

Water Conservation Patch: Utilizing Existing Infrastructures for Water Conservation



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Introduction

The Water Conservation Patch (WCP) provides Girl Scouts with an opportunity to learn about and engage in water conservation activities.

How the Water Conservation Patch Works

The WCP consists of two steps. First, girls are given a list of behaviors that may provide opportunities for water conservation and are asked to observe themselves and family members to determine if they engage in these activities. This step helps them to become aware of ways that they could easily be more water efficient. In the second step, girls choose one or more ways that they could conserve water. The number of activities chosen to earn the patch depends on their Girl Scout level (determined by age and school grade). The girls then conduct one or more selected activities and/or implement a technological retrofit as indicated on the Step 2 form. When the girls complete their patch activities, their troop leader mails the completed Step 1 and Step 2 forms to the WSP program coordinator who then mails the physical patches to the troop leader who awards them to the girls. The program was developed in consultation with Karen Cunha, Girl Scouts–Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Inc., Program Specialist, Girl Program.

Two steps to your
Water Conservation Patch

Step 1: Observe!
Become aware of things that you and your family are doing that can provide opportunities for water conservation. Observe yourself and family members over one or two days to see which of the Step 1 things you now do.

Step 2: Take action!
Choose things you can change and then take action! Depending on your Girl Scout level, select one or more of the Step 2 water conservation activities for you or a family member to do. See additional instructions on the Step 2 form.

Here are the number of Step 2 actions you should take for your Girl Scout level:

- Daisy - Complete 1 action
- Brownie - Complete 2 actions
- Junior and Cadette - Complete 3 actions
- Senior and Ambassador - Complete 4 actions and change a faucet aerator or showerhead or check your water bill. (Seniors and Ambassadors, contact Nancy Crocker for instructions.)

Then, earn your Water Conservation Patch by completing the forms.
Mail the completed pages (Step 1 and Step 2 forms) to Nancy Crocker at 4341 E. Broadway Road, Arizona Cooperative Extension, Phoenix, AZ 85040. If you would like help with this project, we would like to help you! To get help, contact Nancy Crocker at 602-827-8200 ext. 335 or NCrocker@caes.arizona.edu.



Figure 2. Girl Scouts enjoy activities that contribute to their community.

Water Conservation Patch Step 1

Conserving water is important because we live in a desert. Step 1 is to become aware of things that you and your family are doing that can provide opportunities for water conservation. Observe yourself and family members over one or two days to see which of the following things you do. Step 2 is to choose things you can change. Send these completed pages to Nancy Crocker at 4341 E. Broadway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85040.

Name _____ Girl Scout Level _____
Troop Leader Phone # or E-Mail _____ Troop # _____

Do you or a family member do any of the following?	Me	Family Member
1. Let water run while brushing teeth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Let water run when washing hands, but hands aren't under water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Take showers longer than 5 minutes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Rinse dishes before putting in dishwasher.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Use toilet as a trash can and flush trash.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Run dishwasher when it is not full.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Use clothes washer when not full without putting on small or medium.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Leave irrigation settings the same all year for outdoor plants and lawn.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Use hose to clean debris off sidewalks and driveway.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Let faucets drip.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Let toilets run or silently leak.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Let outdoor irrigation water where there are no plants or grass.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Let water run in the shower for a long time while waiting for hot water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Wash vegetables or fruit using excessive amount of water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Other things you have observed: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Water Conservation Patch Step 2

Depending on your Girl Scout level, select one or more of the following water conservation activities for you or a family member to do. If you pick from the **First Set**, do the activity for 7 days and check the days when you do the activity. You don't have to do 7 days in a row. If you pick from the **Second Set**, do the activity once.

First Set:

- Don't let water run when brushing teeth.
Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7
- Don't let water run when washing hands and hands aren't under water.
Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7
- Take shorter showers - 5 minutes or less.
Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7
- Don't use the toilet to throw away trash.
Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7
- Scrape food off plates before loading in dishwasher rather than rinsing off.
Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7
- Run the dishwasher only when full.
Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7
- Run the clothes washer only when full, or if not full, select small or medium setting.
Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7
- Collect water wasted in shower while water is warming and use to water plants.
Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7
- When washing vegetables or fruit, reuse water in a bowl or use water for outdoor plants.
Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7

Second Set: Done

- Change irrigation settings so that lawns and/or plants are watered appropriately for the season.
- Sweep debris from sidewalks instead of using hose.
- Check faucets and toilet for leaks and repair if needed.
- Fix outdoor irrigation so that only lawn and/or plants receive water.

How Can Outreach be more Effective?

The Water Conservation Patch is a project of The University of Arizona's Arizona Project WET, Water Sustainability Program and the Arizona Cooperative Extension, Maricopa County. It is an example of how outreach and education efforts can multiply their effectiveness and extent by partnering with existing organizations and networks. The Girl Scouts develop leadership skills in girls through the efforts of volunteer Troop Leaders who engage and guide girls in community settings. By providing the Girl Scouts with a simple water conservation project, many girls and their families can be reached.

Figure 1. The Water Conservation Patch consists of three documents with easy to follow instructions.

