



## Activity Guide for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

## World Thinking Day— Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors

**I**n Girl Scouts, you are part of a special group that stretches across the world. On February 22 of each year, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from 150 countries celebrate World Thinking Day. That's one big celebration! World Thinking Day is a way to celebrate with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world by doing the same activities around a shared theme.

The 2023 World Thinking Day theme is **“Our World, Our Peaceful Future: The environment, peace, and security.”**

To earn your World Thinking Day award, you will explore environmental problems and learn how you can work with nature to create a more peaceful and secure future for girls everywhere.

### World Thinking Day Award Activities

**There are five steps to earning your World Thinking Day award.**

1. Explore World Thinking Day.
2. Find out about environmental problems around the world.
3. Explore the environment's link to peace and security.
4. Investigate ways to protect communities and ecosystems.
5. Commit to a better future for the environment, peace, and security.

The first four steps have choices that will help you explore World Thinking Day and the connection of nature to peace and security. You'll find out why it's important to protect the environment during times of conflict and how it plays a role in peacemaking. In step five, you'll come up with a project to help you commit to a better future for the environment, peace, and security.

Let's get started!



## STEP 1: Explore World Thinking Day

Every year, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides celebrate February 22 as a day of international friendship called World Thinking Day.

It all started back in 1926 at a big gathering of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. During that meeting, they created Thinking Day to celebrate global sisterhood. They chose February 22 because it's the birthday of Robert Baden-Powell who founded the Girl Guides with his sister Agnes Baden-Powell. It is also the birthday of Robert's wife, Lady Olave Baden-Powell, World Chief Girl Guide.

Six years later, someone suggested that the birthday celebrations should have gifts. So, it was decided that all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides would give back to our Movement in honor of Thinking Day. In Girl Scouts, we support the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, which helps Girl Scouts and Girl Guides travel to meet up around the world.

In 1998, Thinking Day was renamed World Thinking Day to recognize our global sisterhood.

Every year Girl Scouts and Girl Guides explore a new World Thinking Day theme. This year the theme is **“Our World, Our Peaceful Future: The environment, peace, and security.”** You'll explore what we can learn from the environment and how we can work with nature to create a more peaceful and secure future for girls everywhere. You'll also examine how conflicts can damage the environment and the role the environment plays in peace and security.

As Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, we have been empowering women as leaders for over 100 years. You inspire others, care for the world around you, overcome gender barriers, and make positive changes.

### **Choice 1: Exercise your voice with rose, bud, and thorn.**

To experience global sisterhood, everyone needs to be included, respected, and heard.

Standing up for what you believe and speaking your truth requires brave actions and will set you on the path to leadership. That's part of your World Thinking Day journey.

“The more girls know who they are, the more they can believe in themselves, and trust in the power of their own intellect and intuition. This self-trust is the foundation of self-confidence, the foundation girls need to assert their voice and remain resilient, to rise up as leaders—and

**Our World,  
Our Peaceful  
Future: The  
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security**

to keep rising,” says Elizabeth Perlman, who started the [Intuitive Writing Project](https://www.intuitivewritingproject.org),<sup>1</sup> a writing-based empowerment program for girls.

In this activity, you’ll gather your Girl Scout friends or family to reflect, come up with new ideas, and get support for how you feel using the rose, bud, and thorn activity. Doing this encourages sharing emotions and promotes empathy, social awareness, and gratitude.

**Rose:** Share a highlight, success, small win, or something positive that happened. Think about: What was a highlight today? How have you been successful? What are you most proud of?

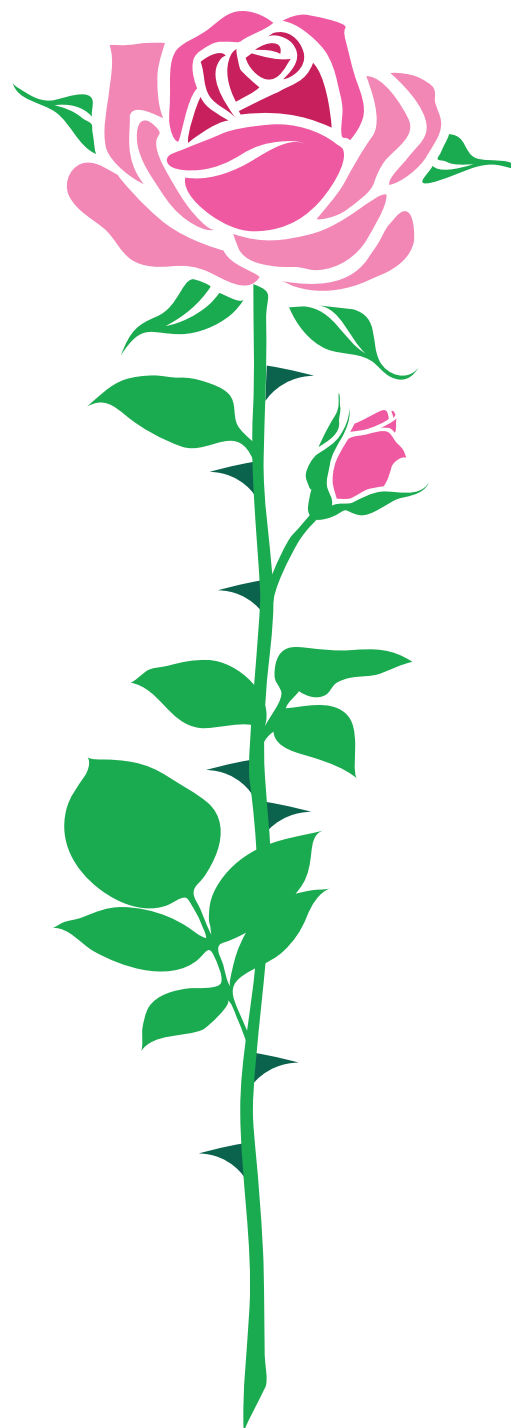
**Bud:** Share new ideas you have, something you are looking forward to knowing more about or experiencing, or something you are working on. Think about: What needs growth and nurturing?

**Thorn:** Share a challenge you experienced or something you can use more support with. Think about: What was most stressful or disappointing? What do you wish had turned out better?

First, take five to ten minutes to reflect on your rose, bud, and thorn. If you want, you can write or draw what you will share. Then give it to your group. This is your opportunity to be heard and to practice active listening.

Discuss:

- ▶ Do you feel you respected and actively listened to each other?
- ▶ How do you think listening and having empathy for each other prepared you to help others?
- ▶ What did you experience by sharing and listening to others?
- ▶ What did you learn about things that are beyond your control or did not go according to plan?
- ▶ Was there a time when you felt your voice was heard? What did that feel like?
- ▶ Was there a time when you didn’t feel your voice was heard? What did that feel like?



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<sup>1</sup> Credit: Intuitive Writing Project, <https://www.intuitivewritingproject.org>



## Choice 2: Practice conflict resolution.

This year's World Thinking Day theme is "Our World, Our Peaceful Future: The environment, peace, and security." You'll explore what we can learn from the environment and how we can work with nature to create a more peaceful and secure future for girls everywhere. You'll also examine how conflicts can damage the environment and the role the environment plays in peace and security.

First, think about examples around the world of countries dealing with war, conflict, or invasions. Forests are being destroyed and land is being contaminated. Also think about how climate change can aggravate tensions and create new conflicts about water availability, food security, disease, population distribution, and coastal boundaries.

The World Thinking Day goal is to explore the role the environment plays in peace and security.

One pathway to peace and security is conflict resolution, which means being able to negotiate a sustainable and long-lasting solution.

Have you ever resolved a conflict with someone? What did you say or do to make it happen?

Practice conflict resolution with a friend or family member. Come up with an imaginary conflict scenario, such as a heated argument about an issue that you and the other person take opposite sides on.

Role play that you've just had the argument and then:

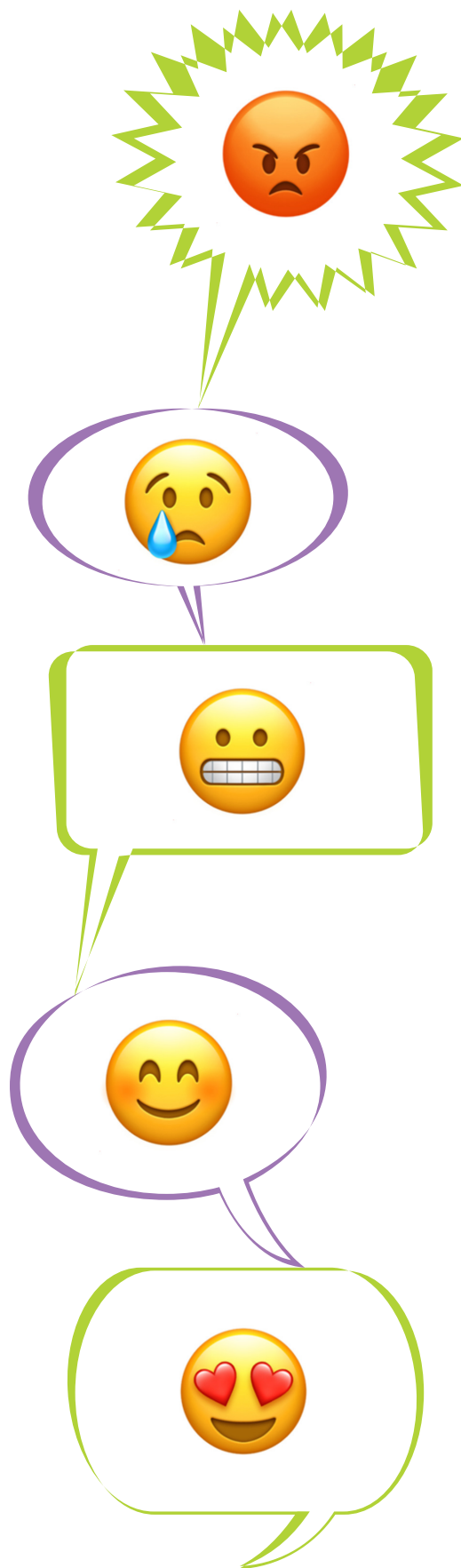
**Take a step back.** First, take a step away from the argument, breathe, and regain your composure. Sometimes making a calming statement to yourself, splashing cold water on your face, or taking a quick walk can help.

**Regroup and use "I" statements.** This is a way to let someone know how you feel without attacking or blaming. You can say things like, "I believe in this issue because I'm concerned that if we don't support it, people will get hurt."

**Listen.** Give the other person time to share "I" statements and their point of view.

**Restate what each other said.** This is an effective way to show that you heard each other.

**Brainstorm solutions.** Come up with ways you can resolve the disagreement. It might be that you'll both agree to research the issue from each other's point of view and come back to discuss it again. Any solutions you come up with are not win-or-lose situations. Don't continue to insist



on being right and proving the other person wrong. The peaceful solution might be to live with incompatibility.

Consider:

- ▶ Who are you in conflict with and how can you use these skills to make a difference?
- ▶ Why do you think it's important to resolve conflict in peaceful, healthy ways?
- ▶ How do you think conflict resolution would help with environment, peace, and security?

### **Choice 3: Share the World Thinking Day story and theme.**

First, look at the **“World Thinking Day Story in Three Parts”** handout. Read the script with some of your Girl Scout friends and come up with an idea about how you'll share this story with a group. It can be a group at school, friends and family, or a group of younger kids.

Then, put together part four of the story, where you share this year's theme of the environment, peace, and security. Envision how war and conflict are a threat to our environment. You might want to create a skit, video, or booklet about the story. If so, take this activity time to do so.

Work on how you'd present the story and plan for where and when to do it.

Discuss these questions:

- ▶ What was it like to work together to find ways to tell the story? How did you decide what you were going to do?
- ▶ How well did you work as a team? What would you have done differently?
- ▶ Why is it important for others to know about World Thinking Day and the 2023 theme?
- ▶ How did you include the 2023 theme in part four of your presentation?
- ▶ Whom do you plan to share this story with? What results do you hope to get?



## STEP 2: Find Out About Environmental Problems Around the World

Earlier you found out how climate change can aggravate tensions and create new conflicts over water scarcity, food security, or the forced movement of people from their communities.

In this step, investigate key environmental problems around the world and what change is possible.

**Air Pollution:** Gas, dust, and smoke get into our air and make it unclean and unsafe to breathe. They also harm and destroy plants.

**Deforestation:** The loss of trees hurts the environment because trees produce the oxygen we need to survive. Wildlife depends on trees and our forests to live.

**Garbage and Waste:** When you throw trash away, it goes to a dump or a landfill. Sometimes, if you recycle, it goes to a place that recycles. Garbage is the biggest problem in the world because with our growing number of people, we have too much waste, and there's not enough space to put it all. Garbage also causes pollution and can contaminate the soil where we grow our food.

**Ocean and Water Pollution:** When we pour chemicals or trash in our oceans, we damage our water sources and threaten marine life. We also pour chemicals in lakes and other freshwater sources that cause water pollution and threaten our clean water sources.

**Overpopulation:** Because the world has so many people, there are not enough resources for everyone. More people also mean more pollution.

Watch this video from [Earth.org](https://www.earth.org).<sup>2</sup>

What other problems did you discover?



<sup>2</sup> Credit: Earth.Org, <https://www.earth.org>

## Choice 1: Calculate your water footprint.

Water scarcity is a global problem. People around the world do not have access to the water they need to drink, cook, nurture their animals, and clean.

You probably have no idea how many gallons of water a day you use to take a shower, brush your teeth, wash your clothes, or water your plants. Some of us don't—but it is likely that we are using more than we need.

In this activity, you'll find out what your water footprint is by using [this calculator](#).<sup>3</sup>

- ▶ When you're done, go over your results with your Girl Scout friends or your family and discuss these questions:
- ▶ How can we rethink our water consumption habits to create a more sustainable future?
- ▶ How can we inspire members of our school community to adopt more sustainable water consumption habits?
- ▶ Why might our community need to practice water conservation?

Then come up with a list of goals for reducing how much water your community uses, so there is more available for everyone.



## Choice 2: Investigate waste and start composting.

In this activity, you'll explore the issue of waste management in your state, visit a landfill or read about it, and then experiment with composting.

First, get an idea of waste management by becoming aware of trends in waste and the effects on human health and the environment on the [Environmental Protection Agency's website](#).

Then look at [this EPA map online](#) and click on the report for your state.<sup>4</sup> If there's no report available for your state, pick another state to investigate. Share the data you discover with your Girl Scout friends or family.

Then visit a local landfill. Talk to an expert about how landfills work and how the waste is treated. You can also read this story to find out [what happens inside a landfill](#).

Find out [compost works](#) and the science involved and the science involved, and then get a compost bin going in your home.<sup>5</sup> Challenge your friends to do it, too, and after a few weeks, compare results. All you need is a small bin!

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<sup>3</sup> Credit: GRACE Communications Foundation, <https://gracecommunicationsfoundation.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Credit: Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/>

<sup>5</sup> Credit: HowStuff Works, <https://www.howstuffworks.com/>



## What to compost:

- ▶ Fruit and vegetable scraps
- ▶ Eggshells
- ▶ Coffee grounds and filters
- ▶ Tea bags
- ▶ Nut shells
- ▶ Shredded newspaper, paper, and cardboard
- ▶ Yard trimmings, including grass, leaves, branches, and twigs
- ▶ Old houseplants
- ▶ Hay and straw
- ▶ Sawdust
- ▶ Woodchips
- ▶ Cotton and wool rags
- ▶ Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint
- ▶ Hair and fur
- ▶ Fireplace ashes

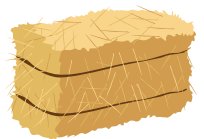
*(Note: The USDA recommends burying food waste if using an open-composting pile to deter unwanted pests looking for a free meal, such as flies, rodents, and raccoons.)*

## What not to compost:

- ▶ Certain types of tree leaves and twigs (such as those from black walnut trees) because they release substances that may be harmful to plants
- ▶ Coal or coal ash because it might contain substances that are harmful to plants
- ▶ Dairy products, eggs (eggshells yes; eggs no), fats and oils, and meat or fish bones and scraps due to potential odor problems that attract pests such as rodents and flies<sup>6</sup>
- ▶ Diseased or insect-infested plants because the disease or insects may survive and be passed along to other plants
- ▶ Pet waste (including dog and cat feces and used cat litter) because it might contain harmful parasites, bacteria, or viruses
- ▶ Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides which might kill composting organisms
- ▶ As you compost, take note of what you are composting versus throwing away. What are you noticing?

Did composting change your habits at all?

What did you notice about waste at home?



<sup>6</sup> Credit: Nature, <https://www.nature.com>

### Choice 3: Get smarter about plastic and microplastic.

Not long ago, plastic was considered a revolutionary discovery because it was so convenient and affordable. But it turns out that plastic is very hurtful to the environment! We use more than 400 million tons of plastic yearly and less than 10 percent is recycled. The rest ends up in landfills, where it can take 500 or even 1,000 years to decompose. Or it ends up in our waterways and oceans, seriously damaging marine life. We must do things differently with plastic!

In this activity, you'll read the handout [“Plastic by the Numbers”](#) to identify plastic products and their type.<sup>7</sup> You'll find out that not all plastics are recyclable or even reusable; many plastic-based products cannot break down and cannot be recycled.

Look at the products in the chart and make note of the ones you use. Then, with friends or family, brainstorm an alternative plan for as many as you can. For example, instead of packing leftovers in a plastic container, try using a stainless steel one. Always bring a reusable bag when shopping for groceries or any other items. Instead of a plastic toy for a child's gift, choose something that's not plastic, such as a recycled wool-stuffed animal or a wooden puzzle.

Then, explore the world of microplastics and microplastic fibers.

Start by watching this [video](#).<sup>8</sup>

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles that result from the breakdown of larger plastics when they go into landfills and are not recycled. Microplastics have been found in marine organisms from plankton to whales, in commercial seafood, and even in drinking water. To learn more, check out [this article](#) that explains the difference between primary and secondary microplastics.<sup>9</sup>

Find out about microplastic fibers [here](#).<sup>10</sup> These are the tiny plastic threads used to make fleece products.

- ▶ Come up with a social media campaign to raise awareness of microfiber pollution.
- ▶ Create a message to encourage people to buy clothing made from natural fibers.
- ▶ Or talk about the value to the environment of buying from secondhand stores.



7 Credit: Eartheasy, <https://eartheasy.com/>

8 Credit: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, <https://noaa.gov/>

9 Credit: Microplastic Research Group, <https://mikroplastik.org/>

10 Credit: Above the Noise, <https://www.kqed.org/education/collection/above-the-noise>

## STEP 3: Explore the Environment's Link to Peace and Security

Hundreds of millions of people live in volatile and conflict-prone areas worldwide. This means the environments they live in are also threatened.

### Choice 1: Create a law against ecocide.

Conflict, such as wars or invasions, is almost always harmful to the environment. Aside from environmental degradation, wildlife loss, and pollution, overall changes in government and communities leave everyone vulnerable. What can be done to fix the damage? How do you handle resource disputes, such as fighting over land or water?

The term “ecocide” refers to the extensive or long-term destruction or loss of ecosystems because of conflict or mismanagement.

There are efforts to make ecocide an international crime by creating a law against it.

What would your law say? How would it read?

Write up at least three regulations you would like to see in your law. Regulations are drafts of a law.

Think about:

- ▶ The rights of indigenous communities that have been severely diminished by the destruction or loss of the ecosystem they are living in. How would you protect them?
- ▶ The potential of future activity by invading countries or corporations to cause destruction in ecosystems. How could your law make sure this didn't happen?
- ▶ Prolonged wars, such as civil wars, lasting for decades that impact the environment. What regulations would be in place and how would you enforce them? To enforce them, you would need a rule or directive made and maintained by an authority.
- ▶ The use of chemicals that cause environmental harm. What would your law contain to prevent this?
- ▶ What will your law say about releasing microplastics into the oceans, emitting greenhouse gases, deforestation, oil spills, overfishing, loss of biodiversity, and using pesticides?



Once you've come up with some regulations for your law, consider:

- ▶ How would you enforce the terms of the law?
- ▶ Who would be prosecuted? (This could include making ministers of state or CEOs/senior officers of corporations accountable.)
- ▶ Where would cases be prosecuted? For example, would it be in the country where ecocide occurs or in the International Criminal Court?
- ▶ Is there anything in your law that would address how the damage will be repaired?

Add more to your law to make it as comprehensive as you want. Search ecocide law to learn what international laws already exist to protect the environment and what more is needed. Find out what organizations are working to address ecocide on a global scale.

## **Choice 2: Investigate the environmental effects of air pollutants.**

If you've ever noticed tiny particles in the air, it's what we breathe in all the time. Some of it is dust from the ground or from our bodies or clothes, like lint, hairs, and pieces of skin. Some of it comes from factory and car emissions. During high-intensity conflict, explosives, debris, and rubble also leave behind pollutants. Large military vehicles, planes, and some devices use fuel and create massive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that contribute to climate change.

Air pollution from things being burned or combusted, like coal, gasoline, or wood, has always been part of our environment. Think about how humans first started building fires without using chimneys for ventilation. Imagine present day forest fires creating ash that turns into particles in the air.

Acid rain is one of the results of air pollution. When clean rainwater falls through polluted air, it becomes polluted and acidic. Acid rain causes damage to wildlife, plants, and forests. It contaminates water supplies and can even corrode metal on structures like statues, buildings, bridges, and playground equipment.

See what the effects look like on living and nonliving things:

- ▶ Collect six jars with lids and these samples: two leaves, eggshell pieces, and two paper clips (or pennies).
- ▶ Add one cup of vinegar to each of three jars and one cup of distilled water to each of the other three jars. Label them.
- ▶ Drop one leaf in the vinegar jar and the other in the water jar.
- ▶ Do the same with the paper clips and eggshell pieces.
- ▶ Leave them overnight.





If you're doing this with your troop, you can record your predictions. Then see what the samples look like at your next meeting.

- ▶ What happened to the “living items”—the leaf and the eggshell—when put in vinegar?
- ▶ Do you think acid rain has this effect on all living things?
- ▶ What happened to the paperclip (or penny) in the acid solution?
- ▶ Do you think acid rain has this effect on all nonliving things?
- ▶ What are some things we can do to solve the acid rain problem?
- ▶ How can conserving resources and finding alternatives to producing energy help?

Now take a soothing rain break. Rain is peaceful. Rain is restorative. The sound of gentle rain has a calming effect on our brains. Our brain unconsciously relaxes and creates alpha waves that are like a deep sleep. Do you find that you sleep better when it's drizzling outside?

Find rain sounds online or on an app and see if it helps you sleep better or relax. While you're listening, think about the ways rain is vital to life on Earth and why we need to keep it free from pollution.

## STEP 4: Investigate Ways to Protect Communities and Ecosystems.

Now that you know that peace and security is connected to the environment, how can you help protect it?



### Choice 1: Become a citizen scientist.

Because scientists and environmentalists need help keeping up with global environmental challenges, they rely on people in local communities to be their eyes and ears and to offer perspectives. These citizen scientists help collect data by taking pictures of clouds, recording changes in nature, monitoring water quality, and doing other tasks.

You don't need to be a professional scientist or to travel halfway around the world to contribute. You can do it from your home base.

For this activity you will find and participate in a citizen scientist project. Search online or check out apps that have citizen scientist programs. Or, if you know about an environmental problem in your community, volunteer to collect data and be part of the solution. Recruit your friends and family members to help.

As a citizen scientist, you can do things, like:

- ▶ Draw maps
- ▶ Take pictures
- ▶ Record sounds
- ▶ Collect data
- ▶ Keep a journal
- ▶ File reports
- ▶ Collect samples

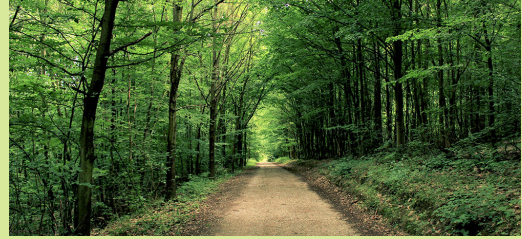
As a citizen scientist, you participate in projects to:

- ▶ Observe wildlife anywhere
- ▶ Measure night sky brightness
- ▶ Monitor birds
- ▶ Collect weather data
- ▶ Document landscape changes
- ▶ Survey frog and toad populations
- ▶ Collect air quality data



### Be a Citizen Scientist for the National Parks

What can you do as a [citizen scientist in a national park](#)? Most likely you'll collect data and upload them to a database. In some cases, you'll explore, graph, and analyze data. If the project is new, you may be able to make suggestions about study design or procedures. The best part is you'll be able to do it in the places you love.



### Girl Scout Tree Promise and SciStarter

You can participate in a [citizen science project](#) and collect data to help scientists with tree and climate research as part of the [Girl Scout Tree Promise on SciStarter](#). Check out a full list of [tree-related projects](#) on the Sci Starter site.

Once you've completed your project, share what you did with your friends and family. Create a presentation to show what you did and how your work made a difference.

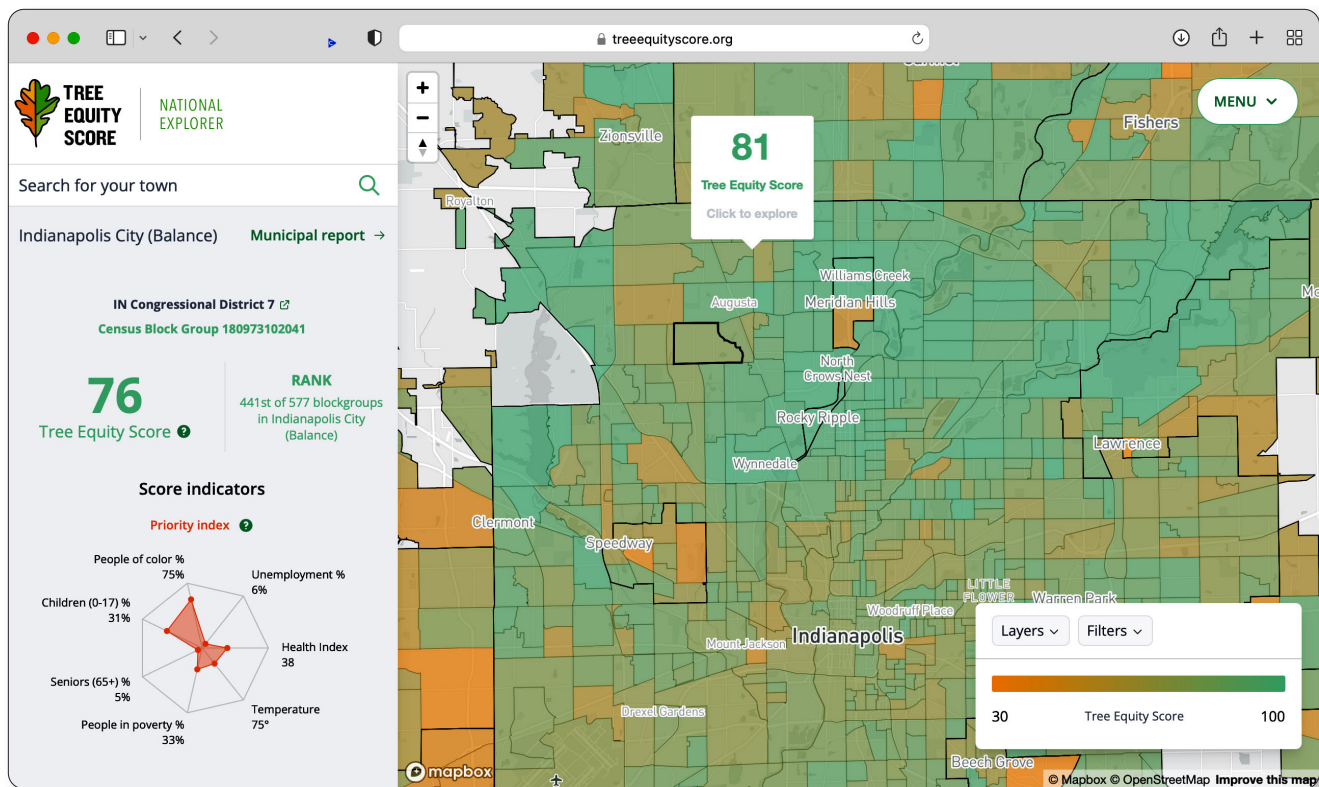
### Choice 2: Find out about tree equity.

When places suffer from the lack of trees or their destruction, so do people. It's often people living in poverty, people of color, or marginalized groups, like Indigenous people, who feel the biggest impact from a lack of trees. Working to plant or protect trees helps the earth, but it helps create tree equity too. That means that every neighborhood or place has enough trees so that everyone can experience their benefits.

Trees provide climate benefits that everyone should have. They support our basic needs, such as breathing fresh air and drinking clean water. Trees cool neighborhoods and are critical to our quality of life. Too often, lower economic areas have less tree coverage and more pavement than the tree-lined areas in wealthier neighborhoods.

Planting trees in places where they're needed is one of the best ways we can improve the environment. With every tree planted, our communities are better able to conserve water, reduce air pollution, create jobs, improve wildlife habitat, and contribute to climate change solutions.

In this activity, you'll go online to check out a map of tree cover in your area. Then search online to find a site that will analyze your area's tree equity score. (Type in "tree equity score.") This score is based on how much tree canopy and surface temperature align with income, employment, race, age, and health factors in the United States.



Then create a social media campaign or presentation about tree equity to share with friends and family. If you decide to share on social media, be sure to talk with your parents first and get their permission. Review the [Girl Scout internet safety pledge](#) for more information.

You also might consider planting a tree in your area. Find out about:

- ▶ Local organizations that specialize in tree planting and have information about tree-planting events, resources, and technical assistance
- ▶ Local nurseries that raise and sell trees and other plants and can offer advice for types of trees to plant in your community, especially if you're planning to plant in your own yard or privately owned properties
- ▶ Local government tree-planting efforts by contacting your community center, city council, or the mayor's office

If you plant trees as part of the Girl Scout Tree Promise, don't forget to record the tree on the [Girl Scout Tree Promise Tracker](#).

Look at the **Make the Girl Scout Tree Promise** handout at the end of this packet. Read it with your troop and sign it.

The screenshot shows the 'girlscoutsusa.cs1.qualtrics.com' website. It features the Girl Scouts logo and a welcome message: 'Welcome to the Girl Scout Tree Promise planting tracker. Be proud - you're part of a global movement to address climate change, one tree at a time! After you register your tree information, enter your email address to unlock access to purchase the Girl Scout Tree Promise patch!'. Below the message is a question: 'Have you planted at least one tree as part of the Girl Scout Tree Promise?'. There are two radio button options: 'Yes' and 'No'. A language dropdown menu is set to 'English'.

## STEP 5: Commit to a Better Future for the Environment, Peace, and Security

In this activity, you and your troop will tell how you intend to commit to a better future for the environment, peace, and security.

Think about what you learned in the activities. What message would you write to tell others about how they can help protect the environment and promote peace and security?

For example, you might create a message about planting trees or protecting wildlife and say how important these resources are during times of conflict.

Or you can create a message about:

- ▶ How to handle conflict
- ▶ Best practices for waste and composting
- ▶ How to get smarter about plastics and microplastics
- ▶ What to say in a law that will protect the environment
- ▶ The connection between air pollution and acid rain
- ▶ How citizens can make a difference in caring for their community and protecting their natural resources
- ▶ What you discovered about the ways nature creates peace

You can each write your message on a poster board or large piece of paper. It could be your personal message or something the group comes up with that you all sign.

What are some ways your message might make a difference?

When you are done with all five steps, make sure you celebrate! By earning your World Thinking Day award, you've helped make the world a better place by learning about the environment, peace, and security.







# Glossary

**Acid rain:** Clean rainwater that falls through polluted air and becomes polluted and acidic

**Citizen Scientist:** Someone who helps support a project by collecting and analyzing data, usually as part of a collaboration with professional scientists

**Climate:** The average pattern of weather conditions over a long period, which is different from weather because weather changes daily

**Climate change:** A change in the average conditions—such as temperature and rainfall—in a region over a long period

**Conflict:** A fight, battle, or war

**Compost:** To create a mixture of decaying organic matter, such as dead leaves or kitchen scraps, that can be used as fertilizer to grow plants

**Conserve or conservation:** What we do to protect our nature resources, such as soil, water, or forests, from loss, pollution, or waste

**Data:** Facts, figures, or other pieces of information that can be used in different ways

**Deforestation:** When trees are cut and not replanted, resulting in the destruction of forests

**Drought:** Continuous period of dry weather when an area gets little rain or no rain

**Ecocide:** The extensive or long-term destruction or loss of ecosystems because of conflict or mismanagement

**Equity:** When it comes to the environment, everyone having protection and access regardless of income, race, or other characteristics

**Environment:** The air, water, and land in or on which people, animals, and plants live

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** An independent agency of the United States federal government that oversees environmental protection issues

**Landfill:** A place where waste is disposed

**Microplastics:** Tiny plastic particles that result from the breakdown of larger plastics and that have been found in marine organisms from plankton to whales, in commercial seafood, and even in drinking water

**Microplastic fibers:** Small, threadlike fibers that can come from both natural and synthetic fabric

**Pollution:** Poisons, wastes, or other materials that harm the environment

**Regulations:** Drafts of a law

**WAGGGS:** World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts



# World Thinking Day History in Three Parts

## Part 1

### A Special Day

In 1926, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world met in the United States for the 4th World Conference. At the meeting, they created a special day where Girl Scouts and Girl Guides think of each other and express their thanks for their sisters around the world. They called it Thinking Day. They chose February 22 because it was the birthday of both Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts, and his wife Olave Baden-Powell, who founded the Girl Guides.

## Part 2

### A Birthday Gift

In 1932, at the 7th World Conference in Bucze, Poland, a delegate from Belgium pointed out that since a birthday usually involves gifts, girls could show their appreciation on Thinking Day by offering gifts to support Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Olive Baden-Powell wrote a letter asking girls to “Send a penny with their thoughts” on Thinking Day.

## Part 3

### World Thinking Day

In 1999, at the 30th World Conference in Dublin, Ireland, they changed the name from Thinking Day to World Thinking Day. Over the years, World Thinking Day has become a way for girls to learn about issues that affect other girls and young women all over the world. Every year, World Thinking Day has a different theme that Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world can learn about and take action on. For 2022, the theme is “Our World, Our Equal Future: The environment and gender equality.” This means you’ll explore how climate change is harder for girls and women.



*Lord Baden-Powell*



*Olave Baden-Powell*



# Our World, Our Equal Future, and the Girl Scout Tree Promise

## **There is a climate crisis.**

The past 10 years have been the warmest in centuries. Because of climate change, we have more natural disasters like wildfires, droughts, hurricanes and floods.



## **The climate crisis has a larger impact on girls and women.**

In general, women spend more time acquiring food, fuel and water, or struggling to grow crops.

## **Trees are one solution to climate change.**

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere. Trees help stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it in the trees and soil.



## **Girl Scouts are taking the lead in protecting our planet by taking the Tree Promise.**

Our Goal? To plant 5 million trees in five years and to protect and honor new and existing trees. This will help reduce climate change and benefit our communities. Girl Scouts everywhere are being called to action to plant, protect, and honor trees in their backyards, camps, communities, and states—across the country and even across the world.



# Make the Girl Scout Tree Promise

## The Girl Scout Tree Promise

I promise to be a friend to every tree,  
just like they're a friend to me .

I will plant and protect them through and through  
with the help  
of my loyal Girl Scout crew .

Besides being beautiful, there's more to see; or climate change, they hold a key.

They fill our lungs with cleaner air; it's our responsibility to care .

That's why I'll advocate for every tree .  
Because I need them, and they need me!

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(Girl Scout's Name)

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(Date)

**Did you know trees are Mother Nature's superheroes?** Yep, think of trees as superheroes with powers unlike any other living thing on the planet!

**What type of superpowers are we talking about? Well, just to name a few, trees help to:**

- ▶ Take out pollution from the air we breathe and fill our lungs with oxygen
- ▶ Remove carbon from the atmosphere, helping slow global warming and climate change
- ▶ Lower our stress, making us happier
- ▶ Act like a strainer, keeping our drinking water cleaner
- ▶ Relieve us from the heat with their shady canopies
- ▶ Protect our homes from the heat and cold, saving us energy
- ▶ Create space for wildlife to live, eat, and play
- ▶ Protect the soil from the effects of heavy rain, preventing erosion
- ▶ Give us jobs so we can provide for our families
- ▶ Provide fruit and nuts for us to eat and support threatened pollinators like bees and hummingbirds

So instead of wondering "Why trees?", we should be asking "Why not trees?!" The more we plant, the more superheroes our planet will have!