



**Global Action 2021**



**Activity Guide  
for Cadettes, Seniors,  
and Ambassadors**



## Global Action Award

In 2015, leaders around the world agreed to work together to accomplish 17 goals by 2030—these are referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs—or Global Goals, for short. They focus on things like taking care of the environment, making sure all people have enough to eat, and improving people’s health. They’re big goals, but Girl Scouts® knows a thing or two about changing the world!

The Girl Scout Global Action award calls for girls to address the Global Goals by discovering, connecting, and taking action in their communities and the world. In 2021, the award focuses on SDG 13: Climate Action.

## Learning About the Global Goals

If the global goals are new to you, start by teaming up with an adult to go online and learn about the SDGs at [www.globalgoals.org](http://www.globalgoals.org)\*. You can also download and read this short booklet, [The World We Want: A Guide to the Goals for Children and Young People](#).

Once you know what the goals are, you’re ready to move on to the activities you can do to earn your Girl Scout Global Action award.

**Please note:** Some of the targets created by the United Nations for the Sustainable Development Goals refer to sensitive issues. Volunteers should talk with parents and obtain parental permission before discussing this topic with girls. Choose the issues or targets that are appropriate for your group and context. Your council may have a sensitive issues form to use. Please consult with your council before discussing content of a sensitive or controversial nature to ensure that appropriate training, planning, and permission standards have been met.

Girl Scouts of the USA understands that parents or guardians are the primary decision makers for their children and, as such, does not expect or require girls to participate in any activities relating to the Sustainable Development Goals that may be inconsistent with their family’s faith and/or beliefs



*The 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015*

\* GSUSA acknowledges the Global Goals Campaign. For more, see <https://www.globalgoals.org/asset-licence> (accessed April 17, 2019)

## Earning Your Global Action Award

This year, the Girl Scout Global Action award is focused on SDG 13: Climate Action. Every Girl Scout must complete five steps in order to earn her Global Action award. The first four steps have three activities to choose from. You only need to do one activity in each step to earn the award, but don't let that stop you—you can do as many as you'd like!



### Steps:

1. Learn about the Global Goals and Global Action award.
2. Find out about climate change.
3. Explore responses to climate change.
4. Focus on a climate change issue.
5. Create a Global Action Climate Challenge.

When you've earned this award, you'll understand what climate change means and you'll have created a global action climate challenge for SDG 13: Climate Action.

### STEP 1

## Learn About the Global Goals and Global Action Award

### Choice 1: Explore the Global Goals themes.

Start your award experience by learning more about the UN's Global Goals. This activity is a good one to do with your Girl Scout troop or a group of friends.

Set up six stations around your room or meeting space with a copy of the Global Goals icon grid, and label each station with the following topics:

- Poverty
- Health and Well-Being
- Education, Skills, and Jobs
- A Safe and Fair World
- Sustainability
- Environment

Take a copy of the Global Goals descriptions to each station, then write your initials next to the goals on the icon grid that you think connect to the topic of that station. You can put your initials next to more than one goal! For example, at the station about poverty, you might decide to initial both Goal 1: No Poverty and Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities.

After you've gone to each station, come back together as a group, then show and discuss which goals were connected to each theme. Be sure to discuss if any goals fit into more than one theme. Thinking about all 17 goals, which ones do you think are most important? Would any of the Global Goals benefit your community?

### Choice 2: Plan a Global Goals mural.

Artwork is an important way to send messages to society. Design a mural using the 17 Global Goals as your themes. You don't have to create a full mural if you don't have a large enough space, but you can plan and design the mural on paper.

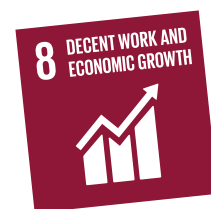
If you are working with other girls, you might decide to split up and create different "panels" to put together as your mural. Before you get started, decide on the message that you want to share through your mural.

Once all the panels are finished, come back together and make any revisions you need. Then, discuss as a group where a mural like this one might belong. You might brainstorm ideas like a community center, school, library, or somewhere else! If you want, connect with that organization to find out if they are interested in a mural by your Girl Scout group or troop.

### Choice 3: Play a Global Goals association game.

This is a great game to play with your friends or family! Take a copy of the Global Goals and their descriptions, found at the back of this packet. Make sure everyone understands what each goal is about.

You'll also need a ball or a small object that you can toss. Start by tossing the ball to another player and say one of the goals. The person you tossed it to says another goal that is connected to the goal you called out. Then, that person tosses it to a third player who will say a third goal, and so on.



For example, you might say “climate action” and then the next person might say “life on land” because climate change will affect all life on land. Then, the next person might say, “sustainable cities and communities” because communities are part of life on land.

Keep playing and see how many goals you can connect without repeating. Can you get to all 17?

## STEP 2

### Find Out About Climate Change

#### Choice 1: Do a climate change people search.

Try this version of human bingo—called Climate Change People Search—from the United Nation’s World’s Largest Lesson site with a group of your friends or Girl Scout troop. Hand out copies of the game, which is included at the end of this packet, to everyone playing. Then, find someone in the room who can answer “yes” to one of the items on your sheet. When you do, talk with that person about their experiences and/or feelings. After that, move on to someone else. You can only have one response per person.

After playing, compare notes as a group. Did you have anything in common with anyone else? Was there anything that a lot of people answered “yes” to? What about something that no one could say “yes” to?

#### Choice 2. Do a greenhouse effect and carbon footprint activity.

For this activity, you’ll demonstrate the greenhouse effect and measure your carbon footprint.

Fill two glasses of equal size with two cups of cold water and place five ice cubes in each glass. Then, wrap one of the glasses in a plastic bag and seal it tightly. Place both glasses in the sunlight while you calculate your carbon footprint. You may need to wait to examine the glasses after about an hour, or toward the end of your Girl Scout meeting.

While you’re waiting, use a computer or smartphone to access a carbon footprint calculator and find out your carbon footprint. Your carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, that gets



released into the environment from your daily activities. Greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, are one of the main reasons that the climate is changing. The bigger the carbon footprint, the more greenhouse gases are being released into the atmosphere.

There are many carbon footprint calculators on the internet but you might try this simple one from [Leigh University](#), or go deeper with calculators from the [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#) or [Conservation International](#). A parent or another family member can help you fill in some of the information in order to find your carbon footprint.

After you've calculated your carbon footprint, talk with your friends or family about what you found. Did your carbon footprint surprise you? What are some ways you might reduce it?

Then, take another look at your glasses. The glass that was covered in plastic should be warmer because the bag will have trapped the heat in the glass. This is the same thing that happens when greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere. Can you visualize a similar process happening with our planet?

### **Choice 3: Take a stand for childhood and climate.**

Many of the Global Goals focus on the rights of children to have better education, health, and a clean and safe environment. Several decades ago, the United Nations (nearly all the governments in the world) agreed on a legally binding document called the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). This includes 54 articles that set out children's rights and how governments should work together to make them available to all children. First, think back to your own childhood. On a piece of paper, write what you believe is a right and should be true for all children.



Then, compare your list to some of the core rights included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as:

- The right to be heard and taken seriously
- The right to be treated fairly
- The right to an education
- The right to live and develop healthily
- The right to play

Discuss with your friends or family ways that climate change could impact a child's rights. What impact does a healthy or unhealthy climate have on a child or teens?

To go further, find out if kids in your community know about the Convention on the Rights of the Child. How can you make sure that the rights of children are respected in your community and that all children in your community have access to their rights? What about kids around the world?

### STEP 3

## Explore Responses to Climate Change

### Choice 1: Design an anti-climate change city.

Using markers, pencils, and poster paper, design an environmentally friendly city with your friends. Before you get started, think about the biggest environmental problems facing cities today. What about air quality or pollution? Open space and parks for kids to play in? Now imagine that you are an environmental engineer and create a city that pays attention to climate change issues. You might want to include things like low-emission buildings or mass transit. Be sure to think about vulnerable populations, such as those experiencing homelessness. What would your city do for those communities? Also think about the environment around your city—do you need to make a plan for coastal flooding, forest fires, or drought?

For more fun, take your ideas to your city planner's office and talk with them about ways they are making your community safer from climate change.



## Choice 2: Explore a natural disaster.

Look for recent news stories about natural disasters, such as wildfires, hurricanes, or blizzards, in your community or around the world. Then, find out how climate change may have impacted or increased the disaster. One impact of climate change is increased extreme temperatures, both hot and cold.

Brainstorm new ways that communities could reduce the risks of natural disasters or ways to rebuild more safely. For example, an early warning app on phones might alert people to danger sooner and help them evacuate to safety. What are other ways that people and communities can respond to natural disasters? Design a solution that you think could help with the kind of disaster you researched. How does your idea compare to others that have been tried? This might be the start of your Climate Action Challenge in Step 5!

## Choice 3: Let a climate change activist inspire you!

Many people around the world are working to protect our planet in all kinds of ways. Some are even Girl Scouts! Take a look at the Girl Scouts who created sustainable solutions to environmental problems in the handout section at the end of this packet called “Get Inspired by a Climate Change Activist.” Then, find another climate activist or group who inspires you. If you need somewhere to get started, visit [climateheros.org](https://climateheros.org) or [climate.gov](https://climate.gov).

If you’re working on your Global Action award with friends or your troop, share what you learned about Girl Scouts or the other climate activists you found.

Then, imagine what you could do to support climate action. What can you learn from these Girl Scouts and other climate activists that might help you create change for the climate?



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## STEP 4

# Focus on a Climate Change Issue

### Choice 1: Design a fact sheet.

Pick a climate issue you'd like to explore further for your Climate Action Challenge in Step 5. Once you've chosen an issue, find out as much background and data as you can about your topic. If you are working with other Girl Scouts, you might want to break into two groups and tackle two topics!

Then, decide what the most important information you found is and design a fact sheet or infographic on your issue. These are facts and talking points that can convince others to advocate for your issue.

If you worked with other Girl Scouts who focused on different issues, share what each of you researched and learned. Was there any issue that really stuck out to you as important? Brainstorm what you might do to challenge people to act on this issue in Step 5.

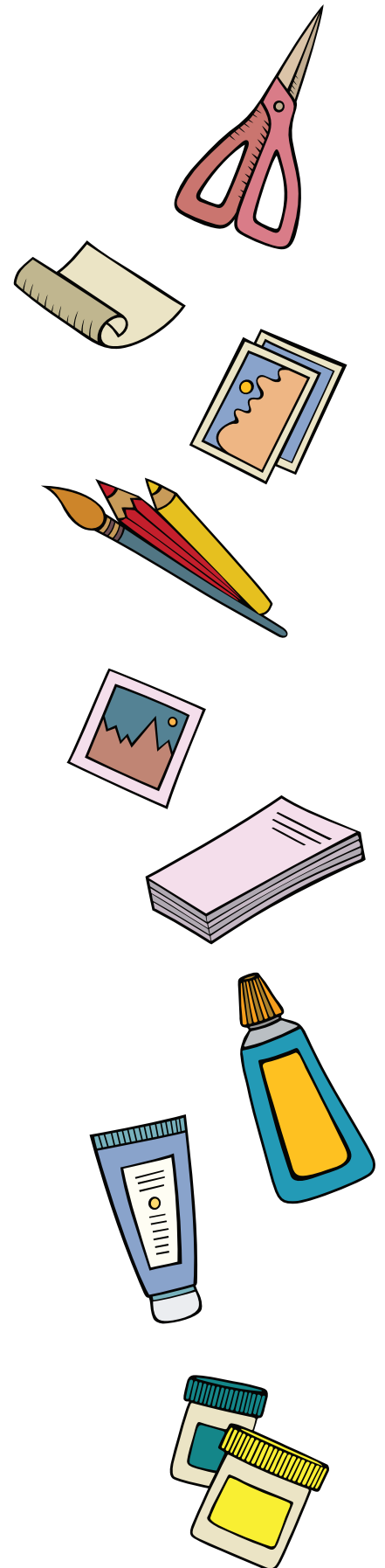
### Choice 2: Get expert help.

There are a lot of smart and passionate people working on climate change. Find an expert to interview about a climate issue that you are passionate about. Depending on their availability, you might interview them over the phone, via email, or at your Girl Scout meeting.

After you speak with them, think about what your expert said and what messages you'd like to share with your larger community. This will be the basis of your Climate Action Challenge in Step 5.

### Choice 3: Practice your pitch.

Think about the climate change issue you are most passionate about now that you've learned more about Goal 13: Climate Action. Then, create a pitch that convinces people this is a real problem. You might choose to focus on the causes of climate change like carbon emissions or deforestation or the impact of climate change on water, food, or human health. Be sure to include facts as well as why it matters to you.



Then practice your pitch with your friends, family, or community. Find out if they have questions or suggestions to make your pitch stronger.

## STEP 5

### Create a Global Action Climate Challenge

In order to impact climate change, everyone needs to act! One way you can influence others is to show them what you are doing and challenge them to do the same.

Based on what you did in Step 4, create a Climate Action Challenge to share with your community. Decide if you want to send a message, take a photograph, or record a video to share your challenge. Be sure to include one concrete action that people can take for the planet.

You may decide to share with your friends, your school, or your larger community. If you decide to share on social media, be sure to talk with your parents first and get their permission. Review the [Girl Scout internet safety pledge](#) for more information.

When you are finished with all five steps, make sure you celebrate! By earning your Global Action award you've helped the world get one step closer to achieving the Global Goals!



## Step 1, Choice 1 & 3

### Explore the Global Goals themes & Play a Global Goals association game



## Descriptions

- End hunger and ensure everyone has access to healthy and nutritious food
- Make sure everyone has access to safe and clean energy
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Reduce inequality within and among countries
- End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Make sure everyone has access to safe and clean water
- Conserve and protect the oceans and marine life
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Protect, restore and promote nature and the animals that live in it
- Create new partnerships around the world for the Global Goals
- Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth so that everyone is able to have decent work prospects
- Ensure inclusive and good education for all people
- Ensure sustainable consumption and help to stop food waste
- Build resilient infrastructure and ensure these do not harm the environment or people, and help companies to design and create new technologies and innovations

## Step 2, Choice 1

# Climate Change People Search

Find someone who:		Name	Notes from your discussion
1	Has joined in climate change community action		
2	Is worried about what the future might bring		
3	Has heard that a warming climate will bring new diseases		
4	Is not sure what the difference is between climate and weather		
5	Feels the normal rhythm of the seasons is changing		
6	Knows of people who have had to move because of the effects of climate change		
7	Can think of changes being made to stop climate change getting worse		
8	Blames wealthy nations for climate change		
9	Can share a recent climate change story		
10	Is trying to be 'green' by cutting down on energy use		
11	Believes that climate change is not that serious		
12	Knows of a farmer who is worried about climate change		
13	Feels that their lifestyle and culture are under threat from climate change		
14	Thinks that girls and women will suffer most as the climate heats up		
15	Has seen the effects of climate change where they live		
16	Can think of changes being made to adapt to climate change		
17	Feels very emotional about climate change		
18	Has heard or read of awful climate change predictions		
19	Has learned of species going extinct because of climate change		
20	Thinks that their children will not be able to live as they have		

### Step 3, Choice 3

#### Get Inspired by a Climate Change Activist



#### Mary Katherine: Saving Coral Reefs

For her Gold Award project, Mary Katherine of [Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas](#) founded Project Reeflove, an awareness and educational campaign that teaches kids an easy way to help protect coral reefs, which are essentially the rainforests of the sea. Doing something simple—like switching to a mineral sunscreen or wearing a rash guard instead of using a chemical sunscreen—really helps.

The first step, Mary Katherine knew, had to be education, so she started with kids, knowing there's nothing stronger than the passion of young people. As she says, "If you get a little kid excited about saving the environment, you can bet their parents, grandparents, teachers, and anyone else in earshot is going to hear about it too!" So far, the Project Reeflove message has directly reached more than 11,000 people and Mary Katherine is happy to see that Hawaii just outlawed sunscreens that are toxic to our reefs. She hopes more states do the same.

She says the support system within Girl Scouts gave her the motivation and structure she needed to make her work successful and that it's just proof that girls are powerful, intelligent, and driven."



#### Caroline: Planting for Pollination and Agriculture

For her Gold Award project, Caroline, from [Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York](#), planted pollinator-friendly gardens around the solar panels in her town of Niskayuna to create the first municipal solar pollinator in New York State.

New York, home to more than 450 pollinator species currently under threat from habitat loss and other stressors, has 7.3 million acres in agriculture production. Many of the state's leading crops, such as apples, alfalfa, soybeans, cabbage, pumpkins, and berries, rely heavily on pollination from these species. The planting efforts of Caroline and her team of middle school Girl Scouts increased the much-needed pollinator population, such as bees and birds. That, in turn, helped protect the agricultural economy, ensure greater local food supply security, and beautify the entire area.

Caroline didn't stop there. She also advocated for \$300,000 in state funding for pollinator benefit programs so her pioneering solutions can expand into new healthy growth for New York and beyond.



### **Shelby: Conserving Oceans**

Gold Award Girl Scout Shelby from [Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast](#) launched the No Straw November initiative to bring attention to single-use plastic straws, one of the top polluters of the ocean, and started a nonprofit called Jr. Ocean Guardians to educate children about the need for environmental protection. She also worked with major companies to curb plastic straw use and helped pass a California law that is already reducing straw use by millions.

Her project includes an ocean activity book for children in grades K to three so that they can learn about the ocean and how they can protect it—all in a fun way. Once a child completes the activity book, they become eligible for a special Jr. Ocean Guardians patch that Shelby designed.

Her efforts were featured on The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation website and on the Martha Stewart Living's Changemaker series. She also spoke about her initiative at Dreamforce 2017, the largest software conference in the world.



### **Rajvi: Fighting Drought**

California is one of the country's greatest agricultural resources, yet it frequently experiences crop-threatening droughts. Gold Award Girl Scout Rajvi of [Girl Scouts of Northern California](#) developed cost-effective soil moisture sensors and readers that help farmers, particularly those in rural and underserved communities, conserve water.

Based on Rajvi's technology, farmers, on average, saved 25 percent of their water use. She has since received a provisional patent on her product and is now working to make it accessible for all via social media.

Rajvi has spoken at Oracle Openworld, a leading technology conference, to bring more exposure to her project.



### **Elizabeth: Legislating for the Environmental**

Bees are critical to our livelihood and food chain, and more and more are becoming endangered. Through her own grassroots advocacy and education efforts, Gold Award Girl Scout Elizabeth of [Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson](#) taught the public how to take action to help bees, successfully persuading lawmakers in New York State to pass legislation to protect bee populations. This legislation included establishing Pollinator Awareness Week and providing funding for bee research in the state budget.

Elizabeth is working to grow her nonprofit, which works to educate the public on the importance of bees. Currently she is conducting research as an undergraduate about the factors that harm bees and possible solutions.



### **Rachel: Protecting Mangroves**

Gold Award Girl Scout Rachel of [Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida](#) took environmental action in a big way! For her Gold Award project she cultivated more than 100 mangrove seedlings for an entire school year. Every Saturday she worked with her mom to clean and rid the sprouts of bugs as well as collect data.

Rachel then teamed up with Florida International University to rehabilitate mangroves in Biscayne Bay and gathered volunteers from a local middle school to help plant the propagules she'd so patiently raised. This go-getter also organized a coastal cleanup and hosted an invasive species removal effort to make sure the newly planted mangroves had a safe ecosystem.

It's no surprise Rachel will be majoring in environmental science at Florida Atlantic University—we look forward to seeing this green blood's green thumb continue to impact our environment for years to come!

## Glossary

**Biodegradable:** When something can be broken down naturally by living organisms, such as bacteria

**Brainstorm:** When you try to solve a problem or come up with new ideas by having a discussion with another person or group of people

**Carbon dioxide:** A gas released by burning coal, natural gas, oil, and wood that traps heat in the atmosphere

**Carbon footprint:** The amount of carbon dioxide humans release into the environment

**Climate:** The average pattern of weather conditions over a long period of time, making it different from weather which changes daily

**Climate change:** A change in the average conditions—such as temperature and rainfall—in a region over a long period of time

**Conserve:** To protect our natural resources, such as soil, water, or forests, from loss, pollution, or waste

**Environment:** The air, water, and land in or on which people, animals, and plants live

**Fossil fuels:** Carbon-containing fuel formed from the remains of prehistoric plants and animals, such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas

**Glacier:** Huge, thick masses of ice formed when lots of snow falls in one location for many years and the snow on the bottom gets packed down, becoming ice

**Global warming:** An increase in Earth's average temperature that causes ice melting and rising sea levels

**Greenhouse gases:** The emissions of carbon dioxide or other gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect

**Sanitation:** Keeping the public healthy by providing clean living conditions that require actions such as removing garbage and keeping water drinkable

**Sustainable:** When something can last or continue for a long time

**United Nations:** Organization formed to promote international peace, security, and cooperation among the countries of the world (Fun fact: The United Nations headquarters is in New York City, the same city as the Girl Scouts of the USA headquarters!)

**WAGGGS:** Stands for World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

**Weather:** A specific event—like a rainstorm or hot day—that happens over a few hours, days, or weeks