

Life Skills • Brownie Badge Blueprint



Household Elf Badge

Purpose of Badge:

Learning how to make your home clean and green

Supplies needed: Internet, help of an adult

Step 1: Save energy

Go on an energy scavenger hunt. With help from an adult, become an “energy detective” and look for appliances and electronics that are plugged in, but not being used. Some things use energy using “standby power”, even if they’re not turned on. How many of these items can you find in your home? Together with your family, make a plan to begin saving energy. Need some ideas to start? Learn about how a freezer uses less energy when it’s full.

Step 2: Save water

Turn off the water when brushing your teeth. An average running faucet uses 2-3 gallons per minute. If you leave the faucet on for 5 minutes, how many gallons of water does it use? Make a fun poster with pictures to remind your family to do the same, and place it next to the sink. With help from an adult, use the internet to learn about other appliances or places in your home where you can save water.

Step 3: Go natural

Using natural products, or things that are made with ingredients found in nature, is better for our earth. With help from an adult, use the internet to learn about upcycling. What does it mean to reuse something you already have, but in a different way? Find 3 items that you can upcycle, and share with your family and make a plan to begin using them.

Step 4: Reuse or recycle

Recycling is a great way to help the environment, and reusing things is great too. Make containers for different types of recycling, and help family members use them. Discover the benefits of composting, and what to and not to compost. Find out if your community has a composting plan, or if your neighborhood could benefit from a composting plan.

Step 5: Clear the air

The air we breathe is important to how healthy we feel. The air inside your home can contain dust or things that may make you sneeze, and harder to breathe. Find out how filters help the air. Discover natural filters. For more fun, grow a plant from a seed, and decorate your plant pot. Once it grows see if it makes a difference in the air you breathe.

Congratulations! You have now earned the Household Elf Badge!

Remember, the Volunteer Toolkit Online has more activities to explore and is a great resource for planning meetings.