



Invasive Plant Patch

Purpose: To develop an awareness of invasive species and the threat posed by them to our environment; to learn to identify several types of invasive plants and ways to eliminate or control them.

Girl Scout Brownies through Ambassadors may earn this patch by doing different numbers of requirements, but all must complete the starred* requirements.

Girl Scout Brownie: complete 4 requirements

Girl Scout Cadette: complete 6 requirements

Girl Scout Junior: complete 5 requirements

Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador: complete 7 requirements

1. *Discover what biodiversity is and why it is good for nature and people.
2. *Discover what makes certain plants and animals invasive and why invasives are a threat to biodiversity. Get a list of invasive plants for your state and a list of alternative plants to substitute for invasive ones.
3. * Explain the three main methods to control invasive plants: biological, chemical, and mechanical (physical).
4. Select an invasive plant and discover how much you know about the plant. Answer the following questions and share what you have learned with your troop/group or with a younger troop/group. Where did this plant come from? Does it have any good uses or outstanding features? Why is it an invasive plant? How can it be controlled or eliminated? What could be planted in its place?
5. Visit a nature center; attend a lecture; visit a plant nursery; or speak with a botanist, professional landscaper, or Master Gardener to find out about invasive plants and the use of native plants in landscaping.
6. Find out about legends or folk stories people tell about invasive plants. Or create your own legend, story, or chant/poem about invasive plants.
7. Make a poster showing an invasive plant and a non-invasive alternative plant. Explain why the alternative plant is better for the environment and wildlife.
8. Invent an imaginary invasive plant. Consider the questions in requirement # 2 when creating your plant. Draw pictures or make your plant out of craft supplies. Share your creation with your troop/group.
9. Visit a Girl Scout Outdoor Program Center (camp), local park, or nature center and count how many different types (trees, shrubs, vines, non-woody plants) and species of plants are considered invasive.
10. Participate in an invasive removal/control project. Local sources for these activities might include nature centers, a watershed association, conservation commissions, land trusts, or your Girl Scout Council.

Note: For photographs of invasive plants, fact sheets, management methods, alternatives and availability, and links to other helpful websites, the following websites are good resources.

<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/>

<http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/plants.html>

<http://www.newfs.org>

<http://wric.ucdavis.edu/links.html>

<http://www.invasive.org>

<http://www.blm.gov/education/weed/weed.html>

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>

<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/>

www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2702&q=323494&depNav_GID=1641

<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/connecticut/science/art6477.html>

www.norwalkriver.org (click on Information, then Invasive Plant Links for above and other links)



Girl Scouts.

Invasive Plant Patch Information and Ordering

This patch was created to call attention to a worldwide threat to native plants and animals. That threat to biological diversity is posed by non-native invasive species and has been ranked second in devastation only to the destruction of habitats through development. The specifics of the threats vary according to geographic area and conditions, but the general problem exists throughout the world and has been exacerbated by the ease and speed of travel.

If native plants and animals are to have the resources they need to survive, the problem of invasive species must be addressed and controlled. That effort will require the determination and help of many different cooperating individuals, groups, businesses, organizations, and agencies.

Girl Scouts of Connecticut hopes this badge will demonstrate its commitment to the environment and to the making of responsible citizens. As present Girl Scouts and their leaders and families become educated about the problem, spread the word, and participate in actual physical control projects, tangible improvement will evolve. The process may inspire future landscape architects, designers, or contractors; scientists; engineers; environmentalists; and business and community leaders to increase their awareness and actions to make the world a better place.

The patch may be obtained through Girl Scouts of Connecticut Shops, ordered online at www.gsofct.org > Shop, or ordered by contacting the shop at 203-234-6253 or shop@gsofct.org. For further information, please contact the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Program Department at 203-239-2922 or 800-922-2770 or program@gsofct.org.



Invasive Plant Patch

Copyright © 2003 Girl Scout Council of SWCT

Copyright © 2008 Girl Scouts of Connecticut, Inc.

Girl Scouts of Connecticut, Inc.
Program Department
North Haven Service Center
20 Washington Avenue, Connecticut 06473
203-239-7220 • 800-922-2770 • Fax: 203-239-7220
Website: www.gsofct.org

