

Girl Scouts Forever Green



girl scouts
1912-2012
forever green

**Program Booklet &
Project Proposal Form**



Special thanks to our sponsor for 2011/2012 Girl Scouts Forever Green

Girl Scouts Forever Green: How green can YOU be???

This is now the fourth year of GSCNC's participation in Girl Scouts of the USA's (GSUSA) **Girl Scouts Forever Green**. Girl Scouts Forever Green is intended to harness the power of the Girl Scout movement by engaging girls in a nationwide, signature Take Action project, focused on making a significant impact on the environment. Girl Scouts will be at the forefront of environmental sustainability, leading communities in using resources wisely.

Use this booklet as a reference guide to determine if your troop wants to participate and what type of project you want to work on. We are asking you to advocate for greener schools and community areas – the rest is up to you and your troop's passions and interests! You are free to create your own project to suit the needs of your community.

According to surveys conducted by GSUSA and GSCNC, the environment is an incredibly important issue to Girl Scouts. We are thrilled about this opportunity because we know that Girl Scouts Forever Green will bring about lasting, sustainable, girl-led change!

It is also an excellent vehicle to showcase the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. At each grade level, Girl Scouts Forever Green will give girls opportunities to explore the Girls Scouts' three keys to leadership—**Discover, Connect, and Take Action**.

Girls will first **Discover** themselves and their values by seeking challenges in the world related to the environment. This means they will, appropriate to their grade level, learn and explore new skills and ideas, and set challenging goals for themselves.

As girls assess the status of their communities with regard to environmental issues and then pursue a specific project, they will naturally **Connect**—care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally. Specifically, they will promote cooperation and teamwork, and feel connected to their communities, locally and globally. As girls reach out to Girl Scout alumnae, parents, businesses, and other community and government leaders through their projects, they will also advance diversity in a multicultural world.

Through their chosen projects, girls will **Take Action** to make the world a better place. How? They will be resourceful problem solvers, advocating for themselves and others. They will also educate and inspire others, in ways that aim for sustainable change. As the girls present their findings to their classmates, school administration and community partners, their advocacy efforts may influence local practices and policies. They will feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

In the end, the girls will reflect on the positive values and the strong sense of self they developed through their projects.

Linking the Girl Scouts Forever Green to Journeys

Journeys are a core piece of the national Girl Scout program, and can be integrated in the development of the Girl Scouts Forever Green.

The Girl Scout journeys represent a new way that girls can experience Girl Scouting. At each grade level, journey books incorporate Discover, Connect, and Take Action experiences and girl-led, learning by doing, and cooperative learning processes, so that girls achieve the leadership outcomes defined by the new Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Find out more about the journeys at www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys

The second leadership journey series, *It's Your Planet—Love It!*, released in July 2009, issues a call for action to the environment, inviting Girl Scouts of every grade level to explore the natural wonders of the world, become stewards of our fragile planet, and investigate the science that keeps our Earth spinning. Books in the second exciting series cover the same five focus areas as Girl Scouts Forever Green: green spaces, energy, waste management, air quality and water use. Troops/girls completing Take Action projects are encouraged to use the journeys and their take action foundation as the core program content for their projects. Girl Scouts Forever Green planning can be integrated into journey activities. Tips for using the journeys are available on the journeys page of the GSUSA Web site at www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys

Project Proposal Submissions

Please read the entire booklet before filling out your proposal form. **All project proposals must be completed and submitted by Friday, March 9, 2012.**

We look forward to reading your project proposals, to see what specific environmental projects are important to you! Selected troops who complete project requirements will receive a patch and certificate from GSCNC upon completion of their project.

Mini-grants in amounts of up to \$150 will be awarded to at least 10 projects based on these proposals.

Project Requirements

- Girls must choose a project that addresses an environmental issue in their community.
- ***The proposed project must be completed by June 30, 2012.***

Who is eligible to participate?

Any Girl Scout Troop/Juliette registered in the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital.

How does my troop participate?

To participate in the pilot Forever Green program, troops should first read this entire booklet. Once you understand the project focus areas, choose a project that you feel is important to implement in your community. Then, by **Friday, March 9, 2012**, turn in your completed Forever Green Project Proposal, making sure to include the following:

- Completed Troop Project Proposal Form**
- Project Timeline**
 - As all projects must be finished by the end of June, proposals should include an explanation of how the project will be accomplished in the given timeframe.
- Letter of Approval from Project Location**

Guidelines for Success

Keep it Simple: Choose a project that can be completed in a 3-4 month period. Choose a topic that you feel passionate about **and** that you think can be achieved by June 30th.

Make Connections: The more people you have participating in this project, the greater chance of success you have. Who are good people to include in your project? Obvious choices for connections might be a science class, another Girl Scout troop or an environmental club, but who else might want to help? What are different ways they could be involved?

Tie Your Project into a Larger Take Action experience: A Girl Scouts Forever Green project can easily be tied into a Journey Take Action project, or a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

For the Future: Will your solution fix something for the future or is it only a one time project this spring? Are there ways to make sure the solution lasts beyond your effort? Is this a project that can inspire all students and all ages in your community?

GSCNC's Commitment to Girl Scouts Forever Green

GSCNC is proud to offer mini-grants through Boeing's generous sponsorship of the Girl Scouts Forever Green program, but there are many other ways Girl Scouts can participate in Girl Scouts Forever Green!

February – Plastic Waste Challenge

Girl Scouts will work to reduce plastic waste by using reusable grocery bags and water bottles. As a council, we are challenging every girl in every troop in the entire council to make the switch to reusable water bottles and grocery bags and track how many times from February 1st through February 28th they have used their bottle or bag. At the end of the month Girl Scouts will be able to submit their totals through an online survey where we will be able to track how many plastic bags and bottles didn't end up in the garbage!

March – Earth Hour

On March 31, 2012 at 8:30 p.m., Earth Hour will celebrate a worldwide commitment to ongoing change for the betterment of the one thing that unites us all - the planet. Earth Hour encourages individuals and families to turn off their lights for one hour to take a stand against climate change. This year Girl Scouts Forever Green challenges all Girl Scouts to participate in Earth Hour, showing that they too believe in a greener world and a better tomorrow! Girl Scouts will be able to let us know if they participated in Earth Hour through an online survey. Let's work together as a council to show the rest of the world that GSCNC cares about green issues!

April – Forever Green-Ups

A new addition to our Girl Scouts Forever Green programming in our 100th Anniversary year, Forever Green-ups are a nod to our founder, Juliette Gordon Low and her on-going commitment to environmental stewardship. On April 22, 2012 GSCNC will lead five clean-ups at parks around council to show our dedication to keeping the environment clean and provide our Girl Scouts an opportunity to participate in a hands-on activity on Earth Day.

Girl Scouts Forever Green Troop Project Proposal Form

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NEATLY – BE SURE TO COMPLETE FULL FORM

All project proposals must be completed and submitted by **Friday, March 9, 2012**. They can be submitted online, faxed to 202-274-2161, or mailed to:

Program Department
Girl Scout Council of Nation's Capital
4301 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite M-2
Washington, D.C. 20008

TROOP/PROJECT COORDINATOR

Project coordinator can be the troop leader, assistant leader, a parent, or older girl who is managing the project.

Troop #	Troop Level	# of girls	Association #	Service Unit #	
Project Coordinator Name*		Telephone (day)		Telephone (evening)	
Address			City		State Zip
E-Mail					

Project Coordinator Signature

Date

PROJECT ADVISOR

Only necessary if the Project Coordinator is not a registered adult member of GSUSA.

Name	Telephone (day)	Telephone (evening)		
Address		City		State Zip
E-Mail				

As a registered adult member of GSUSA I am aware of all of the rules and regulations governing Girl Scout activities. As the responsible adult I agree to ensure all participation in this project will abide by said rules whether listed in *Volunteer Essentials*, *Green Pages*, or in GSCNC literature.

Project Advisor Signature

Date

DISCOVER, CONNECT, & TAKE ACTION

Discover. Since you have already chosen a topic, you are well on the way to discovering more about the environment, environmental issues, and how you can make an impact.

Connect. Think about how you will connect with others during this project. How will you involve other people in your project? Once you have identified groups that can be of assistance, discuss how you will involve them. Will you have planning meetings? What will each group or individual do?

1. Who will you involve (list all groups).

2. How will you involve these people? Explain how each group mentioned above will be included in your project.

Take Action.

Action Plan: If your troop is selected as a mini grant recipient you will be notified by the end of March. You will need to finish your project by June 2012. **Please attach a timeline** detailing what you are going to do each month until June, and how the groups listed above will aid you in this process.

How do you plan to assess the impact/results at the end of your project?

Is this project connected with a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award Project or a Journey Take Action Project? (If yes, please indicate which one)

FUNDING SUPPORT

1. Describe what the money will be used for: *Please be specific. For example, if the money will be used to purchase supplies, please list the different materials instead of writing "supplies"*

2. Please describe your reasons for requesting seed money:

Required Documents Checklist:

- Completed Project Proposal Form
- Project Timeline
- Letter of Approval from Project Location

SUBMIT ALL DOCUMENTS TOGETHER, *no later than Friday, March 9, 2012*

BY MAIL:

Program Department
Attn: Girl Scouts Forever Green
Girl Scout Council of Nation's Capital
4301 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite M-2
Washington, DC 20008

BY FAX:

202-274-2161

ONLINE:

The Project Proposal Form can be submitted online using Formatta. If you submit an online form, please fax or email the Project Timeline and Letter of Approval within one business day of submitting the Proposal Form. Include your troop number and Project Coordinator's name in the email or fax.

Need Help? Contact Megan Kelly, Program Specialist, at mkelly@gscnc.org