



# Activity Guide for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

# Global Action Award

You probably already know that there are Girl Scouts® all over the United States. But did you know that your sisterhood stretches around the world too? Girl Scouts of the USA is part of the [World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts](#) (WAGGGS for short), which includes 10 million girls in 150 countries. And all of those girls in all of those countries are working to make the world a better place—just like you are!

Each year, Girl Scouts of all levels can earn the Girl Scout Global Action award. This award connects the WAGGGS sisterhood by helping girls work together to make a difference on issues that affect girls and women all over the world. It's an official national award, so you can wear it on the front of your vest or sash, just like a badge.

The Girl Scout Global Action award focuses on something called the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. In 2015, leaders from all over the world agreed to work together to accomplish 17 goals by 2030. The Global Goals for Sustainable Development, or SDGs for short, focus on things like taking care of the environment, making sure all people have enough to eat, and improving people's health. They're big goals, but Girl Scouts know a thing or two about changing the world!

## Learning About the Global Goals

If the global goals are new to you, start by teaming up with an adult to go online and learn about the SDGs at [www.globalgoals.org](http://www.globalgoals.org). You can also read a short booklet about the goals called [The World We Want: Guide to the Goals for Children and Young People](#), available for free at World's Largest Lesson.

Once you know what the goals are, you're ready to move on to the activities you can do to earn your Girl Scout Global Action award.

*Please note:* Girl Scouts of the USA understands that parents or guardians are the primary decision makers for their children and, as such, does not expect or require girls to participate in any activities relating to the Sustainable Development Goals that may be inconsistent with their family's faith and/or beliefs.



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015

# Earning Your Global Action Award

This year, the Girl Scout Global Action award is focused on SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG 15: Life on Land. Choose one activity from the Discover and Connect categories and then complete a Take Action™ project to earn your Global Action award. You only need to do one activity from each category to earn the award, but don't let that stop you—you can do as many as you'd like!

## Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Activities

# DISCOVER

Explore the issues related to Sustainable Development Goals 1: No Poverty and 15: Life on Land and how those issues impact you, your community, and the world. Complete one of the activities below to earn your Global Action award.

## Picture your future self.

How old will you be in the year 2030 when the Sustainable Development Goals must be achieved? What do you think you'll be doing? What do you think the world will be like then? Brainstorm ideas about the world you would like. Be sure to think about what you'd want for all people around the world and for the world's environment. How will people be treated? What will they be able to do? What will the planet look like? What will life be like for plants and animals on the earth?

Draw a picture to represent the world you imagine and your future self. Think about what needs to happen today to make that future a reality. With your Girl Scout friends, put all your pictures together. What does the world you imagine look like? What ideas did you come up with to make that picture come true?

## Think about food.

All people need to eat every day. But how often do we really think about our food choices or the way they affect the planet and other people on it? Every day we have the opportunity to make choices about our food and the world we want to live in.

Examine the way that your food choices impact the environment. Bring a type of food to share with your Girl Scout friends. It could be anything—a bag of chips, a fruit salad, a burrito, whatever you want. Try the foods that others bring and then investigate each food and answer the following questions:

- Were any of the ingredients wrapped in any kind of plastic? This could be cling film, plastic wrap, a carton, or a bag. Did you need a plastic to consume some of the food, like a spoon or straw? Count up how many pieces of plastic were used.



- How many items came from your own country? Check the packaging if you are not sure and think about the ingredients that went into making the item. Make educated guesses. If the fruit and vegetables you ate were not in season, then most likely they traveled from another country. If you ate meat or fish that isn't regularly raised or caught where you live, then it too will have traveled.
- How were the people who helped produce your food treated? Was your food produced by a large company? Find out if they have human rights, anti-discrimination, or equalities policies by checking their websites. Do you think that means they treat all their workers fairly? What do their policies say about gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or age? Check the website of the store or food market where your food was bought too.

Unfortunately, not everyone has the same access to food around the world or has the money to purchase food. In fact, one in ten people in the world lives on less than \$1.90 per day, which the World Bank defines as extreme poverty.<sup>1</sup> Extreme poverty, which affects families in every region of the world, means more than hunger; it means lack of options.

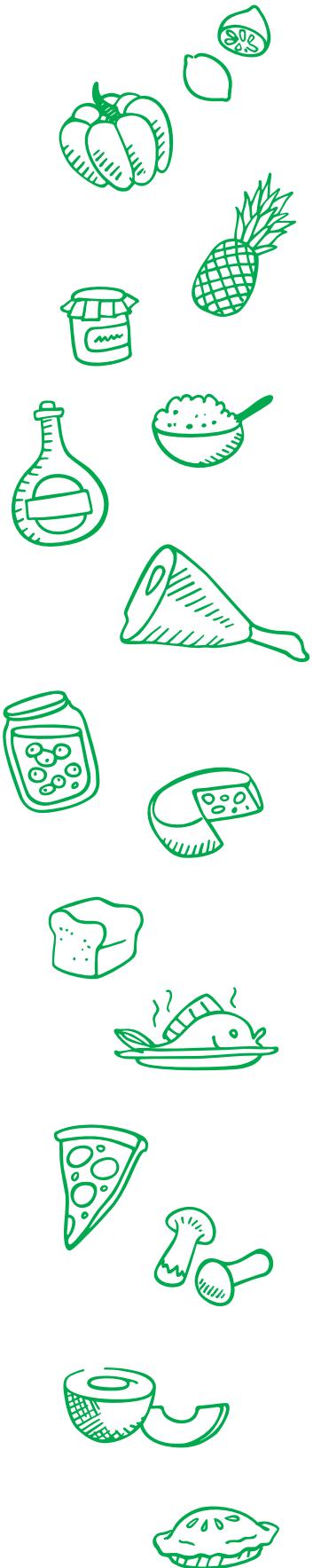
For the second half of this activity, you and your Girl Scout friends will make a meal for your friends and family for less than \$1.90 per serving. Then prepare your meal together and serve it to your guests. Over dinner, discuss what you learned:

- Was it easy or hard to come up with a meal to serve for less than \$1.90 per day? Were there things that you wanted to buy that you couldn't afford? What did that feel like? What would it be like if you had to come up with a whole day's worth of meals for less than \$1.90?
- Did you have enough to eat? If you had too much to eat, did you store leftovers for later or throw them away? What do you usually do?
- What are ways that poverty affects your community? How is that the same or different around the world? What are ways you can help?

*This activity comes from the Global Action Days toolkit, a resource for Girl Scout volunteers that features nine international days of action. For more activities like this, check out Global Poverty Day in the toolkit, available on Volunteer Toolkit or from your council.*

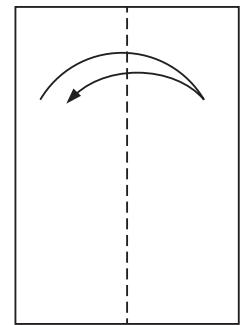
#### SOURCE

World Bank, Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016: Taking on Inequality, doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-0958-3. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO (Washington, DC: World Bank) <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>.

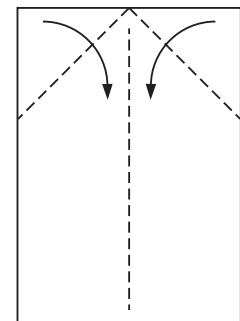


## Ideas take flight.

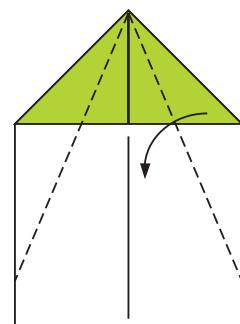
Read through the objectives for SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG 15: Life on Land. Then, using the instructions below, make a paper airplane. On one wing of the airplane, write down an idea for implementing one of the goals. For example, for Life on Land an idea might be to plant a tree in your yard or always carry a reusable water bottle. As a group, launch all your airplanes and try to catch a new airplane. When you catch one, read what is written on it and add to it. Try to add a new, creative, or unusual idea. Try to use your idea to incorporate the other goal as well. So for example, if someone wrote “carry a reusable water bottle” for Life on Land, you might add, “advocate for free drinking fountains around town where people can refill their water bottles and water is available to everyone” for Life on Land and No Poverty.



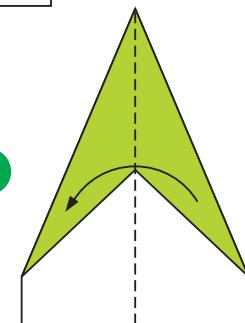
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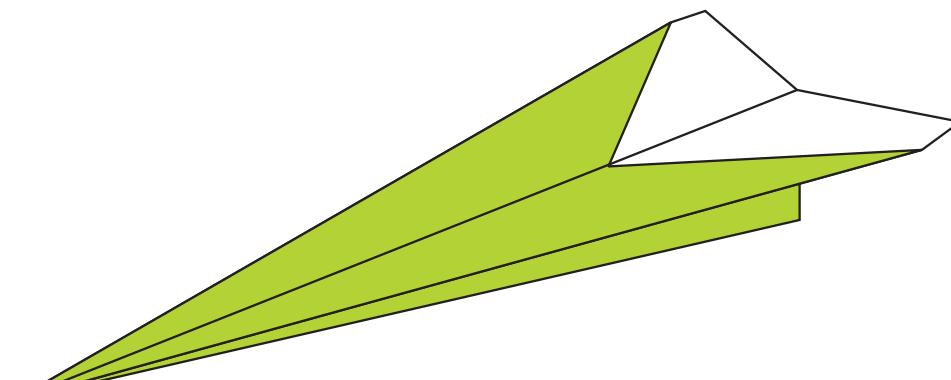
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# CONNECT

## Consider yourself, your community, your world

Think about the goals of SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG 15: Life on Land. For each goal, identify how this goal impacts you, your community, and the world. Start by answering the following questions and then sharing with your family or Girl Scout friends.

- What does this goal mean to you?
- How does it relate to your everyday life?
- What impact does this issue have on your future?
- How does this issue affect something you care about?

Now that you've discovered how these issues affect you, it's time to discover how they impact your community.

With your friends and a trusted adult, take a walk around your community—it could be your neighborhood, your school, or your whole city or town. Bring a notebook and write down any time you see issues related to poverty or your environment. For example, you might see litter along the side of the road. It's important to notice good things too, so be sure to write down if you see examples of people trying to address issues of poverty and the environment in your community, such as a Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) office or a sign in the park encouraging people to throw away their trash and pick up after their pets.

After your walk, refer to your notes to create a map of your community, indicating in red where people in your community can get help or services, like a fire station, school, food bank, hospital, or shelter. Use a green marker or pen to show where people and animals can access nature and open spaces, like a park, preserve, lake, or bike path. Feel free to add other things to your community map, even if you did not see them on your walk.

When you're finished, talk about what you observed on your walk and answer these questions:

- How are the issues of poverty and the environment impacting your community?
- How would you explain one of these issues to a friend?
- Who are the people or organizations who are addressing this issue in your community?
- What are they doing to make a difference?
- What still needs to be addressed?



Look at the map you've created. Are there any places where people don't have access to nature or access to help if they need it? Is that a problem? What is something you could do to add natural resources or services to those areas?

Then think about the bigger picture:

- Who else, outside your communities, is impacted by this issue?
- What are some countries affected by this issue?
- In what ways are these countries dealing with this issue?
- What are some organizations that are working on this issue on a global scale?
- How can you help?

## Partner up.

Find an organization in your community that is working on issues of poverty or the environment and contact them to set up a meeting. Prepare five questions that you want to ask them beforehand to get the most out of the experience. Be sure to ask about how environmental issues also affect people who have less money and the ways that young people can help or get involved. Make sure you share your thoughts and ideas as well!

## Find an issue you care about.

Take a look at the targets for SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG 15: Life on Land.

Choose one target that you think is the most important. Then partner up with someone who chose a different target. Tell them why you think yours is important and what you think can be done about it. Talk for three minutes. Your partner can only listen during this time. After three minutes, your partner must try to summarize what you said back to you. If they get it right, give them a high five! If they missed something, tell them what they missed and why it is important. Repeat until you can high five!

Then it's your partner's turn—they will share why they think their target is the most important and what can be done about it for three minutes. After three minutes, you try to summarize their position. If you get it right, high five! If not, your partner should explain what you missed and why it matters until you can high five.

Now you should know each other's issue really, really well. Brainstorm ways that you can combine forces. How can you address both issues together? Do you need to compromise? Is there an innovative solution you can think of? Brainstorm, then create a drawing, action plan, or other creative explanation of your idea and share it. You can share with your troop, friends or family, or with the Girl Scout community on Facebook or Instagram (with an adult's help and permission, of course).



**SDG 1 is divided into these seven target areas.**

# TAKE ACTION

Using what you've learned and the connections you've made, create a project that addresses the issues of poverty or life on land.

First, think back to the issues you learned about and the ways they affect your community. Find a need in your community and create a project to address it. Remember to incorporate what you are passionate about, like the arts, sports, health, policy, STEM, or anything else.

Here are three ways you can create a sustainable Take Action project:

## **Educate and inspire others.**

You could hold an event and invite a speaker, show a movie, discuss a book, or lead a discussion not only about the problem you've identified, but about possible solutions as well. Some examples might be: inviting a scientist to speak to your school, teaching a composting class to younger Girl Scouts, or making flyers (or a video or social media campaign) to encourage people to donate to the food pantry all year, not just at the holidays. Include a phone number or web address where people can sign up to volunteer.

## **Make your solution permanent.**

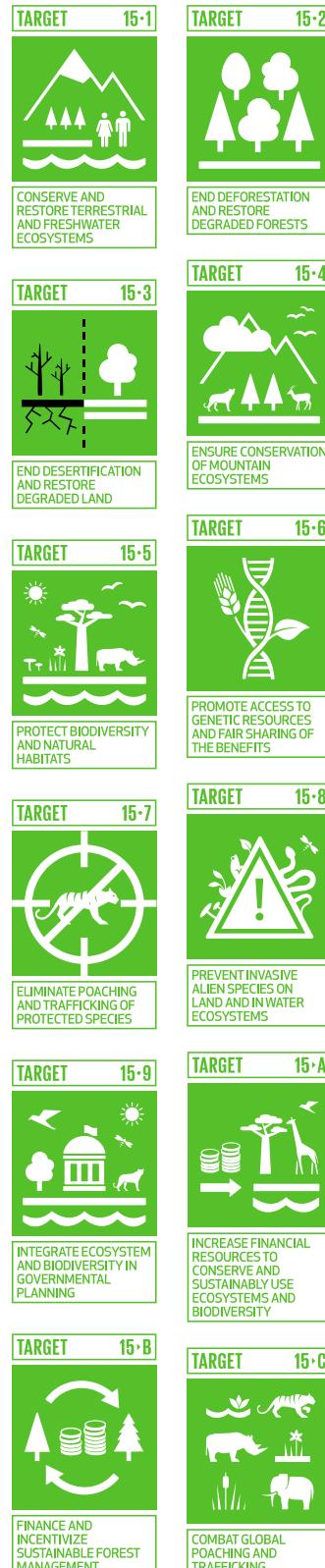
For example, you might work with your city to install “animal crossing” signs on a busy road to make drivers more aware. Or you might create a volunteer club at your school to work with local organizations that are addressing poverty in your community.

## **Advocate for change.**

Rally your community around your cause. Create a petition to address this issue in your community, get your neighbors, classmates, family, and friends to sign it. Raise the issue with leaders in your community and show them the support that's behind it. Talk to them about ways that they could change a policy or a law to support your issue. Find out what other people around the world have done for the Sustainable Development Goals by watching [these videos](#) from World's Largest Lesson.

Need more advice or inspiration? Use the [G.I.R.L. Agenda resources](#) to come up with more ways that you can step up, speak out, and take a stand to address issues of poverty and environmental protection.

Once you've completed your Take Action project, be sure to celebrate what you've done and share it with your Girl Scout community!



**SDG 15 is divided into these twelve target areas.**