

State Park Expert Patch Program

This State Park Expert Patch can be earned by Girl Scouts at any program level, and for any state - near or far from the Chesapeake Bay!



1. Pick a State. You can choose the state where you live, a neighboring state, or a state WAY across the country. If you have any travel plans, picking a state along your route or at your destination is a great way to learn about a new place. If you can, maybe plan a visit to a state park within that state during your trip!

2. Learn about the state.

- What is the state flower?
- The state tree?
- The state bird?
- What kind of climate or ecosystems can you find in this state?
- What does the state flag look like?
- How many Girl Scout councils are in the state?
- How many Girl Scout camps?

3. Find out about state parks.

- How many state parks are within the state?
- Are there any historical features or landmarks in those state parks?
- How did the state parks get their names?
- What are some of the activities you can do at the parks?
- What kind of wildlife or plant species might you encounter at the parks?
- Are there any current threats to the parks or their ecosystems (i.e. erosion, development, rising water levels, etc.)?
- Are there any conservation efforts happening at the parks?

3. Create your own state park. Pretend you are the mayor of a town who has decided to turn some open land into a state park. Print the following page and complete the Create a State Park activity.

4. Get outdoors and visit a local, state or national park. Even if you can't visit one of the parks in the state you chose, you can still get outdoors and celebrate the spirit of preserving natural and historical spaces in any state.

Create a State Park Activity

You've just been elected mayor of Girl Scout Town, a wonderful little town in the state of _____ . The state has just purchased a piece of land and it's your job to turn it into an amazing state park for all the people of Girl Scout Town to enjoy!

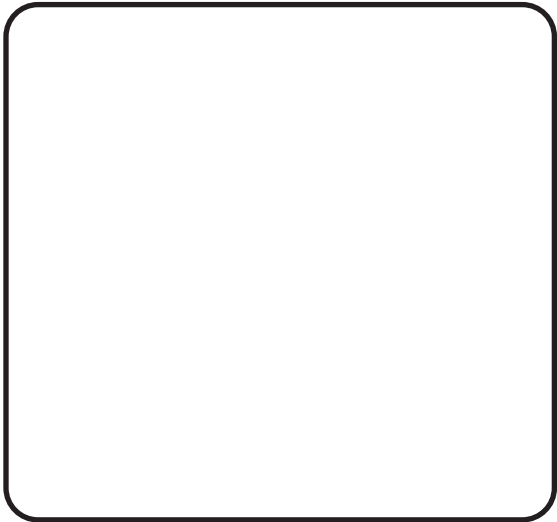
State Park Name: _____

Park size (in acres): _____

Park Ecosystem (Check all that apply):

- Forest
- Desert
- Savannah
- Tundra
- Aquatic
- Grassland
- Mountain
- Rainforest
- Other:

Draw a logo for your park:



Consider the ecosystem of your park, and identify the wildlife or plant species you are most likely to find:

Activities in your park (Check all that apply):

- Picnic areas
- Playgrounds
- Walking Trails
- Hiking
- Beach
- Lake
- River
- Sports Courts/Fields
- Campsites
- Geocaching
- Hunting
- High Adventure (Zipline, Ropes course, etc.)
- Horseback Riding
- Historic Sites
- Other:

Threat(s) to the biodiversity and balanced ecosystems in your park:

- Pollution
- Over-harvesting and/or over-fishing
- Invasive species
- Soil erosion/degradation
- Development/Urbanization
- Deforestation and forest degradation
- Illegal fishing
- Illegal wildlife hunting
- Water scarcity
- Climate change/natural disaster
- Other:

Come up with 1-2 conservation projects to slow the threat: _____
