

HOUSEHOLD ELF

Protecting our environment and conserving our resources is one of our most important jobs as tomorrow's leaders! Let's start today by taking the following steps to learn how to use less energy and water, how to reuse and recycle our resources, and how to have cleaner air for everyone.

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Recommended Ages: Grades K - 12

Estimated Time: 2 - 3 hours

Stuff you'll need: Pledge cards (attached), pen/pencil, recyclable items, craft supplies & cloths

Parents/Guardians should consider: There is always risk when youth use the internet. Some caregivers may choose to review house rules of internet use or sit down with their girl to complete the activity together.

THE FUN PART

**BADGE OR JOURNEY
STEPS COMPLETED**

Brownie Household Elf Steps 1 - 5

1. How can you save energy in your home? What steps can you take in your home to help save energy? When you leave a room do you leave a light on? When your electronic device is done being charged do you leave it plugged in? Did you know that electricity is still running through the charging cord?
2. How can you save water in your home? What steps can you take to help save water? Do you leave the water running when you brush your teeth? Did you know that according to homewaterworks.org the average American shower uses 17.2 gallons of water and lasts for 8.2 minutes? That is an average of 2.1 gallons per minute. Do you know how long your shower usually lasts? How can you change your shower habits?
3. How can you help make the air we breathe cleaner? Do you often ride in a car? Try walking or biking if you need to go somewhere. Did you know some plants help with air quality? Research plants that help with air quality and ask your parent/guardian if you can put some in your home. Did you know cleaning frequently helps ensure a healthy environment? Make sure that household cleaners are tightly closed so that fumes do not leak into the air.
 - See how pollution in the air affects objects in your outdoor environment. Take several damp cloths outside. Use a different cloth for each object and wipe down that object. Now see how pollution in the air affects objects in your indoor environment. Using the same method as before. What were your results? Share with your family what you experienced and show the cloth and tell what object was wiped. How did that item get dirty? Compare your indoor and outdoor clothes. What can you conclude from this project?
4. How can you reuse or recycle items in your home? What kind of craft projects can you do with leftover items in your home? If you have a garden or outdoor plants, empty milk jugs can be turned into a miniature greenhouse. Tin cans can be turned into beautiful pencil holders or planters for succulents. Ice cream buckets can be used as a first aid kit or a way to organize items in a closet. You can even use



HOUSEHOLD ELF CTD.

several different objects to create a robot! Check out GSGI's Pinterest page for more ideas!

5. Think about how you and your family can be creative in helping our Earth be healthy. Then, make a pledge to the Earth for yourself and family to follow. Write it on the included pledge card and hang it somewhere everyone can refer back to it often as a reminder.
6. Way to go! You did it! Share on social media with your caregiver's permission. Use the hashtag #GSGIDIY

MY PLEDGE TO THE EARTH

On this day _____ of _____ in the
year 20____, I pledge to _____



Signed _____

