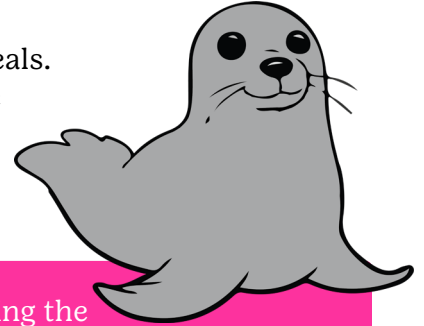


Climate Challenge: Save the Seals

Our climate is changing, and these changes are affecting animals around the world, including Hawaiian monk seals like Malani. Carbon and other greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, which causes hotter summer and warmer winters. Warmer temperatures cause glaciers to melt, raising water levels, and shrinking beaches, Malani's natural habitat. Chemical waste and single use plastics pollute the oceans and coral reefs, causing harm to Malani and other ocean animals.

Become a climate advocate and help Malani and the other Hawaiian monk seals. Complete five of the activities below to earn the Girl Scout Climate Challenge patch – patches can be purchased [online](#) or ordered through any GSGI shop location. For more fun – check out the [Girl Scout Climate Challenge on SciStarter](#) for citizen science projects!



DISCOVER

Learn about climate science and how climate change is affecting the Hawaiian monk seal. Choose two activities:

- Discover the difference between weather and climate
- Learn the steps of the scientific method
- Explore the Hawaiian monk seal's natural habitat
- Learn about the importance of biodiversity in coral reefs
- Investigate why Hawaiian monk seals are endangered
- Become a citizen scientist and make observations about your environment
- Discover how climate change has impacted sea levels

CONNECT

Climate change happens everywhere, even in your community! Find out about what you can do at home to help Malani and other endangered ocean life. Choose two activities:

- Talk to a local climate scientist, organizer, or anyone trying to help the planet
- Investigate how single use plastics pollute the ocean
- Find out about your [carbon footprint](#)
- Learn new ways you can conserve water to reduce excess runoff into the oceans
- Research alternative energy sources and ways to reduce our use of fossil fuels
- Learn the [7 principles to Leave No Trace](#) when you go outdoors
- Plant a tree with the [Girl Scout Tree Promise](#)

TAKE ACTION

Create your climate project – choose a part of climate change that's important to you. Research and plan a project to help – build a rain garden, create a public service announcement, film a video, or create a climate pledge. It's up to you!

Share your project with the community and challenge others to get involved!

Let's Learn About the Hawaiian monk seal!

1. The official state mammal of Hawaii. The Hawaiian name is “Ilio holo I ka uaua”, which translates to “dog that runs in rough water”.
2. The average lifespan of a Hawaiian monk seal is 25 to 30 years. Adult males grow to about 7 feet long and weigh between 300 and 400 pounds. Meanwhile, females can grow to 8 feet long and can weigh between 400 to 600 pounds.
3. The Hawaiian monk seal is an endangered animal – only 1,500 seals exist in the wild today.
4. They spend most of their life in the warm waters surrounding Hawaii; swimming and foraging around the coral reefs.
5. Hawaiian monk seals can hold their breath for up to 20 minutes and dive more than 1,800 feet
6. Pollution and marine debris is a big threat to the Hawaiian monk seal - plastic pollution and marine debris accumulates in Hawaiian waters due to ocean currents.
7. The rising sea levels due to climate change is drastically affecting the Hawaiian monk seal's habitat.
8. The name 'Malani' originates from Hawaii and means “calming and relaxing”.

