



National Service Project: Tree Promise

April 2022

Troop Leader Instructions

Join in on our newest national service project to plant a tree and make an impact for your local community.

Planting trees is a great way to become a steward of the environment. Trees provide places for animals and birds to live, reduce pollutants, filter water, and combat climate change. Plus – you and your troop can be a part of the Girl Scout Tree Promise, an initiative to plant five million trees in five years.

Girl Scouts can make an enormous global impact by participating in this environmental and conservation initiative.

Tip: Before you get started, check out these helpful instructional videos.

Here's how you can take part:

1. Identify where you will plant a tree(s) and get permission to conduct a tree planting.
 - Planting in public or private; suburban, rural, or urban; one tree or many—it is important a space where the tree will thrive under your care.
 - If your troop is interested in planting a tree on a local community partner's property (e.g., school, house of worship), send an email inviting your community planting partner to participate.
2. Determine what type and size of tree is best for your location.
 - It is important to plant trees native to the environment that are also climate adaptive. Depending on the location, determine if it is better to plant a seedling, a sapling, or a more mature tree.
 - Consider the tree's height and shape, and the root space it will need as it grows to avoid future problems like growing into power lines overhead, roots being crowded out by sidewalks, and the needs of your neighbor.
 - Before you dig, visit [Call811.com](https://www.call811.com) to contact your state's utility information center. Your local utility company will mark any underground utility lines to avoid for free. We recommend taking this step two to three business days before you plant.

- Tip: If your Girl Scouts are old enough, engage them in researching the best types of trees to plant in your area.
3. Prepare to plant!
 - Determine when and how you will get your trees for planting.
 - Check out our suggestions to [find a tree near you](#).
 - Choose a date to plant that will set your tree up for success! Spring and fall are often the best times to plant.
 - Gather your supplies, including the necessary tools and water.
 - Develop a maintenance schedule for your trees to make sure they thrive! This should include frequent watering, as well as weeding, pruning, and fertilizing.
 - Tip: Watch our [How to Plant a Tree](#) video for some things to think about as you plan.
 2. Invite your community to join you!
 - Invite non-Girl Scout friends to join in on the fun of planting! Ask each member of your troop to invite a friend to be a part of the magic.
 - Team up with your local partners, including faith communities, to host a tree planting event. (Tip: Check out this [video](#) for more info.)
 4. Plant your trees!
 5. After your tree planting:
 - Report how many trees you planted on the [Girl Scout Tree Promise Tree Tracker](#) and get your national [Girl Scout Tree Promise patch](#).
 - Send a thank you note to your community planting partner. They would love to hear from you and see pictures from your event! See our thank you email template or send a handwritten note.

Here are a few additional resources to support your troop meeting & tree planting:

- Check out these [informative videos](#) to share with your troop.
- For more detailed information on the Girl Scout Tree Promise, including additional activities; information on tree maintenance and care; how tree plantings can connect to other badges, journeys, and awards; and more, check out the Girl Scout Tree Promise Toolkit.
- Or use these one-page resources:
 - Girl Scout Tree Promise Overview (an overview of the Girl Scout Tree Promise, including the impact planting trees has on our environment and communities)
 - Power of One Tree Handout
 - Tree Maintenance Schedule
 - Tree Promise Pledge
 - Tree Planting Guide

The Girl Scout Tree Promise was launched in partnership with Elliott Wildlife Values Project and American Forests.