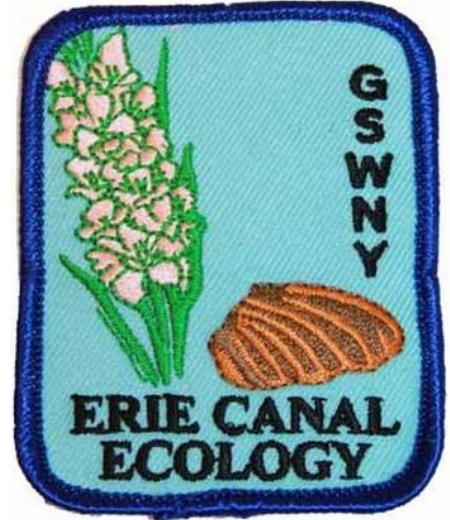




## Erie Canal

## Ecology



Juniors/Cadette/Senior/Ambassador: Complete 7 requirements, including #1

1. Find out about three exotic species that have been introduced into the Erie Canal. Find out where they came from, how they were introduced, and why they were able to thrive. Be able to identify the species in a color photograph.
2. Find out what the terms “exotic” and “indigenous” mean. Learn to identify at least 5 indigenous species to the NYS waterways by their color, size and shape.
3. Find out about any health advisories regarding the eating of fish coming from New York State waters.
4. Create a game or puzzle that will help other Girl Scout learn about indigenous and exotic species in the New York waterways.
5. On a map of New York State, draw the Erie Canal and any connected waterways. Why is the canal called the “Super Highway of Invasive Species”?
6. What kinds of fish would you expect to find in the canal today?
7. What kinds of birds would you expect to find along the canal?
8. Learn about at least three different careers in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
9. Using the internet, find out about any endangered species of fish in New York State.
10. List three ways that homeowners in New York have introduced exotic species into the ecology of the state.
11. Look at brochures from the state and federal governments about exotic species and make a list of the ways they can harm the environment.

12. The Erie Canal cut through farmlands, forests, and marshes. Brainstorm some ways that the canal may have impacted the environment at the time it was built and how it impacts our environment today.
13. Take a hike, boat ride, or a bicycle ride along a section of the Erie Canal and record your observations of the plants and animals that you see.

Resources:

Invasive species: <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/library/fact-eriecanintro.pdf>

Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor: <https://eriecanalway.org/learn/nature-science>

Erie Canal Plants & Wildlife: <https://eriecanalway.org/learn/nature-science/plants>

Erie Canal Geology: <https://eriecanalway.org/learn/nature-science/geology>

Encyclopedia Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Erie-Canal>  
<http://eriecanal.org/>

A Hundred Miles on the Erie Canal:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2009/10/a-hundred-miles-on-the-erie-canal/307656/>

Erie Canal - Water Quality: <https://eriecanalway.org/learn/nature-science/water-quality>

Nature Preserves: <https://eriecanalway.org/explore/plan-your-visit/category/nature-preserves-and-parks>

NYS Endangered Fish & Wildlife: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html>

Invasive Species in New York Waterways: <https://seagrant.sunysb.edu/ais/pdfs/AIS-LErieOnt.pdf>

Canals and Invasive Species: <https://usfwsnortheast.wordpress.com/2016/02/24/super-highways-for-invasive-species/>

Interactive Erie Canal Trail Map: <https://www.ptny.org/cycle-the-erie-canal/trail-map>

Careers: <https://www.fws.gov/international/careers.html>