

The Gift of Trees Patch Program - COVID-19 Addendum

Here are ways you can adapt the in-person requirements and do them virtually to #BloomWhereUR and earn The Gift of Trees patch.

Philanthropists in Action Activities

Activity 1 –

Since you can't visit the National Geographic Museum right now, click on the Kids tab on the National Geographic website located here <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/photos/>. Explore the photos. Pick your favorite picture. Analyze where the image was photographed, what is happening in the picture, and what it would be like to see the object in person.

All Levels Extension: Learn about the brave garden club ladies who led the Cherry Blossom Rebellion to save the trees when they were under the threat of construction. Imagine what it would have taken to do what they did. Would you have done that? <https://www.nps.gov/nama/blogs/cherry-tree-rebellion.htm>

Activity 4. #2 C/S/A

Complete your own act of philanthropy from home! Below is an example of what you could do:

Keeping the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin healthy and blooming well requires year-round maintenance for optimal health and longevity, but current funds only allow for one annual maintenance to be done on each tree.

The National Park Service receives a set budget every year to cover a large list of priorities so it looks to the Trust for the National Mall to augment areas of need by mobilizing individuals for private contributions. The Trust for the National Mall is their leading nonprofit partner dedicated to restoring and improving the National Mall. The Trust stewards private support to design and deliver modern and resilient solutions that will transform the visitor experience and preserve the historic legacy of America's premier national park.

One of their priority initiatives is the 'Endow a Tree Campaign' to raise funds to endow the 3700 cherry trees on the National Mall, providing critical care and maintenance needed year-around to protect this legendary treasure.

You can help by creating an awareness campaign with the information you have learned while earning this patch and sending to your friends and family through social media or email. Link to campaign: <https://bit.ly/protect-the-bloom>

Activity 5 – All Levels extension.

Since you can't explore the Tidal Basin in person, visit this National Park Service Link - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/cherryblossom/history-of-the-cherry-trees.htm> - and find photos of two of the gifts from Japan.

Honoring International Friendship Activities

Activity 1 – Friends in Different Places

1. In lieu of visiting the National Cherry Blossom Festival, visit the Tidal Basin virtually using #BloomCam and appreciate the beautiful cherry trees from wherever you are. Can

you see them blooming? Here is the link at the Trust for the National Mall - <https://nationalmall.org/bloomcam>

2. Call a friend on the phone or video chat and each of you go outside and see if you can see any trees that are blooming where you are. Describe them or show them to each other. If you can't talk to anyone on the phone, take photos of what is blooming near you and send to a friend.

All Levels Extension – Since you can't get to Hains Point right now, have a picnic outside your home. If that's not possible, set up a blanket inside and have a picnic on the floor. If possible, set up a screen on the #BloomCam (<https://nationalmall.org/bloomcam>) near your picnic blanket to virtually enjoy the blooms while you eat.

Activity 2 – Friendship Making Party

1. Organize virtual Friendship Making Party and chat with friends on the phone or on a video call while you each make cranes in your own home.
2. Teach someone you are living with how to make a friendship bracelet.
3. Since you can't give items to anyone right now, hang them up in your windows so people can see them from outside.

Activity 3 – Learn a song and share

Do the singing and teaching with anyone in your home.

Activity 4 – Friendship and Peace

Look online and investigate one value or belief system that is different from you. This could be a different religion, a different political party of those in your family or look for international differences between countries.

Cultural Connection Activities

Activity 1 – Look for items around your house that you could use to make your own set of chopsticks. Try eating with them. Does it work?

Try picking up items with others in your house since you can't get together with other Girl Scouts right now.

Activity 2 - Japanese Flavors

Since going to a restaurant likely isn't possible right now, look up a You Tube video of someone making sushi.

2. C/S/A. Look online for a menu from a nearby Sushi restaurant. If you can order take out or delivery, consider that. If not, decide what 4 items you would want to try.

Spring into Art

Activity 2 –

1. Check out the cherry trees on the Trust for the National Mall's #BloomCam - <https://nationalmall.org/bloomcam> - and then go outside and see if you have a cherry tree near you. If so – take a photo of it. If not, take pictures of another tree that is blooming and see if it has anything in common with a blossoming cherry tree.
2. Take a panoramic view of trees - or whatever you can see – from your house.

Discover Your Environment

* All Levels Extension.

Activity 1: Discover types of flowering cherry trees

Figure out the distance it takes to walk around the Tidal Basin then map out a similar length trip in your neighborhood. If it's possible, head out on and make that trip – doing it one of the three ways the National Park Service typically does it at the Tidal Basin for its Ranger Programs. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/cherryblossom/ranger-programs.htm>

- * Lantern Walk – bring your flashlight for an evening stroll
- * Pups 'n' Petals Dog Walk – Take your furry friend along for the walk
- * Bike Tour – Hope on your bike for the trip.

Activity 2: Become a Botanist for the Day

2. Flower Blooms

Since you can't get to a home improvement store right now, go online and investigate the five stages of a bloom? From those baby green buds to the fluffy white flower, you can read about it here: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/cherryblossom/bloom-watch.htm> and then draw each of the five stages on one piece of paper. Share your masterpieces on social media using the hashtag #BloomWhereUR and tagging us @GSCNC so we can appreciate your art too.

Activity 3: Protecting the Trees

Additional information for background:

- The average lifespan of a cherry tree is 40-50 years and varies based on species, climate and care.
- 90 cherry trees need to be replaced each year.
- Only a handful of the original cherry trees planted in 1912 are still on the grounds today.
- These cherry trees are delicate and must survive in a unique and highly visited environment.

1. Investigate why the trees along the Tidal Basin need protection.

- Check out this photo on the National Park Service Twitter page to see what happens when visitors do not follow the important safety rules while visiting the cherry trees: 1) do not climb on the branches, 2) do not pick the blooms or branches and 3) stay on the sidewalks and off their roots. <https://twitter.com/NationalMallNPS/status/1241134205767241728>

- Read here to learn how climate change is sending the Tidal Basin water higher and why that is hurting the blossoms.

<https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=72DBD4D9-BBCB-58C4-3B711553E0EBDB4B>

Activity 4: Spring Clean Up

You can't clean up the Tidal Basin during self-isolation but there are always ways to make your own environment more beautiful. Look inside and out – around where you live and do 3 things to make your environment more beautiful. Take a photo before you do these things and one after to compare the results. Share that on social media using the hashtag #BloomWhereUR and tagging @GSCNC so we can appreciate your work.

History Activities –

Activity 3: Learn an old tradition

1. D/B/J – Call an older family member or friend who once was a Girl Scout. Ask her about her favorite memories and traditions as a Girl Scout when she was your age. Talk to her about what was different

Activity 4: Make a New Tradition

2. C/S/A: After you complete the above step and develop your new tradition, write it down and save the paper to share it with younger Girl Scouts the next time you see them so they can continue carrying on a new tradition.

Links:

#BloomCam is an initiative of the Trust for the National Mall. View live and learn more about their work to protect the cherry trees for generations to come at:

<https://nationalmall.org/bloomcam>