

EARTH DEFENDERS

October 1 - 31, 2026

Find helpful resources and a **new** Earth Defenders patch earning event on the back of this flyer.



Calling all Earth Defenders – our planet needs your help!

We are tasking you with the job of making the world a better – and greener – place during this council-wide community service project. Whether you've been an Earth Defender before or this is your first year, you can join in to save our planet!

What you do is up to you, just be sure that your service project is focused on **helping our environment**. Decide as a troop (or on your own) what it is you care about most and then get to work! Do you want to help protect animal habitats? Conserve energy? Host a community-wide clean-up? Plant a garden? There are so many ways that you can help our planet, it's up to you!

Do your own research to figure out how to make the biggest impact in your community. The possibilities are endless! As an Earth Defender, you will need to keep track of your efforts and submit a report (as a troop or as an individual) with a photo of your hard work at the end of your project to earn this fun patch!

All projects must start on or after October 1 and be completed by October 31, 2026. Final reports are due November 5, 2026.

To access the form, use this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/262435778535165>

Questions? Contact Customer Care at customercare@gssef.org or 561.427.0177



*The first 800 participants who submit their form will receive the 2026 Patch. Patches will be distributed after November 5, 2026.

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RESOURCE LIST 2026



Friends *of the* Everglades

Join us virtually from **6-7 PM on October 14th** to earn your Earth Defenders patch with Eve Samples, the Executive Director of the Friends of the Everglades. In 1969, Marjory Stoneman Douglas founded Friends of the Everglades as a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving America's Everglades and its interconnected ecosystems. During this program, Eve will share about the organization, their efforts to protect the Everglades, and how Girl Scouts can use their voice to speak up for conservation efforts through the various available platforms - social media, letter writing, and advocacy.



Marine Environmental Education Center
CARPENTER HOUSE

Make a splash for the planet on **Saturday, October 17th** from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the Marine Environmental Education Center in Hollywood, FL!

Girls will kick off the day with a hands-on beach cleanup, take a behind-the-scenes tour of the MEEC, and end with a special sea turtle feeding. Along the way, they'll learn how to protect marine life and keep our oceans healthy. Register here: <https://mygs.girlscouts.org/event-detail?id=321-10-18-2025-EarthDefMEEC-MK-OI-040>. Spots are limited and registration will close on October 13, 2025.

Name of Organization	Website	About This Opportunity
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation	https://myfwc.com/get-involved/volunteer/regional-programs/s-region/	Wildlife conservation as well as habitat clean-ups.
Florida State Parks	https://www.floridastateparks.org/volunteers	Contact your local state park to see if there are volunteer opportunities for your group/troop to help the environment through the park.
Community Greening	www.communitygreening.org	Urban Forestry nonprofit on a mission to increase South Florida's tree canopy.

Have a cause or organization you want to raise awareness for? Do your research and create an advocacy campaign. Social Media is a great tool to get the word out and share with the organizations that support your cause.

Favorite playground or nature trail nearby looking a little glum?

Girls/troops may also organize clean-ups at local parks in their neighborhood.



A bright future for our environment calls for your bright ideas!

You can brainstorm and fill this section out with your own project ideas for you or your troop:

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Other ideas to get you started:

- Plant for pollinators
- Upcycled art show
- Write letters to the government about environmental issues
- Learn about recycling & then collect items
- Get involved with a nature center