



Southface

Southface Event Guide

June 29, 2023



girl scouts 
of greater atlanta

To Go Cup Upcycling

45 minutes

Materials:

- Used Chick-fil-A Cups
- Other recyclable items (pictures)
- Signs printed (recycling, landfill, compost)

Big Ideas

- How can we be more sustainable on a daily basis? (Ex: bringing a water bottle with you, avoiding purchasing plastic, etc.)
- What happens to your trash when you're done with it?
 - recycling, landfill, compost

Details

- Ask the Girl Scouts about what they do to be "environmentally friendly" or "sustainable."
 - What do these terms mean? Why is it important?
- Use an item of garbage. Use this as an example and trace its journey through our waste system.
 - Recycling:
 - what condition is the material in and why is that important?
 - What is "wish-cycling?"
 - "When in doubt, throw it out"
 - Landfill:
 - How long does it last for?
 - Composting:
 - What is it, what can be composted?
- Discuss ways to be more sustainable on a daily basis (reduce, reuse, recycle)

Sunflower Seed Planting

20 minutes

Materials:

- Used Chick-fil-A Cups
- Sunflower Seeds
- Compost
- Cups of water
- Paper Towels

Big Ideas:

- Sunflowers are great for our pollinator communities
- Compost is an important part of our ecosystem
- Food waste

Details

- This activity serves a dual purpose: it highlights the importance of composting and demonstrates how we can repurpose what many consider as "waste" into something both aesthetically pleasing and environmentally beneficial. The girls will learn about the natural cycle of decomposition, how composting enriches soil, and how plants, like sunflowers, thrive when given the right conditions.
- Start by discussing compost- what is it, how is it made, where does it come from, what is it used for, etc.
 - Allow the Girl Scouts to touch and feel the compost
 - Explain that compost is created naturally and can be created at home as well!
 - With the group of older Girl Scouts, go more in-depth into the science of compost
- Next, explain that we'll be using this compost to plant seeds. The nutrients in the compost will help the seeds grow big and strong!
 - demonstrate planting a seed in a cup: fill it with compost, push a seed about an inch into the soil, water carefully.
 - be sure each Girl Scout marks their cup so they go home with the correct one.

Rain Barrel Painting

20 minutes

Materials:

- Rain barrels
- Paint
- Paint trays/paper plates
- Paint brushes
- Cups of water
- Baby wipes
- Paper Towels

Big Ideas:

- How can we collect and save water?
- What is this water used for?
- How can we use water wisely?

Details

- Start by discussing rain barrels: what they are, how they are used, why they're beneficial, etc.
 - Potable vs non-potable water
 - water conservation- why is it important? What's happening with water in our ecosystem?
 - What is water from a rain barrel used for? (agriculture, etc.)
 - With the older Girl Scouts, go more in-depth about technical aspects of the rain barrels- restrictions, uses at home vs with businesses, etc.
- Encourage them to paint on the rain barrel!
 - Take turns- use the sunflower seed planting as an alternate activity
 - Encourage them to take up a specific space/size with their additions (keeping in mind the other group)
 - Have a volunteer distribute the paint onto paint trays/paper plates to avoid any spills
 - Utilize the paper towels and baby wipes as needed.

STEM Career Panel

40 minutes

Materials:

- STEM Career Panel Badge Worksheets

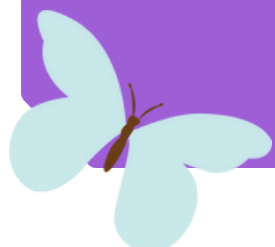
Big Idea:

- By sharing your career experience, Girl Scouts are inspired to consider a career in STEM!

Details

- The moderator will open with a few details and expectations for the Girl Scout
 - This panel is part of earning your STEM Career Explorer badge. You can earn the rest of it by completing a worksheet, which we have today. Then you can purchase the badges at the Badge & Sash store.
 - Panelists will introduce themselves, I'll ask an opening question, then the Girl Scouts can ask questions- so start thinking now what you would like to ask!
- Invite each panelist to introduce themselves. Include your name, current position, other places you've worked, and what kind of education you've earned.
- The moderator will ask the first question: "What is a typical day in your job like." Each panelist will answer.
- The moderator will invite the Girl Scouts to ask questions. The moderator may restate questions, or direct them to a specific panelist to answer. Not all panelists will answer all questions.
- Some typical questions include:
 - What inspired you to pursue this career?
 - What path did you take to get to where you are now? (college major, internships, certifications, career changes, etc.)
 - What do you enjoy the most about your job? What is the most difficult part of it?
 - What skills (STEM and non-STEM soft skills) should Girl Scouts cultivate to be successful in this field?

Plastic Cups & Containers



Why are plastic bottles bad for our environment?

The United Nations estimates around 300 million tons of plastic are manufactured each year. But why is it so harmful?

- More than 8 million tons find their way into our oceans each year. There it contaminates coral reefs and kills mammals, fish, and seabirds, who mistake plastic for food.
- The manufacturing process for all types of plastic requires vast amounts of energy AND it emits pollutants into the air and groundwater. This contributes to global warming.
- Plastic bottles take CENTURIES to decompose and create an enormous amount of trash and litter.



WHY REUSE?

Reusing containers is one of the most effective and inexpensive ways to reduce the environmental impact of packaging. Some plastic containers can be made durable enough to be refilled and reused about 25 times before becoming too damaged for reuse. Reusing plastic containers reduces the demand for disposable, single-use plastic, which reduces waste and energy consumption.

BY THE NUMBERS

Based on 1990 data, if water bottles (aluminum, glass, or plastic) were refilled and reused 25–35 times, almost 74% fewer plastic bottles would be in the landfill!

YOU can help reduce waste by reusing plastic items before throwing them away.



What can we do?

When you factor in that most plastic bottles are designed for one-time use, the solution is clear:

Use fewer plastic bottles!

Swap them out for permanent solutions that won't cause the same level of harm to our environment.



TRY THESE THINGS AT HOME!

- Always recycle plastics.
- Check with your local recycling guidelines about what kinds of plastic can be recycled. Look for ways to recycle plastic your local recycling center won't accept.
- Take the time to rinse out bottles before recycling.
- Check with your local recycling center to determine whether bottle caps should be left on or taken off.
- Make recycling a family practice. Challenge your family in encouraging others to recycle 100 percent of the time at school, at work, and at home.
- Avoid using plastic bottles whenever possible.
- Set an example for your community by picking up and recycling plastic bottles and other types of litter when you see it on the street, beach, or other locations.



Sunflowers & Pollinators



Why should we plant flowers?

Flowers are an ideal element in a sustainable, edible garden: they attract beneficial insects and enrich the living ecosystems!

- Bees and other pollinators are responsible for about 30% of the world's crops and 90% of the world's wild plants! They are critical to our food production!
- Bees can't see red! Flowers that are yellow, blue, white, and even purple help the bees find food.
- Plant in groups! Bees like to go from flower to flower, filling up on nectar before heading to their hive. Having lots of flowers clustered together makes their job easier.



Bee Facts

- Bees must collect nectar from 2 million flowers to make a pound of honey
- An average beehive can hold 50,000 bees
- Bees communicate through pheromones, or chemical scents
- Bees can fly about 20 mph

Sunflower Care

- Sunflowers need 6-8 hours of sunlight a day and love hot summer climates.
- They can grow to be 12-feet tall, so leave plenty of room!
- After the sprout has at least 6 leaves, plant it in the ground.

