



Ambassador Eco Advocate

Pillar: Outdoors

Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll have learned how to advocate for environmental issues concerning nature.

Girl Scout Ambassadors will earn their badge by:

1) Learn what Eco Advocates do. (Discover)

- a) Discover what an Eco Advocate is and what she does.
- b) Check out these Eco Advocates: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/female-activists-saving-planet>. Do you see someone who inspires you? Dig deeper! Research more about your chosen advocate and then research their platform/issue. Find out what you can do to be involved. What changes can you make that help create a solution to the issue?

2) Find an issue you are passionate about. (Discover, Connect)

- a) Watch this Girl Scout video to help get you started: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3E4IPQpu_8
- b) Choose your issue, continue to research, and gather as much information you can. Create your own field journal and make notes on important points in your research. Make sure you document where you find your facts so that you can revisit and/or share the source of your facts with others. The more you know about your issue, the more effective you will be!

3) Come up with a solution. (Connect)

- a) Connect to the issue and create a plan to solve the problem. Here is where you begin your field study! Communicate with those close to you to consider additional viewpoints and feasibility of what you would like to propose. Use all the data you collect both facts and personal notes, document what you will do, the detailed steps to take to put it into action, how and who you plan to have join you.
- b) Spend some time outdoors! Take hikes, bird watch, camp (even if it is in your backyard!), journal, take pictures, identify plants, animal tracks and/or insects. Do whatever moves you to connect with nature. Find inspiration in nature. Record your experiences in a field journal to find your own personal "why" in what you want to do. You can find trails near you by downloading the free *AllTrails* app or visiting <https://www.alltrails.com>. Having a personal connection to your issue will drive your passion to make a difference!



4) Advocate for your issue. (Take Action)

- a) Take Action by putting your solution into practice! Here is where you actually use and build your field study! Ask your family, troop members or a group of friends to commit to putting your plan into action for a month. This is your research team! Ask each person to document what they do, how they do it and how well it works or doesn't work in their life. Set up Zoom meetings and/or social distance meetings to have your team report out their successes and struggles. As team leader, be prepared to adjust your plan! It is a mark of a good leader to be able to see a plan, adjust a plan, take and use constructive criticism to improve a process or plan, and rally and support your team with positivity!
- b) Upon completion of your team's endeavor, work together to report out to a larger community your findings. Create a video or video series, slide show, series of social media posts, a website, a blog, and/or your own "How To" guide to share specifics on how someone else can become part of your solution.

5) Teach others how to advocate for your cause. (Take Action)

- a) Sustainability happens when you spread awareness and get others involved to do their part. Create a presentation based on your field study and the documentation of your team! Teach a wider audience about your issue, why it is important, and ask them to get involved!
- b) Encourage other Girl Scout troops to learn about your chosen issue and follow the plan you have created. Present your facts, findings, and plan to other troops via Zoom or social distance meetings. Get on the agenda of your local Service Unit meeting and ask leaders to encourage their troops to join in. Collect more data from your GS sisters! OR,
- c) Ask others in your community to follow the plan you and your team created. Have them join the conversation by adding to your research and sharing the good they are doing! Continue to enhance your plan with the new conversations you started!

When you're finished: Congratulations, you have earned your badge! You can purchase online at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/Ambassador-Eco-Advocate-Badge>.

Purchase your Girl Scout Virtual main patch and bars at <https://www.gsksmo.org/orderpatches>

