

# Take Care of Texas Patch Program

November 9, 2015

Take Care of Texas (TCOT) is a statewide campaign of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that encourages all Texans to conserve water and energy, keep our air and water clean, and reduce waste. The campaign raises awareness of conservation and recycling and educates the public on how small changes can have a big impact. <[TakeCareOfTexas.org](http://TakeCareOfTexas.org)>

**Patches:** Patches are available in the Girl Scout Shop at the Kodosky Center. Call 1-800-733-0011 to place a mail order for your patches or stop by the shop and pick them up.

**Troop leaders:** To assist with your projects, you may order free publications for your troop at <[takecareoftexas.org/publications](http://takecareoftexas.org/publications)>. All resources listed in italics are available for download/print or order for free. You can also visit the teachers section of Take Care of Texas website at <[takecareoftexas.org/kids/teachers](http://takecareoftexas.org/kids/teachers)>.

## Patch Requirements:

Daisy: Five activities

Brownie: Eight activities

Junior: Ten activities plus two community service hours of conservation work. Examples include park/school clean-ups, removing exotic species, and planting trees.

Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors: Twelve activities plus a conservation project/presentation relating to the Take Care of Texas mission. See bottom of activity list for more information on the project.

1. Visit a state park or nature center, and draw a picture or write a poem on what you saw. Put the picture up in your scout house or share the poem with your fellow scout sisters.
2. What is the Texas state bird? Insect? Plant? Flower? Create a replica of each using recycled materials found around your house or nature. Leave them out for display at your scout house.
3. Construct a bird feeder with recycled materials such as soda bottle, oranges, or toilet paper roll.
4. Identify 3 steps you can take to help Take Care of Texas and track your progress over two weeks. Visit <[takecareoftexas.org/kids/do-your-part](http://takecareoftexas.org/kids/do-your-part)> for ideas. Examples include turning off water while brushing your teeth, turning off lights when leaving a room, recycling cans or bottles, and using both sides of paper.
5. *Take Care of Texas Water ReCycle Poster*: Complete the activities on the back. Tell your troop one thing you learned.
6. *Take Care of Texas Activity Poster*: Complete the activities on the back. Tell your troop one thing you learned.
7. Participate in a park, building, or school clean-up. Check out the Girl Scout activities page for clean-ups happening in your area. (This should not count as an activity for Juniors, as they are required to do this already.)
8. Participate in the Take Care of Texas Kids Art Contest held each spring. See <<http://takecareoftexas.org/kids/art-contest>> for more information.
9. Learn the decomposition time of a piece of paper, soda can, glass bottle, apple core, foam cup, and plastic bag. You can break into teams and have the girls put the items in order of decomposition time.
10. Learn the numbering system or recycling symbols for plastic bottles and containers, and find out your options for recycling them in your city. Do you have curbside pick-up? Where is your closest drop-off location? Do you have to sort the plastics?

11. Research native trees and plants in Texas, and find out why they are beneficial. Plant one in your front yard or ask a business or your city if you can plant one in a public area.
12. What is flowering? How can you grow a plant this way? Find out how and then try growing five of your own vegetables or plants.
13. Identify ways technology has helped reduce waste, conserve energy and water, or reduce air pollution. What is one new way you can use technology to improve your habits? In what ways has technology hurt these efforts?
14. Find ways to reduce energy consumption at home. Do you program your thermostat for when you are gone? Can you swap out light bulbs for more efficient ones? Count how many appliances/electronics are plugged in at your home. Do they all need to be plugged in? Even when turned off, appliances use some electricity.
15. Research news articles related to water conservation in your city or area, and discuss applicable laws, predictions, and issues. Is your city under water restrictions? Is your local reservoir level low?
16. Research five different careers relating to environmental science, conservation, wildlife management, or gardening. Interview two people and learn the educational background, work environment, and typical daily activities.
17. Review the tips and posts on the Take Care of Texas Facebook page. Use those as examples to create your own post with a picture and tip or idea on a how people can conserve water and energy, keep our air and water clean, and reduce waste. Post to your own social media and tag @TakeCareOfTexas or email the post as an attachment to [educate@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:educate@tceq.texas.gov). While not guaranteed, the TCEQ will try to repost them as available.
18. Research where storm water run-off goes and what impact it may have. Organize a Storm Drain Marking event in your neighborhood. Use this [How-to Guide](#).

#### Project information:

Any of these projects can count as an activity towards Daisy, Brownie, or Junior patches, but project must include eight hours of work if counting for Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors patch. Those hours can include time spent teaching another troop about the project or issue. Examples of projects include:

- Build a simple rain collection system. For more information, see *Rainwater Harvesting with Rain Barrels* and the Take Care of Texas YouTube video on building a rain barrel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBIqT94y5QI>).
- Build and maintain a compost bin for 60 days. For more information, see *Guide to Mulching and Composting* and the Take Care of Texas YouTube video on building a compost bin (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol3zTspfb8>).
- Develop a recycling or reusing system that involves entire troop or class. See *School Recycling Guide* for ideas.
- Develop energy conservation methods for your troop, family, or class. See *When Less = More: Energy-Conservation Tips* for ideas. If possible, compare energy bills after implementing changes.

**Photos and Social Media:** Take Care of Texas encourages you to email photos of troops completing activities and projects for use on the Take Care of Texas social media sites, website, and patch flyer. Please note by submitting a photo, you are granting the TCEQ the right to publish the image in any format, and you have ensured that you have the consent of those whose faces are visible in the image for the TCEQ to use the photo. Please email the photos to [educate@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:educate@tceq.texas.gov). You may also post photos to social media yourself and tag #TakeCareOfTexas. While not guaranteed, the TCEQ will try to repost them as available.

For questions or more information, please email [educate@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:educate@tceq.texas.gov) or call 512-239-3929.