

GSWNY 2023 Earth Day Challenge! ♥ Be a Planet Protector!

Our Girl Scout Promise and Laws asks us to *use resources wisely*. During the month of April, learn about and become a stronger protector of our Earth. Earn the [Earth Day](#) patch by trying at least one activity from each section below:

♥ Protecting our watersheds:

A watershed is an area of land that drains rain water or snow into a body of water like a stream, river, or lake. They are our source for our drinking water, water for growing food, and even for having fun like swimming or kayaking. Here are some ways to keep our watersheds clean:

- Make a list of ideas of ways to conserve water with your family, such as taking shorter showers.
- Cut back on the amount of detergent used for washing clothes or cars.
- Spread the word about not putting waste down storm drains.



♥ Protecting our air:

Air pollution is caused by solid and liquid particles and certain gases that are suspended in the air. These particles and gases, called aerosols, can come from many sources including cars and truck exhaust, fires, and household chemical sprays.

- Use safer [homemade cleaners](#) like vinegar or baking soda for cleaning.
- Stop unnecessary outdoor fires such as burning garbage.
- Grow [houseplants to improve indoor air](#) or plant trees and shrubs outside to boost air quality.

♥ Protecting our topsoil:

Did you know that 95% of food production relies on the soil and that, while healthy topsoil is vital to life on our planet, we are losing topsoil at an alarming rate that is almost 40 times faster than it's formed?

Here are some ideas for protecting Earth's topsoil:

- Learn about and try [composting](#). Make a list of items that can be composted and hang it where everyone at home can see it.
- Native plants can slow down [erosion](#), when topsoil is washed or blown away. Plant roots hold soil in place and protect it. Look for examples of how plants are used to prevent erosion on roadways.
- Speak up for soil! As you learn more about the depletion of our topsoil you can educate others too!

♥ Protecting our pollinators:

As [pollinators](#) move from plant to plant looking for pollen and nectar to eat, they move pollen from plant to plant, fertilizing plants so that they will produce fruit, berries and other foods that we need to live and grow. Pollinators are in danger from loss of their habitats (homes), invasive species, and the use of pesticides. Here are some ideas to help you protect our pollinators:

- Learn more about our local pollinators by reading about and observing them. Learn their names and create a poster or booklet about the pollinators where you live.
- Learn about and educate your friends and family about the danger to pollinators when using chemicals on our lawns. You can make a video, poster, pamphlet, or tell a story.

Get your 2023 GSWNY Earth Day patch!

The patch will be available for purchase in our GSWNY Council Shops. Visit gswny.org/shop to see locations and hours, or use the contact info below to reach out directly.

Buffalo: Shop.Buffalo@gswny.org 716.935.6035 Jamestown: Shop.Jamestown@gswny.org 716.935.6040

Lockport: Shop.Lockport@gswny.org 716.935.6080 Rochester: Shop.Rochester@gswny.org 585.239.7910