linking Girls to the Land* projects, and 10 are outlined below:**

- **Create a Rehabilitated Environment:** Girl Scouts of Broward County Council, Florida, partnered with the Division of Natural Resource Protection of Broward County for an event with

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### **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

150 Girl Scouts to remove non-native plants from a Girl Scout property. The Girl Scouts also developed and will maintain a nature trail that highlights native plants. A patch program was created, with a focus on native versus exotic plants.

- **Eco-Expo:** Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital holds annual Eco-Expo daylong events, with hands-on activities conducted by professionals from the Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, National Park Service, and others. Eco-Boxes, containing materials and instructions for easy-to-do environmental activities and experiments, were made and are used by Girl Scout troops. Both projects aim to increase Girl Scouts’ understanding of key environmental issues such as ecosystem monitoring and conservation of natural resources.
- **Eco-Island:** Girl Scouts of Moccasin Bend Council, Tennessee, held an event with activities that integrated hands-on learning, mathematics, science, and technology at natural resource areas in urban settings. More than 400 Girl Scouts participated at three different sites, depending on their age level. Activities also promoted responsible environmental stewardship through habitat restoration. Agency partners were the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture’s Department of Forestry.
- **Fisheries Biology Field Day:** More than 375 Junior Girl Scouts (grades 4–6) from Girl Scouts-Pacific Peaks Council (near Olympia, Washington) explored fisheries biology during three spring field days. Girls saw the “critters” in the water, learned about their ecological roles, watched Dr. Deanna Stouder and three other Pacific Northwest Research Station scientists collect the fish and other aquatic animals, and learned about local American Indian connections to fish.
- **Fort Ord Lands Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Project:** Girl Scouts of Monterey Bay, California, sponsored hands-on service projects on federal land that is part of the former Fort Ord military base. Girl Scouts learned how to use compasses, clinometers, and Global Positioning Systems. In an ongoing effort, they make observations and record data for grassland research, collect seeds, restore native plants to control erosion, and more.
- **Hamlin Habitat Environmental Center:** This project is creating a sustainable and wildlife-friendly environment surrounding a high-use Sangre de Cristo Girl Scout council property. Girls are involved in the planning and design of the center and its programs that will promote wildlife education, enhance environmental stewardship, and highlight the use of solar energy. Girls can

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## LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

earn a special patch, Southwest Environmentalist, when they complete special program activities at the Center.

- **Leave No Trace Training:** Girl Scouts-Spanish Trails Girl Council in Montclair, California created and is expanding a network of Girl Scout volunteers who teach Leave No Trace camping skills to Girl Scouts at all age levels. A training weekend was held in the fall, and an event with 200 Girl Scouts was held in the spring at Portrero Girl Scout Camp, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and four other Girl Scout councils. Girl Scouts, Mohawk Pathways Council, New York, completed the Leave No Trace training for adult volunteers and staff members, who then created a patch project and conducted an event for 200 girls. The council's resident camp lies within the Adirondack State Park, and the training was conducted with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Mountain Club.
- **Scouting Out Your Future in the Wild:** What if your primary workplace had no walls or doors and the rising sun or the changing tide dictated your schedule? Or, what if your daily interactions were mostly with pods of whales or flocks of birds? For many women, these possibilities are realities because they work in careers in natural resource management. Through an immersion weekend, Girl Scouts, Seal of Ohio Council, and Girl Scouts, Heart of Ohio Council, collaborated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to showcase the fascinating opportunities and careers that exist in fields related to the environment. During the weekend the participants were linked with positive female role models, attended forums to share environmental concerns, and created a community of environmental activists. The girls also enjoyed a host of unique hands-on experiences in nature such as telemetry, bird banding, animal tracking, fishing, and photography.
- **Vanishing Footprints:** Girl Scouts of Swift Water Council, New Hampshire, trained about 500 Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts and adult volunteers in the Leave No Trace and Project Learning Tree programs. These trained girls and leaders brought these activities into Brownie and Junior Girl Scout troops. The council partnered with the Forest Service, New Hampshire Project Learning Tree, and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.
- **A Walk in Our Urban Forest:** Three hundred Girl Scouts were introduced to urban forestry and nontraditional careers for women in two events sponsored by Girl Scouts of Pine Valley Council, Georgia. Professional women from various federal, state, and county agencies, as well as

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## LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

local universities, led hands-on environmental activities. Partners included the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and others.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service teaches Girl Scouts about wildlife through a creative game.



### ***The Nature of Learning Program and Grants***

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Wildlife Refuge System, National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Keystone

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#### **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

Center, and National Wildlife Refuge Association, is pleased to solicit applications from Girl Scout councils interested in initiating or expanding *The Nature of Learning* in their communities.

***The Nature of Learning* is the National Wildlife Refuge System's new community-based environmental education initiative that seeks to:**

- Use National Wildlife Refuges as outdoor classrooms to promote a greater understanding of local conservation issues.
- Encourage an interdisciplinary approach to learning that seeks to enhance student academic achievement.
- Utilize field experiences and student-led stewardship projects to connect classroom lessons to real-world issues.
- Involve a partnership among local schools, community groups (e.g., Girl Scouts), natural resource professionals, and local businesses.

Pending funding, competitive small grants are awarded annually to support start-up expenses associated with new programs and to provide continued support to existing *Nature of Learning* programs. We expect Girl Scout councils and local National Wildlife Refuges to develop projects that build sustainable, long-term partnerships.

**Why Should Girl Scout Councils Apply for *The Nature of Learning* Grants?**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a partner of the Girl Scouts of the USA's Elliott Wildlife Values Project's *Linking Girls to the Land* partnership. By becoming part of the *Nature in Learning Program*, Girl Scout councils are participating in *Linking Girls to the Land*. Girl Scouts who participate in activities in collaboration with U.S. Fish and National Wildlife Refuges are eligible to earn the Get with the Land Patch and certificate. In 2005, Farthest North Girl Scout Council and Girl Scouts of Milwaukee Area received the *Nature of Learning* grants. We are hoping for even more Girl Scout council involvement in 2006 and beyond.

**The *Nature of Learning* grants provide financial and technical assistance to help Girl Scout councils and their community:**

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**LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

- Build educational value on National Wildlife Refuges so that visits and exposure to public lands continue to expand.
- Introduce a process to enhance critical thinking skills and better prepare Girl Scouts as future community leaders.
- Create long-lasting relationships among Girl Scout councils (volunteers and staff), teachers, local businesses, community leaders, and Refuge personnel.
- Develop and nurture a strong sense of stewardship and civic pride, using the National Wildlife Refuge and community as outdoor classrooms.

### Learn More About *The Nature of Learning* Program and Grants

Visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/education/natureoflearning/index.html> or contact Deborah Moore at [deborah\\_moore@fws.gov](mailto:deborah_moore@fws.gov) or call 703-358-2386.

### Leave No Trace Scholarships, Trainings, and Materials

Girl Scouts of the USA fully supports the Leave No Trace values and ethics that teach stewardship, minimal impact camping, and responsible recreational use of the land. GSUSA encourages Girl Scout councils to become familiar with the Leave No Trace principles, trainings, and educational materials and integrate them into their outdoor program.

Councils can work with federal natural resource agency partners of *Linking Girls to the Land* to provide staff to assist with Leave No Trace trainings.



**Many Girl Scout Councils (GSC) include major Leave No Trace activities in their outdoor program. Some examples include:**

- Fair Winds GSC and San Fernando Valley GSC trains most of their camp staff as Trainers.
- San Geronio GSC has done Trainer Courses taught by older girls for older girls.

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### LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

- Spanish Trails GSC started giving Trainer Courses in 1998.
- Tierra del Oro's Wider Op in 2003 trained all participants as Trainers.

In 2005 a Girl Scout Leave No Trace task force was created to integrate Leave No Trace ethics and principles into GSUSA policy, program, and training.

### **Leave No Trace Trainings, Opportunities and Materials Available to Girl Scouts**

- **Awareness Workshops**, facilitated by a Leave No Trace Master Educator or Trainer, may vary in lengths of one hour to one day for adults and children. Many pre-designed programs and activities are available from the Center. Awareness Workshops and discussions are appropriate program for outdoor days, camporees, leader weekends, and camp. Certificates are available for completion of the event.
- **Master Educator Course** is a 5-day comprehensive course for adults that provides an overview of Leave No Trace techniques through practical application in a field setting. The first day is spent in a classroom, introducing the course, reviewing gear, and packing. The remaining four days are spent on a short hiking, sea kayaking, horse packing, rafting, or canoeing trip learning and practicing the principles of Leave No Trace. A certificate and sometimes a pin are presented to those finishing the course.
- **Trainer Course** is a 16-hour experiential course (comparable to Girl Scouts Train-the-Trainer) for older girls and adults. While it is done outdoors, it does not necessarily include a back country trip. Trainers and at least one Master Educator facilitate this course. Cost varies depending on the venue but usually runs about \$50.00 and each Master Educator does her own scheduling. Some courses are listed on the Leave No Trace website [www.LNT.org/training/trainercourses/index.html](http://www.LNT.org/training/trainercourses/index.html). A certificate and pin are usually awarded to those completing the course. Participants who complete this course are able to facilitate other Trainer and Awareness Courses.

Tuition is \$500–\$830. Partial scholarships are available through the Center. Applicants must be enrolled in an approved Leave No Trace Master Educator course before applying for a scholarship. Scholarship recipients are expected to conduct Leave No Trace Trainer Courses and Awareness Workshops regularly to Girl Scouts and others, and to report on such courses to the Center. For more information, visit [www.LNT.org/training/mastercourses/index.html#tuition](http://www.LNT.org/training/mastercourses/index.html#tuition).

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## **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

- **Educational Materials** are available for Girl Scout staff, volunteers, and older Girl Scouts to help teach Leave No Trace principles in the Girl Scout outdoor training curriculum.
- **The Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids (PEAK)** program for children 5–12 years old includes activities for leaders and program aids to share Leave No Trace with younger girls. A PEAK activity is also an excellent experiential lesson for outdoor leader training. Not only do leaders learn about Leave No Trace, but they go home with a ready made activity. For more information on obtaining a PEAK pack, visit [www.LNT.org/programs/peak/index.html](http://www.LNT.org/programs/peak/index.html). Federal and state natural resource agencies often have PEAK packs available for loan.
- **Resources available** for purchase include videos, *Skills and Ethics Books*, hangtags, pins, patches and stickers, a *Cookbook* of activities, and brochures at [www.store.LNT.org/Merchant2/merchant.mvc](http://www.store.LNT.org/Merchant2/merchant.mvc).
- **State and National Park and Land Management** personnel often present Leave No Trace mini workshops and trailhead discussions in their areas. Contact the ranger station for more information.
- **Subaru Traveling Trainers** provide **free** Leave No Trace trainings ranging from one hour workshops to large scale events. Trainings can be tailored to Girl Scout staff, leaders, or a girl audience and should be scheduled 6–8 months in advance. *Note: There is a fee for the Trainer Course.*
- **Teaching resources and activities** may be downloaded **free** from the Center’s website. A how-to guide for running *Awareness Workshops* and the *Awareness Workshop Guidelines* are at [www.LNT.org/training/resources/index.html](http://www.LNT.org/training/resources/index.html).
- **Tools for Teaching Grants** are available for those in need of Leave No Trace materials, training and information that will be used to serve girls underserved girls from underserved and diverse backgrounds. To apply, visit [www.LNT.org/programs/grants/index.html](http://www.LNT.org/programs/grants/index.html).

### More Information

- For general information, Master Educators Scholarships, or to schedule the Subaru Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers—contact the Outreach Manager at the Center for Outdoor Ethics, 800-332-8222 or [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org).

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## LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

- For information on how to incorporate Leave No Trace into your Girl Scout council program and training—contact Liz Garland, Girl Scouts of Tierra del Oro Council in Rancho Cordova, California, at 916-669-2777 or e-mail [liz\\_garland@tdogs.org](mailto:liz_garland@tdogs.org).
- To join the Girl Scout Leave No Trace Task Force, contact Marj Eby Chair, Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., at 215-643-3924 or e-mail [marjeby@aol.com](mailto:marjeby@aol.com).
- To network with other Girl Scouts interested in Leave No Trace, join the Yahoo Group [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/girl\\_scout\\_leave\\_no\\_trace\\_task\\_force](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/girl_scout_leave_no_trace_task_force) or e-mail [girl\\_scout\\_leave\\_no\\_trace\\_task\\_force @yahoogroups.com](mailto:girl_scout_leave_no_trace_task_force@yahoo.com).

## VIII. Girl Scout Patch Projects

### Get with the Land Patch

Brownie Girl Scouts, Junior Girl Scouts, and Girl Scouts ages 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 *Linking Girls to the Land* website at [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls).



### The patch program:

- Gives natural resource agency professionals and Girl Scout girls and adults a reason to become more familiar with the federal natural resource agencies so that both groups understand the benefits that come from working collaboratively.
- Encourages girl-to-girl, leader-to-leader, and girl-to-leader discussion about the program by having a visible award that recognizes the *Linking Girls to the Land* partnership.
- Encourages leaders and girls to go to environmental experts when they have questions when earning environmental badges, Try-Its, Interest Project patches, or STUDIO 2B<sub>SM</sub> charms.

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### LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

- Shows 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 *Linking Girls to the Land* Resource Guide, website, video, and other resources. The resource guide is available electronically on the GSUSA website, [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org). In addition, 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 this resource guide.
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 this resource guide and on the LGTTL website. 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](http://www.takepride.gov); National Public Lands Day, [www.npld.com](http://www.npld.com); National Public Trails Day, [www.americanhiking.org](http://www.americanhiking.org); International Migratory Bird Day, [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org); National Wildlife Week and World Water Monitoring Day, [www.worldwatermonitoringday.com](http://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 “Girl Scout Program Resources” section (p. 80) or on the LGTTL website, [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls).

**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 she or he became interested in working for the agency and how you might be able to develop a career in this field or with

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**LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

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 *destination* or use STUDIO 2B materials on the website, [www.studio2b.org](http://www.studio2b.org), and in print (Focus books, STUDIO 2B Collections, etc.) that are related to the environment, the 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.*

## Water Drop Patch Project

A national collaboration between  
the Environmental Protection Agency  
and Girl Scouts of the USA



All Girl Scouts can benefit from the existing partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Girl Scouts of the USA by participating in the Water Drop Patch Project. This facet of the *Linking Girls to the Land* partnership is available to all program age levels. The project was originally jointly developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital.

**The purpose of the project is to encourage girls to:**

- Make a difference in their communities by becoming watershed and wetlands stewards
- Use their skills and their knowledge to educate others in their communities about the need to protect the nation's valuable water resources
- Explore the natural world to gain an interest in science and mathematics
- Use the Internet as a source of information

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### LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

### **Available Opportunities for Girl Scouts**

The Water Drop Patch Project offers learning opportunities to Girl Scouts in watersheds, nonpoint source pollution, wetlands, and groundwater/drinking water. Service learning and activities range from “do’s and don’ts around the home” to stream cleanups to building your own aquifer.

### **Additional Information About the Program and Projects**

The project booklet can be located on the LGTTL website at: [www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/](http://www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/). Copies of the booklet are also available **free** by calling the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 800-490-9198.

### **Why Should Girl Scouts Participate in the Water Drop Patch Project?**

By participating in the Water Drop Patch Project, individual Girl Scouts, troops, or groups gain hands-on skills in water management and resource conservation efforts. Each project can be conducted in conjunction with an EPA representative or other federal or state water quality agency representative, thereby providing career mentoring to interested Girl Scouts. Since the Water Drop Patch Project can be completed anywhere and because there is a minimal cost (the cost of the patch) for Girl Scouts, this project is easily accessible to ***Every Girl, Everywhere***. This patch project will also cover one of the requirements required to earn the *Get with the Land* Patch.

### **How is the Patch Distributed and Troop Recognition Received?**

There is a Water Drop Patch order form and application for troop recognition form on the LGTTL website at [www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/](http://www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/) and in the project booklet. To date, over 33,000 girls are proudly wearing a Water Drop Patch.

#### **Contact:**

Jodi Stewart

Elliott Wildlife Values Project

Girl Scouts of the USA

212-852-8076 Phone

[linkinggirls@girlscouts.org](mailto:linkinggirls@girlscouts.org)

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## **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

or

Patty Scott

Environmental Protection Agency

202-566-1292 Phone

[scott.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:scott.patricia@epa.gov)

## **IX. Travel Opportunities: STUDIO 2B<sub>sm</sub> *destinations***

Teens are offered STUDIO 2B *destinations*, (formerly called “Wider Opportunities”) as 3- to 14-day events organized by local councils or Girl Scouts of the USA. STUDIO 2B *destinations* incorporate advanced skills and learning about a focused area or subject. Participants are ages 11–17 from across the United States and are selected based on a national application process. There is continuing high interest in programs with advanced outdoor skills, national history, and cultural learning. Agency natural resource professionals greatly enhance the programs, serve as role models, and lead volunteer service activities. Many of these teens already have an interest in outdoor careers, science education, and leadership—and their awareness of natural resource careers through these sessions will enhance agency recruitment of such young women.

### **Natural Resource and Science-Based STUDIO 2B *destinations***

Numerous STUDIO 2B *destinations* focus on outdoor adventures, advanced skills, leadership, and career exploration in natural resources.

**Following are examples of recent STUDIO 2B *destinations*, many of which included field trips or presentations by natural resource professionals:**

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### **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

- *Advanced Scuba*, Traverse City, Michigan
- *Aerospace Career Explorer—U.S. Space and Rocket Center*, Huntsville, Alabama
- *Alaska: Midnight Sun Sea Kayaking*, Anchorage, Alaska
- *Astronaut Fast Track—U.S. Space and Rocket Center*, Huntsville, Alabama
- *Canoe Country Rendezvous*, Ely, Minnesota
- *Cool Desert Climbing*, Palm Springs, California
- *Craggin' and Baggin' in Colorado*, Denver, Colorado
- *Cruising the Coast Maine Sailing*, St. George, Maine
- *Design & Discovery*, Hillsboro, Oregon
- *Expedition: Michigan*, Traverse City, Michigan
- *Girls in the 'Glades*, Miami, Florida
- *Great Lakes Aquatic Biology*, Traverse City, Michigan
- *High Country Heaven: North Cascades*, Seattle, Washington
- *Hiking Boots and Swimming Suits*, Las Vegas, Nevada
- *Montana Big Sky Breakaway*, Billings, Montana
- *Mush, Mush in Minnesota*, Duluth, Minnesota
- *Oregon Splashdown! Whitewater Rafting*, Portland, Oregon
- *Peachy Days and Starry Nights*, Atlanta, Georgia
- *Robotics Space Mission—U.S. Space and Rocket Center*, Huntsville, Alabama
- *Rockin' Adventure*, Asheville, North Carolina
- *Scuba Michigan*, Traverse, Michigan
- *Tropical Travels: Florida Keys*, Key Largo, Florida
- *Winter Sports*, Traverse City, Michigan

For more information, visit [www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations/](http://www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations/).

**Contact:**

Girl Travel Specialist

Girl Scouts of the USA

420 Fifth Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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**LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

New York, NY 10018-2798

212-852-6537 Phone

212-852-6515 Fax

[destinations@girlscouts.org](mailto:destinations@girlscouts.org)

## Wyoming's Wildlife Wonders (formerly Natural Science in the Tetons)

As part of a STUDIO 2B *destination* sponsored by the Elliott Wildlife Values Project and hosted by a local Girl Scout council, 12 teams of two Girl Scouts (24 girls) from across the United States learn wildlife biology and naturalist skills under the instruction of Teton Science Schools instructors. Girls learn how to keep a naturalist's journal and get up close to wild birds, some of nature's most intriguing creatures. Girls also become part of a national bird-banding effort and learn how the local ecosystem functions. They live among pronghorn antelope, bison, coyote, and osprey, and hike the Grand Teton National Park and Bridger-Teton National Forest, which offer views that will leave them breathless. As part of the event experience, each team is responsible for designing a project or training to share with their council and community about what they learned during the STUDIO 2B *destination*. Projects will be completed within the following year.

### Two recent back-home projects include:

1. **Virginia and Allison**—*Girl Scout Council of Coastal Carolina, North Carolina*

**Project Title:** Camp Pretty Pond Educational Nature Trail: How To Use It.

**Project Objectives:** Raise awareness of local plants and wildlife; create an interpretive trail guide to make a trail usable for all ages. We will lead groups around the trail and teach them about “Leave No Trace” hiking and the local plants and wildlife. We will leave the trail guide at the

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### LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

camp and come back next summer to calculate the final number of people who used the trail for the year.

**Resources:** Brunswick Soil and The Nature Conservancy, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Edie Reed, Joanne Brooks

**Target Audience:** Girl Scouts of all ages and local groups

**Estimated Number Served:** 270

2. **Megan and Jennifer**—*Girl Scouts of Riverland Council, Wisconsin*

**Project Title:** River Badge Project

**Project Objective:** Introduce girls to river wildlife and habitats and provide girls with the opportunity to do a service project. Age-specific badge projects will be developed to teach girls about river habitats, fish, plants, birds, and animals. A councilwide event will be organized to provide opportunities for girls to earn these badges.

**Resources:** River Studies Department at University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Fish and Wildlife, LaCrosse Historical Society

**Target Audience:** Girls Scouts: Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors

**Estimated Number Served:** 300

**For More Details and Application Information**

Visit the Girl Scouts STUDIO 2B *destinations* website: [www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations/](http://www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations/) or contact the Elliott Wildlife Values Project staff at 1-800-223-0624 or [Linkinggirls@girlscouts.org](mailto:Linkinggirls@girlscouts.org).

## **X. National Conservation Events**

(See the 2006 Calendar of National Conservation Events on p. 66)

### **National Trails Day (NTD)**

Girl Scouts of the USA joins the American Hiking Society, many federal and local agencies, and the public in celebrating National Trails Day. This annual event, held the first Saturday in June, promotes awareness of and appreciation for America's 200,000 miles of trails and encourages cooperative efforts among different trail users, including hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, walkers, runners, and others who enjoy being on the trail. There are more than 3,000 events and a million participants annually.

Since NTD falls in June, it makes a great end-of-the-year troop activity. Girl Scouts can participate in already planned community events on National Trails Day, or they can help organize an event. In the past, these have included new trail dedications, workshops, educational exhibits, equestrian and mountain bike rides, canoe events, trail maintenance, and hikes on America's favorite trails.

#### **Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts Through NTD**

- Education about the healthy benefits of hiking
- Hiking and biking on trails on Girl Scout property and in federal and state parks and forests
- Nature crafts, games, campfires, and songs
- A weekend leadership course
- Trail marking and cleanup with a 2-mile run/walk to “reopen” the trail
- Letterboxing
- A geology hike on a scenic trail

Girl Scouts who participate in NTD projects and who are in collaboration with federal or state national resource agency personnel or on federal or state lands, are working toward earning the Get with the Land Patch.

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## **More Information About Local National Trails Day Events**

The American Hiking Society is the overall coordinator, but all of the activities are planned locally by community groups, four federal agencies, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Federal Highway Administration, as well as corporate and retail sponsors (an event organizers manual is available for Girl Scout leaders from the American Hiking Society). Additional information can be obtained from local hiking clubs and outdoor equipment retailers, or from the American Hiking Society, at 301-565-6704 or [ntd@americanhiking.org](mailto:ntd@americanhiking.org).

## **National Public Lands Day (NPLD)**

NPLD is a Saturday in late September, when thousands of people volunteer in parks and on public lands. Volunteers join the staff and managers of our public lands to build trails, restore wetlands, improve wildlife habitats, battle invasive species, harvest native seeds, and sow wild flowers.



### **Organizers and Partners**

This effort, organized by the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation in 1994, is the largest volunteer event that benefits America's public lands. Sometimes individuals or our partner organizations organize an event.

### **Many events are organized by federal agency partners:**

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. National Park Service

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## **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

## Opportunities Available to Girl Scouts Through NPLD

Since the beginning of Girl Scouts, our members have enjoyed the outdoors. With NPLD, Girl Scouts take the next step—active stewardship of the environment.

- Across the country girls are already planting trees, installing owl boxes, mending fences, and weeding plant nurseries. Here are more examples of Girl Scout projects:
  - Troop 624 worked at Golden Gate National Park in California on a “Trails Forever” project, cutting back vegetation, weeding, and removing invasive plants.
  - Troop 1212, from Girl Scouts of Mile High Council, built birdhouses, tubed trees, and helped maintain the lakeshore at Barr Lake State Park in Colorado.
  - Troop 4638, from Girl Scouts of Citrus Council, Orlando, Florida, helped clean up the nature center at Geneva Wilderness Area. They painted an outdoor education area and did trail maintenance.
  - Troop 106, from Girl Scouts-Totem Council in Washington, helped with trail restoration at Watmough Bay and received training in Leave No Trace skills and ethics.
  - Troop 747, from Richmond, Virginia, improved fisheries habitat and helped improve water quality by stabilizing the shoreline to help reduce erosion.
- NPLD dovetails with many scouting goals.
- NPLD gives Girl Scouts an opportunity to plan a significant project with officials, engage their community in environmental stewardship, and make a real difference in their world.
- Girl Scouts working on NPLD have been featured in *Parade* magazine and in *Girl's Life*.
- Girl Scouts who participate in NPLD projects that are in collaboration with federal or state national resource agency personnel or on federal or state lands are working towards earning the Get with the Land Patch.

## More Information About National Public Lands Day

A Girl Scout section and Get Involved Guide is available at

[http://www.npld.com/about/partners/girl\\_scouts.cfm](http://www.npld.com/about/partners/girl_scouts.cfm).

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**Contact:**

Robb Hampton

National Public Lands Day

National Environmental Education and Training Foundation

1707 H Street, NW, Suite 900

Washington, DC 20036

202-261-6461 Phone

202-261-6464 Fax

[Robb@neetf.org](mailto:Robb@neetf.org)

[www.npld.com](http://www.npld.com)

**World Water Monitoring Day**

World Water Monitoring Day, held annually on October 18, is designed to educate people of all ages, in all nations, about the value of clean water and the role of water quality monitoring. World Water Monitoring Day offers participants an opportunity to use a simple test kit to take water quality samples in their local streams, lakes, bays, or wetlands, enter their data into an international database, and take part in activities that educate us all about our role in protecting clean water. October 18 was selected because it is the anniversary of the landmark 1972 Clean Water Act.

**Why Monitoring Is Important**

We need to monitor in order to answer basic questions about our waters. Can we safely swim in them? Can fish and other aquatic animals live in them? Can we safely eat the fish we catch? Is the quality of our waters improving? Today we cannot always answer these questions. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to build partnerships with other federal agencies, states, local governments, watershed groups, the private sector, and the public to improve the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of water monitoring programs.

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## **Who Organizes This Event?**

World Water Monitoring Day is planned and coordinated by America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association, in partnership with a number of other organizations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Local monitoring and educational activities are organized by participating watershed organizations, schools, government agencies, and individual citizens.

## **How Girl Scouts Can Participate**

Beginning in mid-July of each year, Girl Scout troops and councils can order an easy-to-use water testing kit from the World Water Monitoring website at [www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org). The kit contains instructions on how to test for four key parameters: dissolved oxygen, water temperature, pH, and water clarity. Troops and councils need to select an appropriate site for monitoring and monitor the site between September 18 and October 18. The kit includes safety instructions, which should be followed carefully. Once Girl Scouts have recorded their data, they enter their findings in the international database available on the World Water Monitoring Day website. Troops and councils may also want to get involved in other fun activities in their area, like water festivals and stream cleanups. Girl Scouts who participate in World Water Monitoring Day projects that are in collaboration with federal or state national resource agency personnel or on federal or state lands are working toward earning the Get with the Land Patch.

## **How to Learn More**

Visit [www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org) for more information, to order test kits (international orders and bulk orders accepted), register your site(s), enter your data, and find out what is going on in your area and around the globe. To learn more about volunteer environmental monitoring, visit [www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/volunteer](http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/volunteer). A Girl Scout brochure is available at [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls).

## **Contact:**

Patty Scott  
U.S. EPA, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds  
Ariel Rios Building, 4501T  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

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## **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

202-566-1292 Phone

202-566-1326 Fax

[scott.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:scott.patricia@epa.gov)

or

Ed Moyer

World Water Monitoring Day Coordinator

America's Clean Water Foundation

750 First Street, Suite 1030

Washington, DC 20002

202-746-8493 Phone

202-898-0977 Fax

[e.moyer@acwf.org](mailto:e.moyer@acwf.org)

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## 2006 Calendar of National Conservation Events

### January 1

On January 1, 1970, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 was enacted, which required all federal agencies to assess the impact of federal actions on the environment.

### January 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: [www.mlkday.org](http://www.mlkday.org)

### February 2

World Wetlands Day: [www.ramsar.org/wwd/wwd\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/wwd_index.htm)

### February 21

Establishment of the Washington Monument in 1885: [www.nps.gov/wamo/home.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wamo/home.htm)

### March 1

On March 1, 1872, Yellowstone National Park, the nation's first national park, was established by an act of congress and signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant: [www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm)

### March 1–May 31

Great American Cleanup: [www.kab.org/programs.asp?id=291&rid=68](http://www.kab.org/programs.asp?id=291&rid=68)

### March 13

On March 13, 1903, the National Wildlife Refuge System was established: [www.fws.gov/refuges/](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/)

### April 21–23

National Youth Service Day: [www.ysa.org/nysd/](http://www.ysa.org/nysd/)

### April 22

Earth Day: [www.earthday.gov](http://www.earthday.gov)

### April 22–30

National Park Week: [www.nps.gov/npweek/](http://www.nps.gov/npweek/)

### April 22–30

National Wildlife Week: [www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek](http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek)

### April 23–29

National Volunteer Week: [www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw](http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw)

### April 28

National Arbor Day: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

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**May 1–31**

American Wetlands Month: [www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm/](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm/)

**May 6**

Join Hands Day: [www.joinhandsday.org/scripts/home.cfm](http://www.joinhandsday.org/scripts/home.cfm)

**May 7–13**

Drinking Water Week: [www.awwa.org/advocacy/dww/](http://www.awwa.org/advocacy/dww/)

**May 13–21**

National River Cleanup Week: [www.nationalrivercleanup.com](http://www.nationalrivercleanup.com)

**May 14**

International Migratory Bird Day: [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org)

**May 20–21**

Good Sam Club's National Cleanup Day: [www.goodsamclub.com](http://www.goodsamclub.com)

**May 28**

Sierra Club founded in 1892: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

**June 1–30**

Great Outdoors Month: [www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org](http://www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org)

**June 3**

National Trails Day: [www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/](http://www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/)

**June 3–11**

National Fishing and Boating Week: [www.rbff.org/page.cfm?pageID=11](http://www.rbff.org/page.cfm?pageID=11)

**June 5**

World Environment Day: [www.unep.org/wed/2006/english/](http://www.unep.org/wed/2006/english/)

**June 12–16**

Great Outdoors Week: [www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org](http://www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org)

**June 26–July 1**

National Clean Beaches Week: [www.cleanbeaches.org](http://www.cleanbeaches.org)

**July 22–28**

Wyoming's Wildlife Wonders STUDIO 2B<sub>SM</sub> *destination:* [www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations](http://www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations)

**August 4**

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On August 4, 1954, the Small Watershed Program was enacted to help communities protect, improve, and develop watersheds.

**August 9**

Smokey Bear's birthday: [www.smokeybear.com](http://www.smokeybear.com)

**August 25**

National Park Founder's Day. On August 25, 1916, the National Park Service was created by an act signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

**September 3**

Anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964

**September 16**

International Coastal Cleanup: [www.coastalcleanup.org](http://www.coastalcleanup.org)

**September 22–23**

Estuaries Live: [www.estuaries.gov/elive.html](http://www.estuaries.gov/elive.html)

**September 30**

National Estuary Day: [www.estuaries.gov/neday.html](http://www.estuaries.gov/neday.html)

**September 30**

National Public Lands Day: [www.npld.com](http://www.npld.com)

**October 2**

Anniversary of the Establishment of the Appalachian Trail: [www.nps.gov/appa/](http://www.nps.gov/appa/)

**October 9–15**

National Wildlife Refuge Week: [www.fws.gov/refuges/](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/)

**October 18**

Anniversary of 1972 Clean Water Act

**October 18**

World Water Monitoring Day: [www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org)

**October 28**

Make a Difference Day: [www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html](http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html)

**November 18**

National Family Volunteer Day: [www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nfvd](http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nfvd)

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**November 18**

On November 18, 1977, the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act was enacted to further the conservation, protection, and enhancement of the nation's natural resources for sustained use.

**December 23**

On December 23, 1985, the 1985 Farm Bill was passed. It was the first farm bill to include a conservation title and the first to require that farmers follow conservation measures to be eligible for USDA program benefits.

**Additional Information**

Girl Scouts can earn the Get with the Land Patch by volunteering in national conservation events done in collaboration with a federal or state natural resource agency or on federal or state lands.

Visit [www.takepride.gov](http://www.takepride.gov) and [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov) for additional events.

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## About Girl Scouts of the USA

### Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization for personal growth and leadership development for girls. In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Through a myriad of enriching experiences, such as extraordinary field trips, sports skill-building clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships, girls grow courageous and strong. More information about Girl Scouts can be found on the website, [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org).



### The Girl Scout Promise and Law

The Girl Scout Promise and Law are shared by every member of Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Promise is the way Girl Scouts agree to act every day toward one another and other people, and the Law outlines a way to act toward one another and the world.

#### The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:

- To serve God and my country,
- To help people at all times,
- And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

#### The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be

- honest and fair,
- friendly and helpful,
- considerate and caring,

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courageous and strong, and  
responsible for what I say and do,  
and to  
respect myself and others,  
respect authority,  
use resources wisely,  
make the world a better place, and  
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

## **Girl Scout Membership and Organization**

Nationally there are nearly 3.6 million Girl Scouts, 2.7 million girl members, and 928,000 adult members working primarily as volunteers in local Girl Scout councils. Girl Scouting is open to all girls ages 5–17. Girls at home and abroad participate in more than 236,000 troops and groups in more than 90 countries through USA Girl Scouts Overseas, and local Girl Scout councils offer girls the opportunity for membership across the United States. Girl Scouts takes great pride in serving girls of all racial/ethnic backgrounds, abilities, and income levels. National recruitment materials and local goals are to increase service to underrepresented groups. Girl Scouts has a longstanding emphasis on diversity and offers many after-school, group, troop, and non-troop programs to underserved youth.

Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouting, organized the first group of Girl Scouts on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia. Girl Scouts of the USA was chartered by Congress on March 16, 1950. More than 50 million women in the United States have enjoyed Girl Scouting during their childhood.

## **Girl Scout Program Age Levels**

- Daisy Girl Scouts, ages 5–6 (kindergarten or first grade), can engage in outdoor activities but do not receive earned age-level awards.
- Brownie Girl Scouts, ages 6–8 (first through third grades), can earn Brownie Try-Its and explore many topics, including the environment and the outdoors.

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### **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

- Junior Girl Scouts, ages 8–11 (third through sixth grades), can earn Girl Scout badges, explore scientific topics, complete service projects, and explore careers.
- Girl Scouts 11–17 (Cadettes, ages 11–14; Seniors, ages 14–17):
  - Girls ages 11–17 can use books from the STUDIO 2B<sub>SM</sub> Focus series, set goals, and earn charms corresponding to the activities and projects they complete.
  - Girls ages 11–17 can use *Interest Projects for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts* to earn awards. (See [www.studio2B.org/lounge/gs-stuff/ip-intro.asp](http://www.studio2B.org/lounge/gs-stuff/ip-intro.asp) for new Interest Projects.)
  - Girls ages 11–17 can mix and match, using both Interest Projects and STUDIO 2B Focus book activities.
  - Girls ages 11–14 can earn the Girl Scout Silver Award (for completing a project taking 40 hours).
  - Girls ages 14–17 can earn the Girl Scout Gold Award (the highest honor in Girl Scouting is awarded for completing a project taking more than 65 hours).
- **Girl Scout Adults:** Girl Scout leaders are volunteers who guide a group of girls through the Girl Scout experience by helping them plan their meetings and Girl Scout activities. Other adults work as volunteer trainers or as staff at the national and council levels.

## Elliott Wildlife Values Project (EWVP)



*Linking Girls to the Land* is a very important component of the Elliott Wildlife Values Project at Girl Scouts of the USA. The EWVP develops GSUSA's national environmental program, collaborations, and initiatives. The EWVP is funded by the Herford N. Elliott Trust Fund, established in 1977. Some EWVP projects are provided additional funding through in-kind and financial support of EWVP partners.

### **EWVP activities provide Girl Scouts the opportunity to:**

- Learn the importance of wildlife, nature, and the environment.
- Have hands-on field experiences.
- Practice science and stewardship skills.
- Investigate careers.
- Do community service activities that benefit the environment and Earth's resources.

These goals are achieved by working directly with girls, Girl Scout council volunteers, and outside partners. The EWVP publishes print, electronic, and audiovisual materials, sponsors workshops, provides grants to councils, offers travel adventures, and collaborates with organizations and agencies that encourage girls to develop lifelong commitments to conservation.

### **Recent Opportunities**

- **EarthPACT (Plant and Animal Conservation Team):** These grants support activities that benefit native wildlife and plants through partnerships between Girl Scout councils and nature-related organizations, educational institutions, businesses, or municipal government. Examples of projects: habitat restoration, container gardening with residents at geriatric facilities, and landscaping with drought-resistant plants. Career exploration or mentorship is included.
- **Elliott Wildlife Bird Conservation Sites:** This program awarded grants to councils so they could use their property to provide long-term bird conservation opportunities for girls. Natural areas to support native or neo-tropical bird populations were developed in collaboration with an environmental organization or business.



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- ***From Sidewalks to Treetops/Del suelo al cielo:*** A program that trains adults to conduct nature, wildlife, and environmental education activities in their own neighborhoods—even if they live in a city. With materials provided in English and Spanish, a closed-captioned video, and ideas for adapting activities for different audiences, *From Sidewalks to Treetops* meets the needs of girls and adults with disabilities, Spanish-speakers, and those from underserved urban or rural areas. The *Del suelo al cielo* Grants offered in 2004 gave councils a tool for recruiting Latino adults as episodic or long-term volunteers and encouraged Latinas to champion the conservation of wildlife in their own communities.
- ***Linking Girls to the Land (LGTTL)*** [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls)  
An interagency partnership between GSUSA and federal natural resource conservation agencies, as well as other associated organizations, *LGTTL* encourages Girl Scouts across the country to become involved in conservation and natural resources issues through partnerships with federal agencies on national and local levels. It offers funding, STUDIO 2B<sub>SM</sub> *destinations*, awards, workshops, environmental education, volunteer service, outdoor skills development, and career exploration.



## Collaborations

- Forces of Nature (National Geographic Society): [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- Girls for Planet Earth (Wildlife Conservation Society): [www.teens4planetearth.com/girls](http://www.teens4planetearth.com/girls)
- Great American Backyard Campout and *Ranger Rick* magazine (National Wildlife Federation): [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)
- Great Backyard Bird Count (National Audubon Society): [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)
- *Linking Girls to the Land*: [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls)
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Center for Wildlife Stewardship, Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics
  - National Environmental Education & Training Foundation
  - National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

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- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  - National Park Service
  - National Parks Conservation Service
  - Take Pride in America
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U.S. Forest Service
  - U.S. Geological Survey
  - U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Gardening Month (National Gardening Association): [www.garden.org](http://www.garden.org)
  - National Public Lands Day (National Environmental and Training Foundation): [www.npld.org/about/partners/girl\\_scouts.cfm](http://www.npld.org/about/partners/girl_scouts.cfm)
  - National Trails Day (American Hiking Society): [www.americanhiking.com](http://www.americanhiking.com)
  - Whale Rider (Pacific Islanders in Communications): [www.piccom.org/whalerider](http://www.piccom.org/whalerider)
  - World Water Monitoring Day (America’s Clean Water Foundation): [www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org)
  - Wyoming’s Wildlife Wonders STUDIO 2B *destination* (Teton Science Schools): [www.tetonscience.org](http://www.tetonscience.org)

## Print and Electronic Resources

### Girl Resources

- *Fun and Easy Activities—Nature and Science*, 1996 (English/Spanish; for ages 6–11)
- Green Scene: [www.studio2b.org/escape/greenscene](http://www.studio2b.org/escape/greenscene)
- *Makin’ Waves*, STUDIO 2B Focus book, 2004
- *Parks Matter*, STUDIO 2B Focus book, 2004
- *STUDIO 2B Collection 11–13*, 2002
  - “A Case for the Environment” p. 76
  - “Buffy the Pollution Slayer?” p.78
- *STUDIO 2B Collection 13–15*, 2002
  - “Steppin’ Out for Change,” p. 88
- *STUDIO 2B Collection 15–17*, 200




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- “Mending the Cracks with Gold,” p. 68

## Adult Resources

- *From Sidewalks to Treetops: The Amateur’s Guide to Exploring Nature in Your Neighborhood*, 2003 (video and booklet; closed-captioned; English and Spanish versions)
- *Fun and Easy Nature & Science Investigations*, 2002 (English and Spanish versions)
- *Linking Girls to the Land Resource Guide* (Electronic version)
- *Linking Girls to the Land* (video, 2002 (11-minute tape and 90-second clip; closed captioned)
- *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting*, 1996
- *Water Drop Patch Project* (booklet)



## For More Information About the Elliott Wildlife Values Project

Visit [www.girlscouts.org/program/program\\_opportunities/environment/elliott\\_wildlife.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/program_opportunities/environment/elliott_wildlife.asp)

### Contact:

María Cabán or Jodi Stewart, Outdoor Program Specialists

Elliott Wildlife Values Project/Girl Scouts of the USA

212-852-8000 Phone

212-852-6515 Fax

[wildlife@girlscouts.org](mailto:wildlife@girlscouts.org)

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## Girl Scout Program Resources

The following Girl Scout publications contain activities related to *Linking Girls to the Land*. Many of these publications also include resource information and suggested reading lists. Many can be purchased from local Girl Scout councils or found online at <http://shop.girlscouts.org/> and [www.girlscouts.org/program/gscentral/insignia/](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gscentral/insignia/). You can also order resources by calling a Girl Scout Merchandise customer service representative at 800-221-6707.

### Daisy Girl Scouts

- *Daisy Girl Scout Activity Book*, 2000 (English and Spanish versions)
  - Daisy Girl Scouts Have Feelings, Thoughts, and Dreams, p. 6
  - Life Takes Shape, p. 32
  - Move with Me, p. 34
  - Nature in Action, p. 24
  - Sound Sense, p. 36
- *The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders*, 2000 (English and Spanish versions)
  - Community Helpers, p. 79
  - Mini-Garden, p. 73
  - My Community Album, p. 67

### Brownie Girl Scouts

- *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*, 2000
  - Animals, p. 86
  - Careers, p. 22
  - Citizen Near and Far, p. 148
  - Earth and Sky, p. 94
  - Earth Is Our Home, p. 98
  - Eco-Explorer, p. 102
  - Her Story, p. 106
  - Math Fun, p. 108
  - Movers, p. 110

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- *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*, 2000  
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- *Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, 2000 (English and Spanish versions)  
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### **Junior Girl Scouts**

- *Junior Girl Scout Badge Book*, 2001  
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[www.girlscouts.org/program/gs\\_central/insignia/online/junior/ready\\_for\\_tomorrow.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/online/junior/ready_for_tomorrow.asp)

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- *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*, 2001
  - Chapter 3: It's Great to Be a Girl, p. 40
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  - Chapter 10: Junior Girl Scout Awards, p. 189
- *Junior Girl Scout Leader Guide Book*, 2001
  - Explore and Discover, p. 49
  - It's Great to Be a Girl, p. 42
  - Let's Get Outdoors, p. 46

### **Girl Scouts Ages 11–17**

- *Cadette Girl Scout Handbook*, 1995
  - Chapter 2: Wider Opportunities
  - Chapter 6: Exploring New Interest and Activities
  - Chapter 7: Recognitions for Cadette Girl Scouts
- *Interest Projects for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts*, 1997
  - All About Birds, p. 50
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- Online Interest Project Patches, 2005:
    - [http://www.studio2b.org/lounge/gs\\_stuff/](http://www.studio2b.org/lounge/gs_stuff/)
    - [http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs\\_central/insignia/online/](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/online/)
    - B Xtremel: [http://www.studio2b.org/lounge/gs\\_stuff/ip\\_b\\_xtreme.asp](http://www.studio2b.org/lounge/gs_stuff/ip_b_xtreme.asp)
    - Hi-Tech Hide & Seek: [http://www.studio2b.org/lounge/gs\\_stuff/ip\\_tech.asp](http://www.studio2b.org/lounge/gs_stuff/ip_tech.asp)
    - Uncovering the Evidence: [http://www.studio2b.org/lounge/gs\\_stuff/ip\\_evidence.asp](http://www.studio2b.org/lounge/gs_stuff/ip_evidence.asp)
  - *Resource Book for Senior Girl Scouts*, 1995
    - Outdoor Recreation, p. 130
    - Sample Service Projects, p. 139
    - Taking Action, p. 22
    - Chapter 6: Recognitions and Wider Opportunities, p. 141
  - *Studio 2B Collections 11–13*, 2002
    - “A Case for the Environment,” p. 76
    - “Buffy the Pollution Slayer?” p. 78
  - *Studio 2B Collections 13–15*, 2002
    - “Steppin’ Out for Change,” p. 88
  - *Studio 2B Collections 15–17*, 2002

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“Mending the Cracks with Gold,” p. 68

- STUDIO 2B Focus books:

*Parks Matter*, 2004

*Makin' Waves*, 2004

### **Other Girl Scout Books and Resources**

- *From Sidewalks to Treetops: The Amateur's Guide to Exploring Nature in Your Neighborhood*, 2003  
(video and booklet in English and Spanish)
- *Fun and Easy Activities: Nature and Science*, 1996 (Bilingual, English/Spanish)
- *Fun and Easy Nature & Science Investigations*, 2002 (English and Spanish versions)
- *Get with the Land Patch*, 2005:  
[http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs\\_central/insignia/online/participation\\_patches/getwithland/](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/online/participation_patches/getwithland/)
- *Linking Girls to the Land Resource Guide*, 2006
- *Linking Girls to the Land Video*, 2002
- *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting*, 1996 (11-minute tape and 90-second clip; closed-captioned)
- *Water Drop Patch Project* (booklet)  
[http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs\\_central/insignia/online/participation\\_patches/water\\_drop/](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/online/participation_patches/water_drop/)

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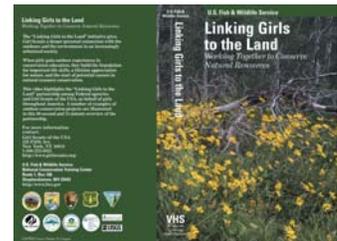
## 55 *Linking Girls to the Land* Resources

***Linking Girls to the Land* Website**—visit [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls) for:

- The latest news about *Linking Girls to the Land*
- Additional ideas for environmental awareness programs
- An overview of the partnership
- Highlights of national projects and opportunities, Girl Scout council projects, national conservation events, as well as methods for partnering with federal natural resource agencies and Girl Scouts.
- A downloadable version of this resource guide
- Examples of partnering projects
- GSUSA program links
- Summaries of each *Linking Girls to the Land* partner agency and organization and current information

### ***Linking Girls to the Land* Video and DVD**

Through an in-kind collaboration with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal natural resource agencies, an 11-minute promotional video was produced in 2002. A DVD is now also available. This video demonstrates some of the



benefits and forms that partnerships between Girl Scout councils and federal natural resource agencies can take. It also illustrates the importance of multi-agency partnerships to provide needed conservation and environmental education opportunities for participants from more diverse audiences and underrepresented areas to ensure Girl Scouting for *Every Girl, Everywhere*. The video is in English and is closed-captioned. To view the video or DVD, please contact your local Girl Scout council at 800-GSUSA 4 U or [www.girlscouts.org/councilfinder](http://www.girlscouts.org/councilfinder). To order additional copies of the video or DVD, contact Video Transfer, 5800 Arundel Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852, attention: Maria Spottswood, or call 301-881-0270. The maximum cost per video tape is \$12.00 and the DVD is \$12.50 plus shipping. Reduced pricing can be arranged for bulk orders.

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### **LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND**

### ***Linking Girls to the Land Certificate***

Would you like to recognize the work related to environmental education, volunteer conservation service work, or outdoor skills development that Girl Scouts (girls and adults) have done in collaboration with a federal or state agency through the *Linking Girls to the Land* partnership? Girl Scout council volunteers, staff, and partner representatives can download this certificate in PDF format from the LGTTTL website at [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls). The certificate is a fill-in formatted document. Just type the recipient's name and the date right on the certificate. Click in the space below the line in the left corner to add the issuer's name and affiliation, print, and sign.



### **Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE)**

More than 30 federal agencies formed a working group in 1997 to make hundreds of federally supported teaching and learning resources easier to find. The result of that work is the website [www.ed.gov/free/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/free/index.html). Each topic area (Science, Social Studies, etc.) is further broken down into subtopics (there are 20 subtopics within the science category alone). Each topic and subtopic is connected to numerous online educational resources.

### **Website Resources for Environmental Education**

A useful list compiled by the USFWS, National Conservation Training Center's Division of Education Outreach: <http://library.fws.gov>.

### **EPA Information Sources**

A Web page highlighting the EPA environmental education sources including hotlines and clearinghouses, dockets, employee directory, publications, libraries, and information centers, newsletters and lists servers, databases and software, and test methods and models: <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/resource.htm>.

### **EPA Education Resources**

A great Web page with environmental education resources geared to various audiences including: kids (pre-K to fourth grade), students (grades 5–8), high schools (grades 9–12), teachers (classroom and nontraditional educators), Office of Environmental Education, and researchers:

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/educational.htm>

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## **EENews@NAEE**

A biweekly e-mail bulletin provided by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAEE), with funding from the Environmental Education and Training Foundation Partnership (EETAP): <http://eelink.net/ee-news/> . To subscribe, send a blank e-mail to [ee-news-subscribe@naee.org](mailto:ee-news-subscribe@naee.org).

## **Information Exchange for Marine Educators**

A compilation of environmental programs, websites, grants, internships, conferences, workshops, educational resources, and initiatives sent via e-mail monthly. To subscribe, send a blank message to [requests@willamette.nos.noaa.gov](mailto:requests@willamette.nos.noaa.gov) with “subscribe info exchange” in the subject field. For more information, e-mail [Phyllis.dermer@noaa.gov](mailto:Phyllis.dermer@noaa.gov) or call 865-932-5074.

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