

Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails Keep New Mexico True Patch Sponsored by New Mexico Clean & Beautiful

Introduction

New Mexico Clean & Beautiful motivates people to take action everyday to improve their community environment. We ignite in-state pride that inspires New Mexicans to volunteer at local cleanups, attend related events like Earth Day and America Recycles Day, and engages in everyday activities that make their communities clean, green and beautiful places to live, work and play.

Requirements

- ❖ Daisies and Brownies – complete items with a checkmark (✓)
- ❖ Juniors and Cadettes – complete items with checkmark (✓) and an arrow (>)
- ❖ Seniors and Ambassadors – complete items with checkmark (✓), arrow (>) and a star (★)

Discover

- ✓ Read the introduction above and name at least three “everyday activities” that make your neighborhood clean.
- ✓ Look at Litter: Simply defined, litter is misplaced solid waste. Go to your neighborhood park or schoolyard. Look around and answer these questions:
 - Do you see anything on the ground?
 - How many pieces do you count?
 - What’s there? Is it candy wrappers, white paper or something else?
 - How do you think those things got there?
 - What’s the right thing to do with this litter?
- Remember to Recycle
 - Recycling can take many forms such as reusing a bottle or plastic fork, buying something from a thrift store, or wrapping a gift in salvaged paper. How do you recycle at home and at school?
 - What we can recycle depends on what the local Materials Recovery Facility (usually called a MRF, pronounced “murf”) accepts. Research which items are recyclable in your neighborhood.
 - Would you believe steel cans become bicycle wheels and a shampoo bottle can be your next hairbrush? Visit wanttoberecycled.org to learn how your garbage gets another life.
 - [Take the “I will recycle pledge”](#)
- ★ Bask in Beauty
 - Take a walk in your neighborhood and answer these questions:
 - What do you see that’s beautiful?
 - How does a park or garden with cactus, rocks, trees, flowers, or grass look compared to one that has concrete, dirt or weeds?
 - Do you see graffiti? How does it make you feel?
 - What do the houses look like? Is the paint nice? Are the windows broken? Is the yard clean? Do you think these things add or take away from the beauty?

Connect

- Find these groups or places near where you live (see above for #):
 - ✓ School “Green Team” or sustainability leader/committee
 - ✓ School or community garden
 - Keep America Beautiful Affiliate
 - County Cooperative Extension Office or Master Gardeners
 - ★ Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)
 - ★ Composting facility

Take Action

- Daisies and Brownies (volunteer or participate in activities with a checkmark) Brownies and Cadettes (volunteer or participate in activities with a checkmark and arrow) Seniors, Ambassadors (organize, implement or take a leading role) in at least three of the following:
 - ✓ Community cleanup
 - ✓ School or community garden creation, planting, maintaining
 - Recycling program (collection, contest like Recycle-Bowl, or “Trashion”/recycled fashion show)
 - Adopt-a-Spot (clean and maintain a neighborhood, street, park or other location)
 - Beautification (mural painting or tile mosaic in a graffiti-prone area, painting trash receptacles, planting trees or gardens, etc.)
 - ★ Hosting a party to decorate reusable water bottles
 - ★ Making a presentation to a class or group about litter or recycling

Customize

Decide for yourself! There are countless ways to Keep America Beautiful and New Mexico True beyond those listed above. You could discover how illegal dumping hurts wildlife, connect to a watershed association, take action by planting a tree, or come up with your own ideas. Talk with your troop leader who can contact New Mexico Clean & Beautiful for more ideas and resources based on your interests.

Congratulations!

Your knowledge and efforts contribute to a cleaner, greener and more beautiful New Mexico. You have discovered more about ending litter, improving recycling and beautifying communities. Your connections to local organizations make our collective efforts stronger and more effective. When you take action every day, your positive example inspires and motivates others. New Mexico Clean & Beautiful appreciates all you have done and will do in the future. In partnership with Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails, it is our honor to award deserving individuals the Keep New Mexico True patch.