



Brownie Eco Friend Badge

Pillar: Outdoors

Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll have found new ways to protect our natural world and the living things in it.



Brownies will follow these steps to earn their badge:

1) Think of ways to help the outdoors (Discover)

- a) Brainstorm a list of ways you can care for the environment based on the Leave No Trace Seven Principles. Narrow down your list to the best ideas and create a way to educate others, through a poster, song, game, or video. Share your creation with your friends and family or Girl Scout troop, or ask an adult to help you share your creation through social media

2) Observe outdoor spaces (Discover)

- a) Use a digital camera or cell phone to photograph a variety of outdoor spaces. Take a wide landscape shot. Shoot upward through the branches of a tree. Take some extreme close-up pictures of flowers, leaves, or bark. Capture the sky reflected in a pond or puddle. Think about what plants and animals live in each space and how they interact with each other.

3) Build a safe campfire (Discover, Connect)

- a) Before you build a campfire, think about where you will build it. Established fire rings are the safest place but consider the area around you.
 - i) Look up – to make sure there are no overhanging branches.
 - ii) Look down – to make sure your fire ring is free of grass, leaves, or litter.
 - iii) Look all around – to make sure there is nothing nearby that a spark could catch.
 - iv) Look at yourself – Are you wearing anything that could hang down over the fire? If you have long hair, is it pulled back?
- b) Start with the end in mind. Talk with an adult about the things you'll need to extinguish your campfire and make sure you have them on hand before you start.
- c) Learn about the three things fire needs to burn, the three sizes of firewood, and the three-sided method that is easiest to light a fire. (Hint: it's an A-frame.) Make at least one style of fire-starter to help get your fire going. (Never use gasoline or lighter fluid!)
- d) With an adult, practice striking a wooden match, holding it for a second, and dropping it into a bucket of water. Once you're comfortable, you're ready to build and light your own campfire! Keep the fire small and manageable and put it out carefully when you're done.

Leave No Trace

Girl Scouts always leave a place better than they found it! As you earn this badge, keep the Leave No Trace Seven Principles in mind.

1. Know before you go
2. Choose the right path
3. Trash your trash
4. Leave what you find
5. Be careful with fire
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be kind to other visitors

Talk about this list with an adult and decide what each point means. For more information visit <https://lnt.org/>



4) Take care of wildlife (Discover, Connect, Take Action)

- a) Visit a local nature center or check out their website to learn about the wildlife native to your area. Talk with the staff or a ranger about what kinds of homes those animals build. What could threaten those animal homes? Brainstorm ways that using the Leave No Trace principles can help keep animals safe in their homes. Are there ways you can help create animal homes in your own back yard?
- b) Practice being kind (Discover, Connect, Take Action)
 - i) Think of ways that each of the Leave No Trace principles can demonstrate ways to be kind – to the earth, plants, animals, and people. Then take a hike – at a city park, a lake, a campsite, or a State or National Park, and practice turning those kind ideas into action. Tell a friend about your experience when you get home.

For inspiration, instructions, and ideas, check out our Brownie Eco Friend Pinterest Board.

<https://www.pinterest.com/gprograms/brownie-resources/badge-eco-friend/>

Part of your Leave No Trace work on requirements 1 and 5 can also count toward the Leave No Trace portion of the GSKSMO Outdoor Challenge Patch Program: <https://www.gsksmo.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsksmo/OtherDocuments/at-home/Leave-No-Trace1.pdf>

Part of your fire building work on requirement 3 can also count toward the Fire + Cooking portion of the GSKSMO Outdoor Challenge Patch Program: <https://www.gsksmo.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsksmo/OtherDocuments/at-home/Fires-Cooking1.pdf>

See our September Community Service in the Outdoors page for ideas of activities to complete for requirement 5: <https://gsksmo.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsksmo/OtherDocuments/virtual/Service-September.pdf>

When you're finished: Congratulations, you have earned your Brownie Eco Friend badge! You can purchase it by emailing shopdept@gsksmo.org or at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/Brownie-Eco-Friend-Badge>

Are you enjoying our Girl Scouts Virtual monthly programming? You can purchase the main patch for \$3.00: <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/GSKSMO-Virtual-Main-Patch> and the outdoor bar for \$2.00: <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/GSKSMO-Virtual-Bar-Outdoors> **Get the main patch and all nine bars for \$20.00** (each of the nine bars celebrate the month's theme) - <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/GSKSMO-Virtual-All-Patch>

