girl scouts
of texas oklahoma plains

Girl Scout Brownies

Household Elf Badge

Purpose: Learn how to make your home clean and green.

Step 1: Save energy
Be a light saver. For one week, make sure lights are turned off in rooms no one is using. Are there other energy-users you can switch off, too?

Step 2: Save water
Find three ways to save water. Then team up with your family to make a water-saving plan. Try following the plan for two weeks. Need some ideas? Try running the dishwasher only when it's full. Or when washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run if you're not using it. What other ideas do you have?

Step 3: Go naturals
Use this recipe to make a natural glass cleaner. You will need: water, rubbing alcohol, white vinegar, an empty spray bottle, and a measuring cup and spoons. Place 1 cup water into the spray bottle. Add 1 cup rubbing alcohol and 1 tablespoon white vinegar. Use this mixture to make windows and mirrors sparkle! Be even greener by using a cloth or old T-shirt to wipe down the mixture instead of a paper towel.

Step 4: Reuse or recycle
Donate toys and clothes. With your family, go through your toys and clothes and set aside what you don't play with or wear anymore. (Make sure anything in this pile is in good enough shape that someone else could use it.) Then go online together and find a place that accepts donations. Bag up your things and drop them off!

Step 5: Clean the air
Clean or replace an air filter. Find out how filters help with the air, then, with an adult, check the filters at your home. (If you have a central heating and air conditioning unit, the filters might be in the vents in the wall.) If they need cleaning or replacing, team up to follow the instructions on the filters to help do it.

Congratulations! You've earned the Household Elf badge!