



Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board
City of West University Place, Texas

Scouting Fun Patch: Reduce – Reuse – Recycle (revised 2/2017)

Many are convinced that climate change is one of the most pressing problems faced by our world community. Scientists believe that climate change is the cause of more severe weather events from droughts to blizzards and the cause of rising sea levels, threatening many island and shoreline communities. Most people don't realize that reducing, reusing, and recycling can help slow climate change. Reducing, reusing, and recycling means you buy (and throw away) less stuff.

By completing the requirements for this fun patch, you will learn ways to decrease your impact on the environment. This fun patch has been designed to interest Scouts of all levels.

Complete FIVE requirements total, including at least one from each of the four sections below. Note: There are some activities that fulfill two requirements. Scouts should be able to complete all five requirements within a regularly scheduled Troop meeting or outing. Asterisks (*) have been used to indicate that useful resources are provided on page 2/backside of this sheet.

LEARNING:

- _____ 1. Make a complete list of what kinds of items from your home/apartment can be recycled curbside or where you live.*
- _____ 2. Become familiar with other kinds of items, beyond curbside collection, that can be recycled or donated for reuse.*
- _____ 3. Watch the video: Inside the Garbage of the World documentary, 2014 (90 min.). Share something you learned with your Troop Leader or parent.* (fulfills 2 requirements)
- _____ 4. Watch US EPA videos on climate change: "The Greenhouse Effect", "Climate Change Basics", "What you can do about climate change at home" and "Act on Climate Change" (total 7 min) OR Annie Leonard's presentations: "The Story of Stuff" (20 min.) and "The Story of Bottled Water" (8 min).*

RECYCLING: A Good Thing To Do

- _____ 5. With your parents' help, identify items around your home that you no longer want or need and can be donated for reuse and/or recycled. Take your items to one of the suggested locations.*
- _____ 6. Volunteer at, participate in or attend an event that promotes a cleaner environment by encouraging recycling, reusing and reducing.*
- _____ 7. Write a letter to your Texas State Representative or Texas State Senator in support of the 2017 battery recycling bill (HB1874) to help us protect our groundwater by keeping toxins from batteries out of our landfills. This bill will also help us save resources, prevent pollution and create jobs.* (fulfills 2 requirements)
- _____ 8. Set up a recycling center in your apartment/home/garage for curbside or apartment recycling. Post the recycling guidelines nearby for easy reference. Refer to requirement #1.

REUSING: A Better Thing To Do

- _____ 9. Set-up a reuse/donation center in your home. This can involve as little as a bag or box placed in a closet or special location known by everyone in your household. Make sure all household members are familiar with what kinds of items are being collected.
- _____ 10. Give your old crayons new life! Collect crayon pieces and nubs from friends, neighbors and/or classmates and turn them into "new crayons".* (fulfills 2 requirements)
- _____ 11. With the help of your Scout Leader, parent or other adult, create an up-cycled craft (a craft made from something that would have been thrown away). For ideas, search the Internet for "up-cycled craft" ideas. (fulfills 2 requirements)

REDUCING: The Best Thing To Do

- _____ 12. Prepare a Zero Waste lunch for school or snack for your troop meeting or fieldtrip. Food should be packed in reusable containers. Cloth napkins, reusable utensils, and reusable drink containers should be used along with a reusable lunch box or tote. If you eat the entire lunch/snack, there will be NO WASTE. OR avoid purchasing a drink by bringing your own reusable drink container with you to an event/activity.
- _____ 13. With the help of your Scout Leader, parent or other adult, make a less-toxic alternative to common hazardous household products used for cleaning. Hazardous products usually have labeling that includes the words "Caution", "Warning", "Danger", or "Corrosive".* (fulfills 2 requirements)
- _____ 14. Explore the concept of "Meatless Monday's". What is it? Why is it being encouraged around the world?
- _____ 15. Help plan and prepare a Meatless Monday meal for your family. (fulfills 2 requirements)
- _____ 16. Americans waste 40% of their food (from farm to table). US landfills contain 20% food waste (largest component). Find out more about this problem and sign a pledge to reduce your food waste.

Scout's Name (print) _____ Troop _____ Date _____

Signature of Scout Troop Leader or Parent _____

Obtain your Fun Patch by sending this completed form to The City of West University Place, Public Works Dept. Attention: Gerardo Barrera, 3826 Amherst, Houston TX 77005. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

RESOURCES for Scouting Fun Patch: Reduce – Reuse – Recycle

Numbers below refer to the requirement listed above.

1. For curbside recycling guidelines, use your community's website to determine what can and cannot be recycled. If recycling is not provided for your residence, use the search feature of Earth 911.com to locate the nearest recycling drop-off center. <http://search.earth911.com>
2. Goodwill: <http://www.goodwillhouston.org/donate/donate-items/>
City of Houston Reuse Warehouse: <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/reuse.html>
City of Houston Consumer Recycling Center:
<http://houstontx.gov/solidwaste/westpark-consumer-recycling-center>
Texas Art Asylum: <http://www.texasartasylum.com> (look under donations)
American Textile Recycling Services: <http://atrscorp.com/services/faq/>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SU3Ntdnyl2I>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYMjSule0Bw> (The Greenhouse Effect & Climate Basics)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGWS6aljGIE> (What you can do about climate change at home)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6jkqix68YE&list=PLBhfkkujnoRAgTFtLreccWDfpxBlspCGv>
(What can I do about climate change)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLBE5QAYXp8> (The Story of Stuff)
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=annie+leonard+the+story+of+bottled+water
5. The Guild Shop, Blue Bird Circle Resale Shop, Sunshine Resale Shop, Goodwill Resale Shop/Donation Center, The Salvation Army, Texas Art Asylum, City of Houston Reuse Warehouse, Charity Guild or other resale shop or donation center in your area.
6. For a list of possible events check out Citizens' Environmental Coalition (Houston) www.cechouston.org or Keep Houston Beautiful www.houstonbeautiful.org. Examples include: American Recycles Day (Fall), Trash Bash(Spring), and Earth Day (Spring), plus many more large and small events. Art and Photo Contests that promote recycling/reusing and/or reducing are also possibilities. Take Care of Texas, takecareoftexas.org.
7. Battery bill: Find out who represents you by putting in your zip code: <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Zip.aspx>
10. Materials you'll need: old crayons, oven-safe muffin tin or chocolate mold and adult supervision.
Procedure: 1. Sort the crayons by color and remove the paper wrappings. 2. Put the sorted crayons into an oven-friendly mold. 3. Bake the old crayons for approximately 20 minutes at 200 degrees F to fuse the old crayons together. 4. Once they've cooled, pop them out of the mold for use.
13. Use this City of Houston and Harris County sponsored website as a source of recipes for cleaners.
http://www.cleanwaterways.org/downloads/hc_hhw_less.pdf