



# Gardening Fun

**“A garden is a friend you can visit anytime.” – Anonymous**

Gardening is a wonderful way to connect with nature and your community. Whether planting a large outdoor garden or a small indoor windowsill garden, you are enriching your world to make it a better place.

Did you know that Girl Scouts have been gardening throughout our history? Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low valued the outdoors and loved playing in her garden as a child. Girl Scouts have earned gardening badges since 1918 and have assisted their community when needed. During World War I, Girl Scouts grew victory gardens to help provide food for those less fortunate. During World War II, Girl Scouts once again stepped in to help the war effort on the homefront.

Gardening connects us to nature and allows us to follow the Girl Scout Promise and Law to use resources wisely. Growing gardens not only adds beauty but can be helpful to wildlife.

How to earn the Garden Fun patch the Girl Scout way:

## Steps:

1. **Discover**—Learn how specific plants can be beneficial to your environment.
2. **Connect**—Plant a garden that will help your community.
3. **Take Action**—Share your gardening knowledge.

## Materials:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need a few things:

- resources (You can either go online with an adult, ask a professional, or visit your public library.)
- gardening supplies based on your selected activity (See Step # 2)
- notebook/pens to create a gardening resource booklet

## STEP

# 1 Learn more about gardens.

Gardens are an important part of your environment. Learn how beneficial different kinds of plants can be. You can either go online with an adult, talk to an expert, or visit your local library and learn more about the following topics.

1. A native plant is one that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, or habitat. What plants are native to Pennsylvania? How are invasive plants impacting native plants?
2. Most flowering plants depend on bees, butterflies, and other animals for pollination. What can you do to help increase helpful pollinators in a garden?

## STEP

# 2 Grow your garden.

Now that you have learned about the types of plants that are beneficial to the environment, it's time to plant a garden!

One of the most important ways you can help pollinators is by choosing plants that provide pollen and nectar. Decide on what type of plants to grow, where a good location would be, and how you can work to make sure the garden is maintained.

## STEP

# 3 Share your knowledge.

After learning about beneficial plants and planting your own garden, you can create a gardening resource booklet to share with others. You can include information about Pennsylvania native plants, the importance of pollinators, tips for planting in your region, and other useful information that would help people create their own garden. Share your resource with a community organization that can help you distribute your resource book.

## All done?

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Garden Fun patch.



After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at **800-248-3355** to purchase your patch.\* A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash, or tunic.

*\*Patch shown may be substituted with similar patch, based on availability.*