



The Earth Charter Patch

- ...a patch program for Junior, Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in Suncoast Council.

What is the Earth Charter?

- ...a declaration of the basic principles for creating a just, sustainable, and peaceful society throughout the world during the 21st century. Its sixteen principles cover respect and care for the community, economic fairness, social justice, democracy, peace and environmental sustainability. The principles of the Earth Charter are printed on the reverse side of this page.

To earn the Earth Charter patch, do **6** of the following 10 activities:

1. Learn about the history and purpose of the Earth Charter by going to the Earth Charter website (<http://www.earthcharter.org>).
2. Select an endangered Florida species (animal, bird, plant, or marine life), find out why this species has become endangered and what is being done to help save it, decide what you can do to help and put your plan into action.
3. Help your family participate in a recycling program (metal, paper, glass, plastic or all of these) for at least one month.
4. Learn about solar and wind energy by looking up these subjects on the Internet or in reference books at home, school, or the public library.
5. Build a solar oven (see p. 139 of the Junior Girl Scout Handbook for instructions) and cook something for your family, friends, or your Girl Scout group.
6. Learn about a cultural, racial or ethnic group other than your own and read a book or watch a movie or videotape about one of their heroes or people prominent in their history.
7. Choose a country other than the United States that you would like to know more about. Research the opportunities available to girls and women in that country for education, employment, and involvement in government and other decision-making areas that might affect their lives and future. Resources you could use to get this information include the Internet and books available at your school or public library.
8. With your family, identify ways in which you can save water at your home. Put them into practice for at least one month, then talk about continuing to do this permanently as your contribution toward helping with Florida's water shortage.
9. Choose one of the 16 principles of the Earth Charter. Create a poster or display or write and submit a poem or an article in a newspaper or newsletter.
10. Talk with 5 other people (family members, friends from school or your Girl Scout group, or others) about what you have learned about the Earth Charter. Tell them about the activities that you have done to earn the Earth Charter patch. Encourage them to get involved with the Earth Charter initiative and do their part to make our world a better place for all.

The Earth Charter Principles

I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.
3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.
4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.
8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.

III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.
10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.
11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.
12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

IV. DEMOCRACY, NONVIOLENCE, AND PEACE

13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.
14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.
15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.
16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.