



# **Sustainable Maine**

## **PATCH PROGRAM**

# Sustainable Maine Patch Program: Advocate for Paint Recycling

The goal of the Sustainable Maine patch program is to cultivate greater awareness and civic action among Girl Scouts to create a sustainable future where people are able to live, work, and thrive in Maine.

Flex your citizen muscles to affect positive change in your homes and communities. The program can be completed by any level, GS Daisies-Ambassadors. Girl Scouts will focus on increasing awareness and participation in the new state-wide paint recycling program in Maine, called PaintCare.

The PaintCare program is a statewide paint recycling program that began in October, 2015. Since it's so new, not many people know about it yet and still have old, used paint cans piled up in their basements and garages. If successful, this program will keep 200,000 gallons of paint from going to waste.

## Discover:

Girls learn more about themselves in relation to the world (*Daisies and Brownies - choose at least 1 activity. Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors - choose at least 2 activities.*)

- ◆ Find out why it is important to recycle paint. Read more on the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) website to learn about paint stewardship in Maine (<http://www.nrcm.org/projects-hot-issues/sustainable-communities-waste-reduction/recycling-and-product-stewardship/paint-recycling/>) and more about the PaintCare program that is at work in several states across the country. Demonstrate your learning by writing down five things you did not know before and share them with your Girl Scout leader or parent/guardian.
- ◆ Talk to your parent or guardian about the program and have them check for any old paint cans in your house that could be recycled according to the guidelines. Take a photo of the cans to show how many you found. (Remember: do not handle the cans yourself.)
- ◆ Do a tour of a recycling facility or transfer station to learn about how things get recycled.

## Connect:

Girls connect with others and/or their communities (*Daisies and Brownies - choose at least 1 activity. Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors - choose at least 2 activities.*)

- ◆ Make a poster for your school/church/town office bulletin board that describes PaintCare, the paint stewardship program, and encourages more participation in your community. Be sure to get permission to hang the poster.
- ◆ Engage an adult/parent/guardian in bringing the old paint cans to one of the approved recycling locations. (Remember: do not handle the cans yourself.)
- ◆ If you're 13 years old or older, create a social media post about what you've learned, post the photo of the cans your parent or guardian took in, and ask your "Friends" to do the same.

## Take Action:

Girls do something to positively impact the community (*Daisies and Brownies - choose at least 1 activity. Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors - choose at least 2 activities.*)

- ◆ Give a brief presentation to a group (school, church, youth group, younger Girl Scout troop) about paint stewardship and include the steps that they can take to participate.
- ◆ Organize a day to have an informational table at a local hardware store to remind people about the Paint Care recycling program
- ◆ Write a letter to the editor and submit it to the local newspaper about the importance of paint recycling.
- ◆ Call or write to your legislator to thank them for passing the paint program.

# Sustainable Maine Evaluation

Leader's name or girl's name (if a Juliette) \_\_\_\_\_

Troop# \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Total # of girls who participated \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

How did the girls benefit from this project?

What was the highlight of participating in this project?

How did the girls spread the word about the importance of recycling paint?

How many cans of paint do you think were recycled because of your efforts?

Additional comments:

Please enclose any pictures of stories you might like to share. Please be sure to enclose photo releases for each girl or be sure they have one on file. Also include names of the girls in the pictures.

**Mail evaluation to:** Program Manager | Girl Scouts of Maine | 138 Gannett Drive | South Portland, ME 04106



**Natural Resources  
Council of Maine**