

A Weekend of Service

Making the world a better place



3055



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May 17-19, 2019



A Message from Robin Kelley, Leader of Troop 3055:

Everyone in our troop here in beautiful Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, enjoys the many activities we do each year, especially the outdoor activities. We value nature and the beauty of the outdoors and it is a lot more enjoyable when there isn't garbage everywhere. This is why, on November 3rd, 2018, our troop decided to participate in an Adopt-a-Highway program. We knew that this service project would make a difference and once we got out there, we couldn't believe the trash we found! In my group alone, we found lots of cans and plastic bottles, and even an old fishing pole and a tire.

Unfortunately, our activity ended tragically when a driver crossed the centerline and went in the ditch at full speed killing three of our Girl Scout members, one being my daughter. We lost one adult helper who was the mother of one of the girls we lost. One girl, an older sister of one of my troop members, was seriously injured and survived miraculously. She continues to amaze everyone with her recovery every day.

We are devastated but know that one of the best ways Girl Scouts across the nation can honor these four beautiful people that we lost, is to continue the work we began. All service projects that help our environment are so important because this is our earth to take care of and you can make a difference! Help us honor the memory of those we lost by continuing their work and thank you for all that you do in Girl Scouts.

A History of Environmental Stewardship

Our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, was a famous lover of nature. She sought opportunities for girls to explore, learn, care for and make a difference in the outdoors at a time when many expected girls to sit still indoors and stay clean! Today, Girl Scouts honors her [legacy](#) by promoting respect and love of the great outdoors from river and lakes to prairies and forests.

Through Girl Scouting, girls come to see the earth as their home. Whether they're learning about endangered wildlife, developing creative recycling projects, or working toward a grade-level award, girls focus on care, conservation, and responsibility to make the world a better place. Their efforts make sure the beauty and wonder of our planet endure for future generations to enjoy.

At Girl Scouts, we inspire girls to develop a lasting commitment to the environment. Our [Outdoor Journey](#) and new series of [Environmental Stewardship badges](#) encourage girls to get outside to learn, explore, and enjoy the beauty around them. Fun, safe activities ranging from backyard camping to high adventures like eco-trekking and geocaching help girls build essential outdoor skills and inspire them to become environmental stewards.

To receive your Weekend of Service patch, work with your troop or group to plan and implement an environmentally-focused service project on or around May 17 – 19, 2019. We encourage you to use the ideas listed and the timeline provided for inspiration as your girls select a project that sparks their passion. Make sure to complete the survey at gsnw.gl/serviceweekendsurvey before June 15, 2019 to receive your patches.

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How to complete your Weekend of Service activity and receive your patch

4 – 6 weeks prior

Girl Scouts start planning their project. This is the research and discovery phase. Use some of our ideas below or encourage the girls to come up with their own!

2 – 4 weeks prior

Gather or purchase any necessary supplies. Will you need gardening tools, bird seed, or a special permit? Be sure to receive permission when planning projects in public or private places and always refer to the safety activity checkpoints for best practices and safe work.

Have girls assign tasks to themselves and volunteers and be sure everyone knows what their expectations are.

1 week prior

Invite local media outlets to cover your upcoming Weekend of Service activity. For assistance in contacting media, you may reach out to our communications team!

Check in with your volunteers one final time to make sure your day of event runs smoothly.

Day of

Work hard and be proud of what you're doing! Take photos, interview community members, and above all, have fun!

Post event

Get your patches! Complete one of the following surveys before June 15:

- Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes members can find the survey at this link. You will then receive your patch from your local membership staff member.
- Non-GSNWGL Members: Order a patch *here* (*link forthcoming*).

Remember to thank any experts or volunteers who's help you've enlisted along the way.

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Project Ideas

Need some inspiration? We've compiled some ideas to get you started. Remember, girls should be involved in the selection of the project, as well as with any research that comes along with it. Bring an expert to a troop meeting for the girls to interview, take them to potential sites for observation, or help them with internet research. Staying true to the girl-led aspect of Girl Scout programming, their Weekend of Service project should involve more than having girls show up and take direction from adults. Cultivate their leadership through active participation in all aspects from planning to execution!

- Have you seen birds, bees, or other animals looking for homes? Find out how to make shelters for animals and place them appropriately.
- Are you noticing that there aren't many places for birds to get food in your area? Make bird feeds for an elderly facility, a local park, or other community place.
- Are some of your local lakes or rivers looking a bit polluted? Adopt a stream or lake! Find a section of the shore that you can clean up.
- Did you know that bread is bad for ducks and geese? Feed the ducks something that is good for them! Bring your local water fowl a nice snack such as lettuce, corn, oats, or other duck-friendly treats.
- Is your neighborhood looking a little messy after the spring thaw? Start spring cleaning with a clean up walk-about!
- Visit a local nature center or wildlife rehabilitation facility to learn more about what they do and collaborate on a service project with them.
- Do any of your local parks, libraries, or schools look a bit dull? Work with your local municipality to plant flowers and trees to beautify their natural areas.
- Paint over graffiti in public places with permission from businesses or local municipalities.
- Create an outdoor inspired mural in your community.
- Clean up a trail at a local park or camp. Clear the brush away and pick up trash to make it easier for your community to enjoy the outdoors.
- Are there a lot of butterflies in your community with no place to go? Plant a butterfly garden at your school or local park.
- Did you know there are certain plants that are not natural to your area? These are called invasive species, and people are working to try to rid their areas of these plants that are taking over the natural plants of the area. Work with a ranger to clear an area of a county or state park of invasive species.
- Are there elderly or disabled people in your neighborhood who are unable to do basic yard work? Help them out by cleaning their yards. You can help rake up old leaves and grass, weed gardens, or plant flowers.