



## *Introducing The Climate Change Patch!*



This patch will inform, advance skills, and create leaders in the generation of girls that will be most impacted by the effects of climate change. This patch may be earned by Scouts by doing at least one activity each from the Discover, Connect, and Take Action sections, based on age/grade.



To earn the Climate Change Patch, please complete at least one activity from each of the three sections below.

## DISCOVER



Research local sources of climate changing ozone pollution. It could be a nearby power plant, it could be cars, it could be nearby businesses that use a great deal of electricity. Likely it will be a combination of all of these.

Research local impacts of climate change like plants or animals that will be affected or the impact to the local economy. This could include local areas subject to extreme weather events, low lying areas that could flood, endangered species, etc.

Calculate your own carbon footprint. The EPA has a calculator you can use - <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/calc/index.html>. Then look at areas where you can cut back on your family's energy usage. It might include things like getting a programmable thermostat for your house or changing light bulbs.

Make a list of the types of jobs created by clean energy and energy efficiencies. These might include solar panel installers, energy efficiency auditors or sustainable investors. Try to list at least 10 different jobs.

Research eating local. Food that needs to be shipped around the world uses a lot of energy to reach us and often many of those same foods can be found closer to home.

Check out NASA Climate and Kids page at <http://climatekids.nasa.gov/menu/weather-and-climate/>. Read through (or play) four different sections. An example of a section would be "How do we know the climate is changing?"

## CONNECT



Go visit a place like Rocky Mountain National Park that will be impacted by climate change. Find examples of things that will be impacted by climate change. This could be to visit and document a sensitive area in the park or it might be to track and observe potentially impacted wildlife like the pika. Document your findings with a drawings, photographs or journal entries.

Write a letter to someone who is in a different part of the world, describing the potential impacts of climate change in Colorado and find out about their local impacts from them. You can write a letter to an imaginary pen pal too.

Interview or shadow someone who works in clean energy to learn about their job. Pick a job that interests you.

Talk to a group of younger Girl Scouts about climate change. Explain the issue to them, and tell them things that they can do to use less energy. They should be at least one scouting level below you.



Connect with a local business, commercial building or your local government. Work with them to determine their carbon footprint and then find ways to reduce it. These could include turning off all lights at night, finding ways to drive less, or insulating buildings to make them more energy efficient.

## *TAKE ACTION*



Ride your bike or carpool with friends someplace that your parents normally drive just you. Do it for a minimum of two weeks.

Talk to your school about their energy use and work with them to find ways that the usage could go down. Suggest to them that they commit to the Colorado Department of Transportation program called Engines Off! for the drop off/pick up areas. [http://www.enginesoff.com/4\\_about.htm](http://www.enginesoff.com/4_about.htm)

Talk to the appropriate local government officials about the importance of public transit and bike infrastructure, as well as walkable neighborhoods. Suggest ways that these could be improved in your neighborhood.

Talk to a state representative or senator about your concern regarding climate change and ask what they are doing to prevent it. Suggest additional things they could do. You can find information about what the Colorado legislature does and how to contact them here <http://leg.colorado.gov/agencies/house-representatives/legislative-qa>.

Make a presentation for at least 5 other people, this could be elected officials or your class or others, about the problems with climate change, the impacts it will have on your generation and the things that can be done to prevent it. Talk for at least 5 minutes.

Pick one public policy or law that you think should change in order to address climate change. Organize friends and family members to write an email to the elected official who can change that policy. Try to get 10 other people to send an email.