



Brownie | It's Your Planet-Love It! | Wonders of Water

Outcomes achieved: Girls gain practical life skills; Girls are resourceful problem solvers.

Materials needed: 2 large pieces of poster board, sticky putty or a glue stick, blue construction paper, scissors, smaller squares of poster board, markers.

Activity 1: By the Drop

Leader's guide: Session 1 (pgs. 42-49)

This is a learning exercise about water usage. Camp is an ideal setting for this, as the girls will be spending their days in an outdoor setting and their water usage will be noticeably different. Make 2 boards out of poster board, 1 for camp and 1 for home. Determine several categories of water usage. Bathing, dishwashing, hand washing, and laundry are some examples. It's best if you can choose activities that will be done at camp, but not necessary. Write them on one side of both boards and the girls' names on the other side of the board like a grid. (If you want to reuse the boards, have the girls write their names on small pieces of poster board and use sticky putty to make them removable). Do a little research beforehand to get yourself up-to-speed with water usage. Have each girl determine her water usage at home. She will cut out a drop size depending on her usage. (For example, hand-washing dishes uses less water than a dishwasher, baths use less water than showers, etc.) She can glue (or Velcro) her drops by her name as she goes through the list. Then facilitate a discussion among the girls to determine how those activities would differ if they were doing them at camp, and how it would save water. Have them make new drops for their names on the camp board so they can see the difference in water usage. Encourage them to think about how they can save water at home by using it like they do at camp.

Activity 2: Water Around the World

Leader's guide: Session 3 (pgs. 62-67)

This activity will enlighten girls about clean water in other parts of the world, and how difficult it is to get. If your camp is near a pond or natural source, that's best, but water from a hose will work, too. Have the girls fill a bucket with water and carry it around the unit to get it back to the unit house one at a time. They can take turns with the same bucket to save water. In many parts of the world, girls will carry the water on their heads so that they will spill less and to make it easier to carry. If the girls want to try it that way, have them roll a bandana and form it in a circle. Then, have the girls put the bandana on top of their heads to make a seat for the bucket to sit on. They can practice walking with the bucket to see if they can manage it with 2 hands, 1 hand or even no hands. Once they've got their buckets back to the unit house, they will have to filter the water through the cloth to remove debris, and boil it over a campfire to make it safe to use. While you're waiting for the water to boil, facilitate a conversation about how this differs from how they get water at home, and how it would change their lives if this was the only way they could get clean water.