



# Use Resources Wisely

What's a natural resource? It's something we find in nature that can be used by people. Earth's resources include light, air, water, plants, animals, soil, stone, minerals, and fossil fuels. We need some of these resources to help us survive, and we need others to help us make our lives better.

Water is one of the most important natural resources. Our Earth is a water planet, and 3/4 of the planet is covered with this life-giving resource. So, you would think with all this water we would have a great supply, right? The answer is no—97% of the water on the planet is salty, so it is not drinkable. Only 3% of our planet's water is freshwater, and 2% of that water is frozen in the ice caps or glaciers. So, in reality, we only have 1% of freshwater available.

Another resource we often take for granted is sunlight. Although we cannot measure how much sunlight we use, we often do not notice the effect we have on it. We may not be able to affect the sun, but if we continue to pollute the environment, someday the nourishing rays of the sun may not be able to reach us anymore.

Finally, think about air. Without the oxygen we breathe, we would not be able to live. It's that simple. Contaminated air causes all kinds of health problems. Look at the smog in many of our cities—that's what many people breathe each day. According to scientists, this is the reason why asthma and other pulmonary or lung problems are more common these days.

For this patch, we're going to explore fun and creative ways that YOU can make a difference and help use our natural resources wisely.

How to earn the Use Resources Wisely patch the Girl Scout way:

## Steps:

1. Discover—Learn ways to use resources wisely.
2. Connect—Complete a recycled art activity.
3. Take Action—Share with others how they can use resources wisely.

## Materials Needed:

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

- Resources—You can either go online with an adult, ask a professional, or visit your public library.
- Recycled materials and other art supplies, like glue, markers, etc. for your recycled art project.



western pennsylvania

800-248-3355

gswpa.org

## Step 1

# Learn ways that YOU can use natural resources wisely.

1. Use your resources wisely to learn about natural resources! You can find books about natural resources or conservation at your local library, or with the help of an adult, visit kid-friendly websites to learn more about ways you can preserve natural resources.
2. Try out some ways to use resources wisely. See how many activities you can do!
  - **Daisies:** Find three ways to use water more wisely and two ways to reduce energy.
  - **Brownies:** Find five ways to use water more wisely and five ways to reduce energy.
  - **Juniors:** Find five ways to use water more wisely, five ways to reduce energy, and five ways to reduce pollution.
  - **Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors:** Find seven ways to use water more wisely, seven ways to reduce energy, seven ways to reduce pollution, and seven ways you can reuse materials in your home instead of sending them to the landfill.

## Step 2

# Create an art project using things you recycle to keep them from the landfill.

1. Research some recycling-based art projects, such as making something out of a toilet paper roll or turning a pickle jar or a pop bottle into something else. (Pinterest has great ideas.)
2. Gather materials for your project based on your research.
3. Create some fun recycled art!

## Step 3

# Find ways to share your new knowledge on how to use resources wisely with others.

Write down three ways you shared your knowledge of using resources wisely with others.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

All done?

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Use Resources Wisely 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.