



## STEM Teaser Family Activities | **Water Conservation**

# Water Watch Guards

Grade Levels  
**3–5**

### Overview

Here's how you can play an active role and enhance the power of Girl Scouting at home—all while having fun, making memories, and strengthening your bond. Letting your child share his/her knowledge as will both help cement these new ideas in their memory and give them a sense of pride.

### Did You Know?

No matter where you live, you have an impact on the world's oceans! When it rains or snows in your area, some of the water seeps into the ground—but the rest flows downhill and eventually will join a lake, river, stream, bay, or other body of water. Any land around you that also drains water into this same waterbody is part of your local watershed! Everyone has a local watershed.

Most local watersheds are also open watersheds, which means that they eventually continue to drain downstream. For this reason, pollution can be carried from a local watershed all the way to an ocean

### Help Her Lead at Home

**Talk:** With your child, take a mini-field trip to a local body of water. Or, if this isn't possible, type your home address into [Google Maps](#) and search for nearby waterways. As you observe a local waterway one way or the other, ask your child to share what they have learned about watersheds in school. Challenge them to explain how their actions can affect both local waterways and the oceans of the world!

**Do:** Choose a day that you and your child can spend together and take on the role of Water Watch Guards! Read through the *Water Watch Guards: A Day in our Life* sheet to understand what this means, and then use the chart's first column throughout your day to keep track of actions that you see and do that could affect your local waterways. Try to make observations at home and in your community and be sure to include both positive and negative actions.

Want to learn more about how the waterway near you connects to others in your local watershed?

Check out: [water.usgs.gov/wsc/map\\_index.html](http://water.usgs.gov/wsc/map_index.html)

#### Not sure where to start?

#### Some actions to look for include:

- Littering
- Recycling
- Using covered or uncovered garbage bins
- Driving in cars that leak oil
- Fertilizer use
- Pet waste disposal
- Plastic bag use

Check out no-cost resources for you and your girl to extend the learning at home: <http://bit.ly/GirlScoutsDE>



At the end of the day, review your completed list together. As you reflect, encourage your child to create a facial emoji that shows whether each observation is likely to have a positive or negative affect on your local waterways.

Then fill out Part 3: *Plan for Change* as you discuss:

- Which actions had positive effects on our waterways?  
How could we encourage more people to act this way?
- Which actions had negative effects on our waterways?  
How could we improve this behavior?

Finally, choose one *Plan for Change* idea and work with your child to make it happen! Color in the corresponding *Create Change!* star once you have successfully created change and protected your local watershed and the oceans of the world.

## For More Tips

Looking to take waterway protection one step further? Try to fight runoff! Runoff occurs when extra water (usually from storms) is not absorbed and instead flows over Earth's surface. This type of water quickly and easily carries pollution to waterways and oceans.

Building a rain garden is one of the best and easiest ways to prevent runoff pollution, because it traps water and gives it more time to sink into the ground. To learn more about creating your own home or community rain garden, check out this [article](#) from the Environmental Protection Agency. Here's how you can play an active role and enhance the power of Girl Scouting at home—all while having fun, making memories, and strengthening your bond. Letting your child share his/her knowledge as will both help cement these new ideas in their memory and give them a sense of pride.

**Attention Parents and Caregivers:** Is your girl interested in the environment and in protecting our planet? Then Girl Scouts is the place for her. Girl Scouts' "It's Your Planet—Love It!" program gives her the opportunity to take the lead on issues such as clean water and air, noise pollution, climate change, agriculture, and more. This activity is powered by Girl Scouts of the USA. Girl Scouts is the place for every girl, and it always will be.

**[SIGN UP NOW.](#)**

Check out no-cost resources for you and your girl to extend the learning at home: <http://bit.ly/GirlScoutsDE>

*Water Watch Guards: A Day in our Life*

<p><b>Part 1: Observe</b></p> <p>What have we seen or done today that may affect our waterways?</p>	<p><b>Part 2: Reflect</b></p> <p>Fill in the emoji below to show whether this action will have a positive or negative effect on our waterways.</p>	<p><b>Part 3: Plan for Change</b></p> <p><i>For positive effects:</i> How can we encourage more people to act like this? <i>For negative effects:</i> How can we try to improve this behavior?</p>	<p><b>Part 4: Create Change!</b></p> <p>Fill in the star below once you have carried out your plan and protected your waterways!</p>
			
			
			
			