



# Girl Scout Tree Promise<sup>™</sup> Activity Guide

Activities for Girl Scouts and Non-Members



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# Girl Scout Tree Promise

Trees are nature's superheroes! They help people, animals, and the planet. Trees clean our air, reduce pollution, prevent erosion, provide living space for wildlife, and so much more. Our planet's need for trees is more urgent than ever as climate change presents new challenges for humans and animals.

Whether it's in a backyard, at camp, or in your community, you can join Girl Scouts from all over to plant, protect, and honor trees with the Girl Scout Tree Promise. By working together, we can create a better future for ourselves and the planet.

## Steps:

1. Make the Girl Scout Tree Promise
2. Plant, protect, or honor trees

## Unlock the Patch

Once you make the Tree Promise and complete one activity to plant, protect, or honor trees, find the patch in the [Girl Scout Shop](#).



If you're accessing this program online, this booklet contains live links to many relevant resources. If you're using the printed booklet, many of the resources can be accessed through the primary program page at: [girlscouts.org/treepromise](https://www.girlscouts.org/treepromise).



# Words to Know

**Carbon cycle:** Trees and other plants take carbon out of the air to make food. They store some of the carbon and release the rest back into the air. When forests are cut down, not as much carbon is taken out of the atmosphere.

**Carbon dioxide:** A greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere. It's produced when people and animals breathe out. It's also released when coal, natural gas, oil, and wood are burned to operate things like cars and factories.

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

**Carbon pollution:** The introduction of harmful materials into the environment. When we burn oil, gasoline, and coal, the carbon becomes carbon dioxide and goes into the air as a gas.

**Citizen science:** When members of the public participate in scientific research by recording and sharing data.

**Climate:** Average weather patterns in an area over a longer period, like 20 or 30 years. Climate is different from weather because weather changes daily.

**Climate change:** Long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. The shifts can be natural or due to human activity.

**Deforestation:** The process by which trees are cut and not replanted, ultimately destroying forests.

**Drought:** A continuous period of dry weather when an area gets little or no rain.

**Ecosystem:** A community of living organisms that interact with one another and their environment.

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

**Global climate:** The average climate over the whole world.

**Global warming:** An increase in Earth's average temperature that causes ice to melt and sea levels to rise.

**Greenhouse gases:** Carbon dioxide and other gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect. They act like a blanket around Earth, trapping heat and making the planet warmer.

**Tree equity:** When every neighborhood or place has enough trees for everyone to experience their benefits.

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



## What Is Climate Change?

Our climate is changing as carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are released into Earth's atmosphere. While small, natural changes have also happened, human technologies such as factories, cars, and planes create most of the greenhouse gases. These gases act like a blanket, trapping heat from the sun and making the planet hotter.

As Earth's temperature rises, our climate changes, too. We now experience hotter summers and warmer winters, on average, than we did several decades ago. Weather is more extreme with droughts, hurricanes, and blizzards. Glaciers are melting, changing beaches and shorelines. Animals and plants are losing their habitats. People around the world have lost their homes and loved ones due to this extreme weather. Climate changes are also damaging the ability of damaged forests to grow back on their own.

# Step 1: Make the Girl Scout Tree Promise

Since 2021, Girl Scouts of all ages have planted, protected, and honored trees for the Girl Scout Tree Promise (GSTP). Together, we've pledged to take 5 million actions to address climate change, including planting, protecting, and honoring trees. From Daisies through Ambassadors to adults, every member and friend of Girl Scouts can get involved.

Make the Girl Scout Tree Promise and explore all the ways trees make our world a better place. The activities can be done at events, in troop meetings, on your own, or with your family and friends.

## Choices—do one:

- **Create a tree dictionary.** Do you know the difference between deciduous and coniferous trees? What tree species are native to your area? Can you explain to a friend how trees reduce climate change? Make a list of key “tree” words as you learn how climate change impacts your area. Define any new vocabulary, such as “greenhouse gases” and “carbon footprint.”
- **Observe nature.** Relax outdoors near trees. Watch or listen to the leaves and branches move in the wind. If the timing is right, watch the sun set, the moon and stars appear, or the sun rise through the trees. What do you notice? If you can, go under a tree and look up. Notice the phenomenon of “crown shyness,” where trees seem to grow in a way that their branches don't overlap. What else do you see?
- **Get moving.** Play games such as hide-and-seek or tree tag. Hug a tree or spend time in a treehouse, if one is available. If you love high adventure, try recreational tree climbing, a ropes course in the trees, or canopy zip-lining to see trees from a new perspective. Whatever you do, take in the trees: What do you notice about their bark? About how they grow? What animals use trees as their home?
- **Make and create.** Read, write, draw, or make art (such as leaf rubbings, leaf murals, or wire and clay tree sculptures) next to or underneath a tree. Feel the inspiration flowing from the rustling leaves and the calming shade. Connect with the beauty of nature and let your imagination run wild.



## The Girl Scout Tree Promise

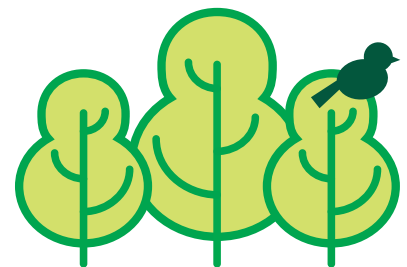
I promise to be a friend to every tree,  
just like they're a friend to me.

I will plant and protect them through and through  
with the help of my loyal Girl Scout crew.

Besides being beautiful, there's more to see;  
for climate change, they hold a key.

They fill our lungs with cleaner air;  
it's our responsibility to care.

That's why I'll advocate for every tree.  
Because I need them, and they need me!

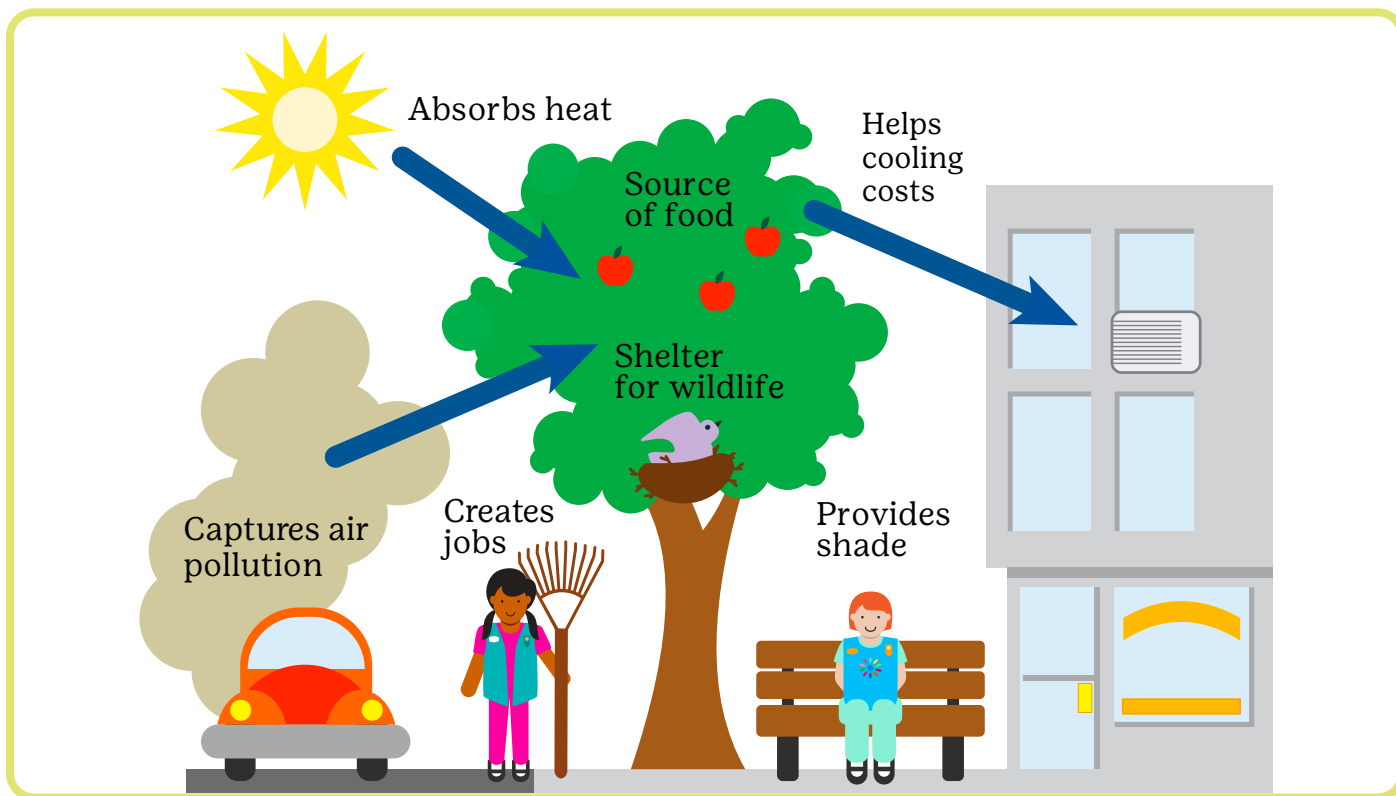


## Mindfulness Moment

Have you ever sat beneath the shade of a tree when the wind is whispering and rustling through the leaves? Or maybe you've been to a place where leaves change colors in the fall or grow back in the spring? Perhaps you've plucked a piece of fruit from a tree? How did these experiences make you feel? Trees can improve our emotional well-being. They can help us feel better and improve our mood by increasing mindfulness, lowering our stress, and promoting relaxation. Consider the nature around you and find a way to celebrate!

## The Power of Trees

Trees are an important part of our local and global ecosystems. They're unlike any other living thing! They remove pollution, cleaning the air and our drinking water, too. They bear nuts, fruits, and foods such as chocolate, olives, and maple syrup. Their canopies provide shade from the sun and protect our homes from the heat and cold. Some plants, like Spanish moss or certain mushrooms, grow on trees. Trees also provide space for wildlife to live, eat, and play, and they support threatened pollinators like bees and hummingbirds. They even help the soil, protecting it from the effects of heavy rain and erosion.



Trees also help address climate change. They take carbon out of the air and use it, along with water and energy from the sun, to make food. They store some of the carbon and release the rest back into the air. This is called the **carbon cycle**. When forests are cut down, not as much carbon is taken out of the atmosphere. Better environmental stewardship, especially planting trees, can help.

## Step 2: Plant, Protect, or Honor Trees

To stop climate change, individuals, communities, businesses, and countries all must reduce their **carbon footprint**. This is the amount of carbon dioxide that gets released into the environment by humans. For example:

- **Businesses** create the majority of emissions, so they need to find cleaner ways to make and ship products. They also need to use alternative energies, such as electric, solar, and wind.
- **Governments** need to make laws and policies around fuel, pollution, and carbon limits.
- **Individuals** can turn off unused lights; walk, ride a bike, or use public transportation instead of driving; reduce food waste; and more.
- **Nature** is also full of solutions, including trees! Trees remove carbon dioxide pollution from the air and create fresh oxygen. That's one of the many reasons it's important to plant, protect, and honor trees.

To complete the Tree Promise, choose one activity to either plant, protect, or honor trees. Talk to your volunteer, caregiver, or council to figure out what's possible. Explore where trees exist in your community and what groups are already doing to address climate change. Decide what works best for your time and resources.



## Activity: Plant Trees

Planting a tree may seem like a little thing, but it makes a huge difference. Planting trees means an area will have more trees and reap more of their benefits. You can plant trees through Girl Scouts, attend a tree-planting event with another organization, or host your own tree planting. You can also plant trees where they'll be [most helpful](#) or sponsor trees to be planted to [honor loved ones](#).

### Find Your Planting Zone

Because our climate is changing rapidly, some experts recommend planting trees for your area's future climate conditions. For example, a species might tolerate hotter or drier conditions, or it might currently grow at a lower elevation or south of your location. Use the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#) to find your current local planting zone and check out future planting zones [here](#).

### First, explore tree planting and decide what to plant.

**Who?** You, your family, friends, troop, Girl Scout council, or even your community.

**What?** Trees come in all shapes, sizes, and species. Research your local planting zone, climate, and which trees are native to your area. Choose a seedling, sapling, or one- to three-year-old tree. Make sure the climate, planting zone, soil quality, water, space, and sun exposure of your site match the species.

**When?** Though it varies by region, trees usually do best when planted during times of moderate temperature and rainfall. For example, you might choose a planting time in spring or fall so each new tree has time to settle in before the first frost or summer heat.

**Where?** You can plant trees in a yard, at a park, on a campground, or in many other places. Get permission to plant from the local government for public land or from the private landowner. Contact 811 before you dig to locate and avoid underground and overhead utilities.

**Why?** An apple tree bears fruit. Trees at camp can provide shade. There are so many benefits of having trees! Consider how a tree can help your community. How will it look when it's full grown? Will it bear fruit or provide shade? What animals might be able to use it as a home?

**How?** Trees and equipment can be purchased online, at a local nursery, or through the [Arbor Day Foundation](#). You may also be able to find local tree giveaways for your community.

### Next, prepare your site and plant the tree(s).

Plant at least 15 feet away from buildings and hazards, such as poison ivy and broken glass. Look "up, down, and around" to make sure there's enough space for the tree to reach full size without extending onto nearby property, sidewalks, or driveways or overhead into power lines. Clear any competing vegetation, such as weeds. Once your site is ready, plant your tree(s). Find full instructions for planting different types of trees starting on [page 9](#).

### After planting, create a plan to protect the tree(s).

Find out what to do after planting starting on [page 14](#).

### Explore More

Watch this [video](#) and explore [How to Choose and Plant a Tree](#) from American Forests. You can also find [tree planting and care information](#) and other [resources](#) from the Arbor Day Foundation.





# Tree-Planting Type: Bare-Root and Containerized Seedlings

**Cost:** \$

**Description:** Small and lightweight; they can fit in an adult's hand

**Requires:** Easily planted by one person

## You'll Need:

- Seedling
- Shovel
- Measuring tape, ruler, or yardstick
- Mulch (wood chips, ground bark, pine needles, or compost)
- Gloves
- Water

## You Might Also Use (Optional):

- Rake
- Tarp
- Plastic tubing or mesh wire tubes

## How to Properly Plant:

1. Measure the height of the seedling.
2. Dig a hole two to three times wider than the seedling height and deep enough to accommodate the roots.

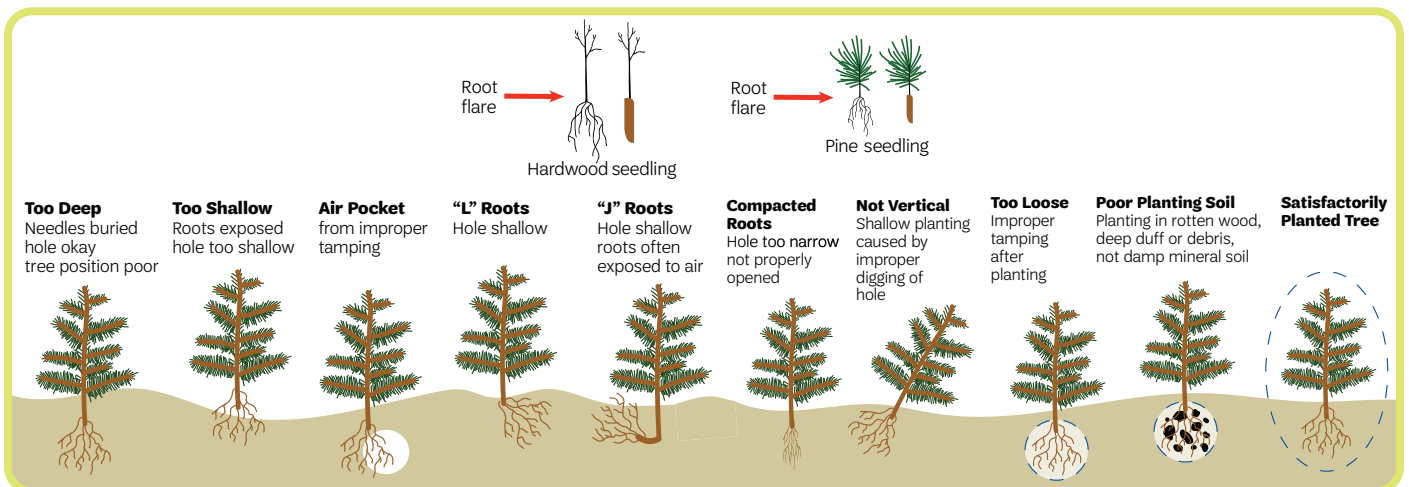
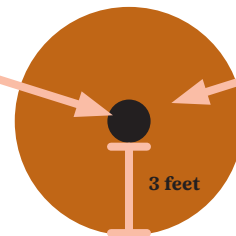
**Tip:** A tarp can help hold dirt next to the hole.

3. Remove any grass within 3 feet around the hole.
4. Gently remove the packaging to find the root flare (the place where the roots join the trunk) and place it in the hole at soil level, making sure that the roots stay straight and do not form a "J" (see below).
5. Gently pack the soil back around the root flare. Break up any large dirt clumps. Lightly tamp the soil in around the roots to eliminate air pockets.

6. Add mulch beginning 2–3 inches away from the seedling to create a 3-foot-wide flat ring. Make the ring 2–4 inches deep.
7. Pour about 1/2 gallon of water around the entire area.
8. Protect the seedling from any potential damage caused by feet, lawn mowers, pets, deer, or anything else. Use plastic tubing that covers the entire seedling or use a wide tube that is 2–3 feet tall, held by stakes to protect them.

Hole two to three times wider

Remove grass and add mulch (2–3 inches away from the seedling).



## Tree-Planting Type: Containerized and Rootbag Trees

**Cost:** \$\$

**Description:** Large and very heavy

**Requires:** Three or more adults to move the tree to the planting hole

### You'll Need:

- Containerized or rootbag tree
- Shovel and/or trowel
- Measuring tape, ruler, or yardstick
- Water
- Mulch (wood chips, ground bark, pine needles, or compost)
- Gloves
- Sharp knife (to be used only by adults)

### You Might Also Use (Optional):

- Rake
- Tarp
- Stakes
- Wire cutters

### How to Properly Plant:

1. With your hands (or a trowel), gently remove a small portion of the top of the root ball to find the root flare, which is the place where the roots (pencil size or larger in diameter) join the trunk.

**Important Note:** Always handle trees by the container or root mass.

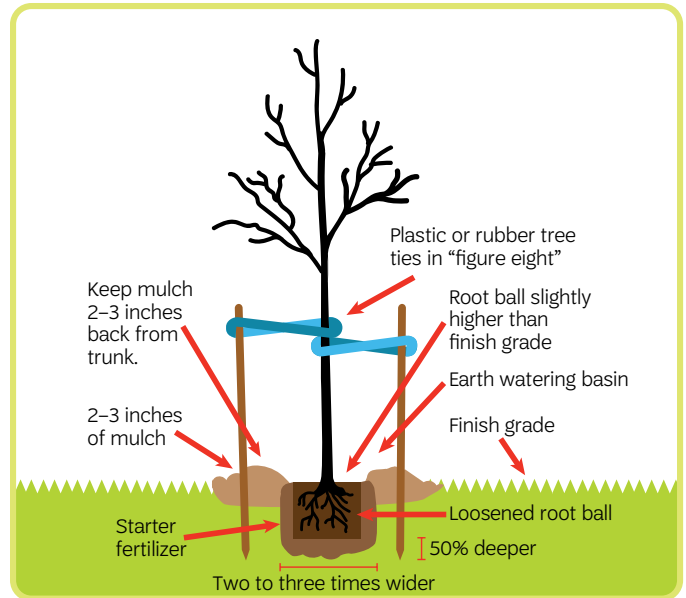
2. Measure the height of the container (from its base to the root flare). Then measure the width of the container.
3. Dig a hole two to three times the width of the container. Measure the depth of the hole to make sure the root flare will be exposed and slightly above ground level. If the hole is too shallow, continue to dig. If it's too deep, return soil to the hole.

**Tip:** A tarp can help hold dirt next to the hole.

4. Firmly tamp around the outside of the container with the back of a shovel to separate the soil from the sides of the container. Then carefully remove the tree from the container and expose the root ball.
5. Have an adult make four or five vertical (straight up and down) cuts along the side of the root mass with a sharp knife to sever circling roots.
6. Gently lift and lower (or roll) the root ball into the center of the hole. The root flare should be exposed and slightly above ground level. Then gently pack the soil back around the root ball, setting the root ball on flat, firmly packed soil so the tree is straight. As you place the dirt back into the hole, ask two planting team members to help ensure the tree is straight. Break up any large dirt clumps. Lightly tamp the soil around the roots to eliminate air pockets.
7. Remove any tree tags, ribbons, or trunk wrapping from the nursery.
8. Add mulch (wood chips, ground bark, pine needles, or compost) beginning 2–3 inches away from the trunk to create a 3-foot-wide flat ring around the tree. Make the ring 2–4 inches deep.

## Tree-Planting Type: Containerized and Rootbag Trees

9. Pour 5 gallons of water around the entire area.
10. If the root ball is unstable or your area experiences high winds, place two opposing stakes with flexible ties on the lower half of the tree. For larger trees, use tree guards, such as plastic tubing or mesh wire tubes that are 3-4 feet tall. Make sure the guards are wide enough so they do not touch the tree trunk.



## Tree-Planting Type: Balled and Burlapped Trees

**Cost:** \$\$\$

**Description:** Large and very heavy

**Requires:** Four or more adults to move the tree to the planting hole

### You'll Need:

- Balled or burlapped tree
- Mulch (wood chips, ground bark, pine needles, or compost)
- Shovel and/or trowel
- Gloves
- Measuring tape, ruler, or yardstick
- Sharp knife (to be used only by adults)
- Water

### You Might Also Use (Optional):

- Rake
- Tarp
- Stakes
- Wire cutters
- Trowel

### How to Properly Plant:

1. With your hands (or a trowel), gently remove a small portion of the top of the root ball to find the root flare, which is the place where the roots (pencil size or larger diameter) join the trunk.

**Important Note:** Always handle trees by the root ball.

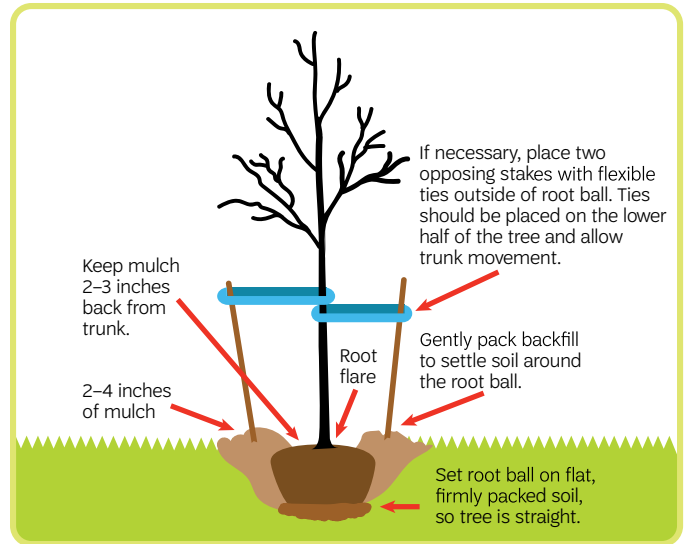
2. Measure the height of the root ball (from the base of the root ball to the root flare). Then measure the width of the root ball.
3. Dig a hole two to three times the width of the root ball. Measure the depth of the hole to make sure the root flare will be slightly above ground level. If the hole is too shallow, continue to dig. If it's too deep, return soil to the hole. Then gently lift and lower (or roll) the root ball into the center of the hole. The root flare should be exposed and slightly above ground level.

**Tip:** A tarp can help hold dirt next to the hole.

4. Cut away as much of the wire basket as possible without breaking the root ball. Cut and remove all twine and rope. Remove the staples holding the burlap together and peel the burlap back. Cut away any loose burlap. Put your removed materials in a trash pile away from your planting area.
5. Gently pack the soil back around the root ball. Set the root ball on flat, firmly packed soil so the tree is straight. As you place the dirt back into the hole, ask two planting team members to help ensure the tree is straight. Break up any large dirt clumps. Lightly tamp the soil in around the roots to eliminate air pockets.
6. Remove any tree tags, ribbons, or trunk wrapping from the nursery.
7. Add mulch (wood chips, ground bark, pine needles, or compost) beginning 2–3 inches away from the trunk to create a 3-foot-wide flat ring around the tree. Make the ring 2–4 inches deep.
8. Pour 5 gallons of water around the entire area.

## Tree-Planting Type: Balled and Burlapped Trees

9. If the root ball is unstable or your area experiences high winds, place two opposing stakes with flexible ties on the lower half of the tree. For larger trees, use tree guards, such as plastic tubing or mesh wire tubes that are 3–4 feet tall. Make sure the guards are wide enough so they do not touch the tree trunk.



## When You're Done Planting

**1. Log the trees.** Add the trees to the [Girl Scout Tree Promise Tracker](#). If you're under 13 years old, a parent, caregiver, or volunteer must add the trees on your behalf.

**2. Create a care plan.** Use the chart below to create a plan (or share it with the person who will be responsible) to take care of the trees. The most important tasks are:

- **Watering.** During the summer and during hot or dry periods, water twice a week, taking into consideration natural rainfall. For November through March, water the planting area with 2 gallons per tree inch diameter once a week during the first three years for temperate climates. If a tree is doing well in its third year, water every other week. If you live in a drier or hotter climate, water the new trees once a week.

**Tip:** Taking a photo each time you care for the trees can help you evaluate their health and any changes to their maintenance schedule.

- **Inspection.** Each time you care for the trees, inspect for scratching or eating by deer, mice, voles, or other animals (put up protection, such as a fence, if needed!). Make sure each tree's root flare is still slightly above ground level, gently removing soil or mulch to expose it if needed (this helps the tree to grow).

**Tip:** Remove any ties and stakes one to two years after planting!

- **Mulching.** Mulch one to two times a year. Each time, remove old mulch, make the mulch circle as wide as possible, and add 2–4 inches of mulch, keeping it 2–3 inches away from the tree trunk.
- **Delimiting and weeding.** Clean the area twice a week from March through November, or as needed.
- **Stake and tie removal.** Remove any ties and stakes one to two years after planting.

**3. Protect the trees.** As planned, visit the trees, and follow your care plan to protect the trees. Use the chart to track the dates you complete the tasks.

### Tree Maintenance and Care Schedule

Tasks	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Watering												
Inspection												
Mulching												
Delimiting												
Weeding												

## Activity: Protect Trees

Different environments naturally have different amounts of trees. It's normal and healthy for some areas (like rainforests) to have lots of trees, while others (like deserts) have very few. Today, trees and forests all over the world are being destroyed. This is called **deforestation**. Growing populations of people cut down trees to make space for crops, homes, businesses, and factories. Businesses and governments harvest trees (called logging) for use as fuel and in manufacturing. Natural threats, such as wildfires, drought, disease, and erosion (worsened by climate change), also damage trees.

Trees need protection to thrive—if they're threatened, they can't just move somewhere else. Protecting existing trees and planting new ones are necessary steps to help our ecosystems and combat climate change.

### Choices—do one:

- **Take on invasive species.** Invasive species are plants or animals that aren't native to a specific area and have a harmful impact on the local ecosystem. Research which plants and insects are invasive to your area. Why are these species harmful to trees and the local ecosystem? What can you do to remove them from your community? Can you help a local organization with their work in tree removal or education about invasive species?
- **Collect data about trees.** Citizen science is when members of the public gather information and observations to help scientists with their research. Participate in a citizen science project and collect data about trees, such as their species, health, growth patterns, and environmental conditions. Find a full list of tree-related citizen science projects for the [Girl Scout Tree Promise on SciStarter](#).

- **Engage elected officials.** What do you know about tree policy in your community? Are there any local ordinances or state laws? What efforts are already happening? Connect with your elected officials through a letter, email, call, or visit. Share why trees are important to you and your community. Find out what programs exist to protect local trees.

### Explore More

Check out American Forests' [advocacy actions](#).

- **Connect with others.** Are there local community groups and organizations working on tree protection? What about global organizations? Search for ways to support them. For example, you might volunteer with your state park, a conservation group, or a group that monitors tree identification tags. You might raise awareness about the local or global threat to trees and what people can do to help.



## What Happens When There Aren't Enough Trees?

When places suffer from a lack of trees or from their destruction, so do the people, wildlife, and plants that live there.

**Heat islands:** When neighborhoods lack trees for shade, their buildings, pavement, and machines generate and trap heat. This creates pockets of excessive heat called “heat islands.” Lower-income neighborhoods are more likely than higher-income neighborhoods to lack trees, so they’re particularly prone to becoming heat islands. Heat islands carry more pollution and dirtier air, which is dangerous to people’s health.



**Floods and mudslides:** Trees help prevent or lessen natural disasters. For example, when it rains, trees slow down the flow of water by absorbing it through their roots and holding soil in place. Rural areas that lack enough trees are more likely to experience serious flooding and landslides.

**Loss of homes, medicines, and clean air:** Rainforests are home to half of the world’s plant and animal species, 90 percent of the world’s birds, millions of Indigenous people who have lived there for thousands of years, and plants that are needed as food and to make medicines. They also create oxygen and store carbon that would otherwise contribute to climate change.



### Want to Explore Tree Equity in Different Cities?

Tree equity is when every neighborhood or place has enough trees for everyone to experience their benefits. Go to [TreeEquityScore.org](https://www.treeequityscore.org) and click on “National Map” to zoom in or search to find the tree equity score for many cities across the United States. Then, using the “Dynamic Report” link (upper right on the map), research to find what can be done to raise the Tree Equity Score in the selected area.





## Activity: Honor Trees

When we take care of trees, we're taking care of ourselves and our planet. Learning about and appreciating local trees deepens our connection to trees and nature. And when we feel a deeper connection, we are inspired to take action.

Climate change may seem like an unsolvable problem, but there ARE things one person can do. You can help others learn about the power of trees and how they help. You can build a personal story about why you care. You can join groups already spreading awareness about the important role trees play for humans, animals, and our environment. By raising awareness, you're honoring trees and encouraging others to do the same. By doing so, you can create lasting change.

### Choices—do one:

- **Explore trees' special role across cultures.**

Throughout history, communities all over the world have honored trees. Japanese people honor the cherry tree and recognize the welcoming of spring with Cherry Blossom Festivals (Sakura Matsuri). Lakota (Sioux) people consider cottonwood trees sacred and use them as the center pole for their Sun Dance (Wiwáŋyaŋ Waćípi) ceremonies. Across the African continent, the baobab tree, which is native to Madagascar, is recognized as a symbol of resilience and a gathering place. Pick a place or a community and explore how trees are honored there, or pick one tree species and research its cultural significance.

- **Identify trees.** Scientists estimate that there are over 70,000 tree species worldwide<sup>1</sup>—that's a lot of trees! To learn more about the trees in your area, collect data for a citizen science project on the [Girl Scout Tree Promise on SciStarter](#). You'll help professional scientists with their research and honor trees at the same time! You might also find or download a tree identification guide, head outside, and practice identifying trees in your area.

- **Share a special tree's story.** Do you have a favorite tree? It might be in your nearby park, be very old, have a unique shape, or hold a special memory. How can you tell others about the tree? You might tell its story with photos, drawings, or videos. You might write a poem, story, song, or news article. You might let others know about the tree on social media.
- **Try tree math.** Did you know you can tell a lot about a tree just by looking at it? Calculating the height or age of a tree can help you honor old or tall trees. For example, measuring the circumference of any tree's trunk can tell you its age. So can counting the rings on the cross-section of a dead tree trunk. You can figure out how tall a tree is by measuring yourself and the tree's shadow. Find a Girl Scout badge (like Numbers in Nature!) or any activity to discover what math can teach you about trees.



<sup>1</sup><https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2115329119>

## Keep the Fun Going!

The Girl Scout Tree Promise is just one way to have fun while helping the environment—there are so many other ways to make the world a better place. All of these small actions add up to a big change we can make together!

### Check out these ideas for your next climate action:

- Earn a [badge](#) about trees or the environment.
- Complete a citizen science project through [SciStarter](#).
- Take on the [Girl Scouts Climate Challenge](#) or the [Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge](#).
- Do a [community service or Take Action project](#) with your troop.
- Earn the Community Service bar by volunteering for a local environmental group.
- Go on a [Destinations](#) trip, [a troop trip](#), or any trip that involves trees or environmental stewardship.
- Visit a state park as part of [Girl Scouts Love State Parks](#) every September.
- Attend a climate-focused event in your community, at your Girl Scout council, or at your local state park.
- Earn the Silver and/or Gold Torch awards by supporting an organization that works on tree protection.
- Do a [Highest Awards](#) project to help the planet.

### Going Gold for Trees!

As part of her Gold Award project, “Combating Deforestation,” Zoe from Girl Scouts of the Nation’s Capital teamed up with local forestry experts and recruited volunteers from other Girl Scout troops and her school’s environmental club. Together, they planted more than 400 trees! Zoe coordinated and led a climate change campaign, meeting elected officials to share her story and stance. Find out more about Zoe’s project [here](#).

## Build the Future of Trees

Take a moment and imagine yourself in the future. What are you doing? Are you helping people, protecting the environment, or designing and improving our world? A career related to trees, climate change, or nature can help you make the world a better place. There are so many ways you can make a difference—what role you play is up to you!

### What's your dream career helping trees? Would you like to:

- **Spend time in nature?** An **arborist** spends a lot of time outdoors, planting and caring for trees. A **park ranger** protects parks and creates fun experiences for visitors.
- **Study science, weather, and nature?** A **hydrologist** collects water samples and creates models of it to protect trees. A **climatologist** investigates climate patterns and their impact on various ecosystems, including forests.
- **Do puzzles and solve problems?** A **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyst** uses large amounts of data, or information, to create systems—such as maps—to help keep forests healthy. An **urban forester** helps improve city green spaces through tree management.
- **Advocate for environmental issues?** An **environmental advocate** raises awareness of pollution, climate change, and wildlife protection and promotes solutions. An **environmental advisor** gives advice on tree populations and ecosystems, including protection, tree planting, and habitat restoration.
- **Spread awareness through creativity?** A **documentarian** or artist can create films, paintings, and more to tell the story of trees and their importance, inspiring people to care. Someone who works in **science communication** can combine entertainment, storytelling, and environmental education to get others excited about nature and trees.
- **Build things to make a difference?** A **landscape architect** designs parks and outdoor spaces. A **design engineer** creates eco-friendly construction methods and materials that protect trees and forests.



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