



World Thinking Day 2024 Activity Guide

Our World, Our Thriving Future:
The environment and global poverty

Activities for Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors.



“Global sisterhood widens your point of view, makes you more empathetic to the world around you, and builds understanding when you realize how much of a bigger world there is and your role in it.”

— Quote from a Girl Scout

In Girl Scouts, you are part of a special group that stretches across the world. On February 22 of each year, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from over 150 countries celebrate World Thinking Day. That’s one big celebration! World Thinking Day is a way to celebrate with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere by doing the same activities around a shared theme.

Here are the four steps to earn your World Thinking Day award.

1. Explore World Thinking Day.
2. Experience World Thinking Day with purpose.
3. Investigate this year’s World Thinking Day theme.
4. Share what you learned and commit to a better future.

Ready to think big and explore meaningful issues in your community and beyond? Let’s get started!



The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to empowering girls and young women in the world.

STEP 1: Explore World Thinking Day.

Choice 1: Get inspired by WAGGGS Global Advocacy Champions.

Just like Girl Scouts in the United States complete Take Action projects and awards, Girl Guides are doing things like raising awareness about diseases and fighting for access to education for all young people.

For this activity, learn about the latest [WAGGGS Global Advocacy Champions](#) by going online to read some of their stories. Did any spark something in you? If so, what made it significant for you? Do any stories inspire you to think about a project you could do in your own community? How can we learn from and celebrate our global community of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides? Have a discussion with your troop and family members and share answers to these questions.

Choice 2: Share the World Thinking Day story and theme with younger Girl Scouts.

Read through the story called **World Thinking Day History in Four Parts** and add part four about this year's World Thinking Day theme, then come up with a way to share the full story with a group of younger Girl Scouts. You might want to create a skit, video, or booklet about the story.

Choice 3: Create your own World Thinking Day symbol.

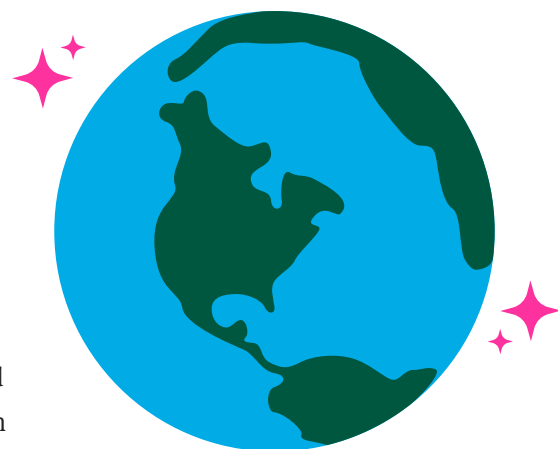
The World Trefoil pin is the unifying symbol of WAGGGS, and every part of its design has meaning. On it are three leaves representing the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise, with a flame that stands for loving all the people in the world. Come up with a symbol for the theme of this year's World Thinking Day.



The World Trefoil symbol's background is **blue** to represent the color of the sky. The outer ring's **gold band** represents sunshine. The inside **gold leaves** stand for the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. There are two **gold stars**: one is for the Girl Scout Promise and the other is for the Girl Scout Law. The center **gold compass** needle is the safeguard between the Promise and Law. The **gold base** underneath the compass is the flame of international friendship.

STEP 2: Experience World Thinking Day with purpose.

World Thinking Day is more than just thinking. It is knowing that you have the power to make a difference alongside Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Create an experience for World Thinking Day that helps you learn more about the world and your place in it.



Choice 1: Interview each other.

The Girl Scout Movement is made up of many cultures. Culture is the customs of a particular group of people—generally we think about culture as tied to a shared country of origin, nationality, ethnicity, or race. Team up to interview another Girl Scout and share about your cultures. What are your cultural traditions? In your culture, what are the common foods, clothing styles, and music? Ask each other about communication styles, values, and relationship patterns across different generations. Talk about your family cultures. Family culture means the values, rules, and traditions that shape a family’s life and routine. For instance, maybe you gather together with your extended family every weekend, but someone else might go to a reunion once a year. Discuss the differences and similarities. Once you have talked about your own cultures, you can also talk about cultures within the United States. What differences might exist between the east and west coasts? The Midwest and the South?

Choice 2: Investigate what’s global in your community.

Plan a field trip with your troop or with a family member to explore what’s global in your community. You might discover a parade, fair, exhibit, or festival celebrating culture. Who is participating in this cultural event? Where did the culture originate? Ask someone to help you check calendars in your community center to find an event with a global connection. Or explore your neighborhood to find signs of culture in your community. It might be the food at a restaurant or the practices used at various places of worship, or books for your age group in the library that explore various cultures. Draw or make a list of everything you find and create a journal about what you learned about various cultures.

Choice 3: Get to know someone from another culture.

There are many cultural differences among people who grew up in the United States, and there may be even more between people who grew up in a country outside of the United States. Let’s learn! Connect with someone in your community—maybe in your own troop or family—who grew up outside of the United States. Ask if they’ll speak to your troop about the culture they were raised in and what it was like coming to a new country. Think of ideas together and invite one or more of these people to a meeting where you can ask questions. Make sure to come up with ideas for questions beforehand. Ask your guest if they can bring something from their culture to show the group, such as a food or a piece of clothing. Is there a special dance or song they can teach you from their home country? Or maybe they can teach you how to say hello or show respect to adults in their culture.



STEP 3: Investigate this year's World Thinking Day theme.

The theme for 2024 World Thinking Day is **Our World, Our Thriving Future: The environment and global poverty.**

The link between environmental problems and poverty is all too clear. When the environment suffers from polluted air and water, chemical exposure, ultraviolet radiation, and climate change, we end up with death, disease, poverty, and instability worldwide. This is especially true for low- and middle-income countries that don't have sufficient healthcare, education, and government support to handle the environmental impact.

It's also true that women and girls worldwide are disproportionately affected by climate change.

Check out these facts:

- Women and girls make up 80 percent of people displaced by climate-related disasters and climate changes around the world.
- After a climate-related disaster, girls are more likely than boys to miss classes or drop out of school. Some women in developing countries collect water for cooking and cleaning, use the land for livestock, forage in rivers and on reefs, and collect firewood for their families. With climate change, they're forced to travel longer distances for what they need.
- Access to land, water, and other resources is unequal: women have less access than men.
- Women are not recognized for what they contribute to the planet's survival because they are often deprived of leadership positions or a voice in how their area is managed.

Choice 1: Find out about women's economic rights.

The first steps to achieving gender equality are eliminating job restrictions, reducing the wage gap, and changing restrictive laws related to marriage and parenthood. Every person should have access to the job and the life they want!

In some countries, women are restricted from joining the workforce or even traveling outside their homes. When women do have jobs, they do not earn



as much as men do for the same work. In the United States, for example, women earn 82 percent of what men earn at work. One source says that on average, globally, women have just three-quarters of the income of men. Then do an analysis of your community by answering these questions:

- **Mobility:** Can people of every gender travel outside their homes in the same way? Are there different experiences of mobility depending on gender?
- **Workplace:** Can a woman apply to get the same job as a man? Do the jobs that people have differ based on their gender?
- **Pay:** Does the law mandate equal pay for work of equal value?
- **Marriage:** When a woman gets married, what are the woman's legal rights? Are there requirements about the woman's finances or lifestyle that would not exist if they were not married?
- **Parenthood:** Is paid leave available to new parents? How long is it?
- **Entrepreneurship:** Can a woman start a business as easily as a man can? What is the gender of the people who own most of the businesses in your community?
- **Assets:** Do all siblings have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents? Or is it different based on gender?
- **Pensions:** Is the mandatory retirement age for people of all genders the same?

How would you rank your community on the equality scale?

Choice 2: Focus on women's health.

Research shows that climate change has a greater impact on the health of women and children than it does on men.

Grab some index cards and pens and read the WAGGGS handout,

[A Position Statement from the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.](#)

Then look at the list in the introduction about the ways girls and women are impacted by climate change and end up in poverty. Get together with your Girl Scout friends to identify what needs to change. Write a policy you want our government to adopt that targets climate change and women's health. For example, you could cite conditions that harm women in climate change, such as natural disasters, crime, pollution, and medical care. While the government can't control what the climate does, it can help survivors—especially those who are most affected, including women—through quick relief actions. What would those actions be?



Ask each of your group to write on an index card a “what if” scenario for women’s health and climate change, such as, “What if . . . all women worldwide had access to healthcare for issues specific to women?”

It’s okay if the “what if” scenarios are not practical; what you want are ideas to decrease the disparity between women and men when it comes to climate change.

Then take the cards, shuffle them, and discuss each card one by one. Come up with creative solutions that make a connection between the “what ifs” and what might be a practical solution. Is there something you can extract to create a policy statement, or is there an insight that sparks a Take Action project?

Choice 3: Find out about the power of microloans for women.

Around the world, women are more likely to be in low-paid or unpaid work roles, compared to men. Across the globe, women need more access to financial resources. One way to support women in developing countries is by investing in them and supporting their businesses with microloans.

Investopedia describes microloans, microlending, or microcredit as small loans given by individuals rather than a bank or credit union. These loans often finance entrepreneurial projects by people in developing countries to help them start small businesses.

In this activity, you’ll talk to a financial advisor about the pros and cons of microloans and how they benefit women around the world. Use your friends and family network to find an expert who knows about microlending to come talk to your Girl Scout troop. You can interview the financial advisor either in person or virtually.

Before your meeting, read all you can about the benefits and risks of microlending, like this article [here](#) and [here](#). Come up with a list of questions for your interview.



STEP 4: Share what you learned and commit to a better future.

Share what you learned about World Thinking Day. Did you connect with someone to learn about their country or culture? Tell your friends about it and share what you discovered. Did you explore something interesting about the World Thinking Day theme? You could share that instead.

Choice 1: Participate in a World Thinking Day event. You and your troop can plan a Take Action project based on the issues you learned about. Or plan an event for friends and family that focuses on the issue. Have food or music from cultures you may have learned about. Invite a guest speaker to talk to your group. Reach out to your troop network to find organizations with experience in global issues, especially one that connects to the theme you learned about. Find out from your guest speaker how you can make a difference. What can you do in your home, community, and the world?

Choice 2: Create a message.

Work with your group to come up with a message about this year's theme. Think about creating flyers or posters with the message you want to share at school, at events, or through social media. Decide if you want to take a photograph or record a video to share your message. Be sure to include the information you learned and one concrete action that people can do to help. If you decide to share on social media, be sure to talk with your parents first and get their permission. Review the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for more information.

Choice 3: Use design thinking to come up with solutions and share them.

Design thinking is a human-centered approach to solving problems. It's important to make sure that the solutions we come up with are meeting a need

a community says it has, not what we think it needs. So, talk to or learn about community members and the issues they face. Or brainstorm ideas with your troop to specifically help this year's World Thinking Day theme. Then make sure to share it with others.

To do this:

- **Empathize:** First learn about your audience, which includes the people, places, and communities impacted by the problem.
- **Define:** What are their needs?
- **Brainstorm:** Come up with as many creative solutions as possible! All ideas are encouraged! Check back in with community members for their input.
- **Prototype:** Draw or build a representation of your idea. This only needs to be a rough draft to help show your idea.
- **Test:** Share your idea with others and find ways to improve it.

When you are done with all four steps, make sure you celebrate! Working with your global Girl Scout and Girl Guide community to explore this year's theme and earn your World Thinking Day award means you've helped make the world a better place.





The World Thinking Day Story in Four Parts

Part 1: A Special Day

In 1926, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world met in the United States and created a special day where we can all think of one another and express thanks for our community of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world. They called it Thinking Day. They chose February 22 because it was the birthday of both Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts, and his wife Olave Baden-Powell, who founded the Girl Guides.

Part 2: A Birthday Gift

In 1932, at the 7th World Conference in Buczek, Poland, it was pointed out that since a birthday often involves presents, it would be a good idea to offer gifts on Thinking Day to support Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Olave Baden-Powell wrote a letter asking Girl Scouts and Girl Guides to “Send a penny with their thoughts” on Thinking Day.

Part 3: World Thinking Day

In 1999, at the 30th World Conference in Dublin, Ireland, Thinking Day changed to World Thinking Day as a better name to show our connection with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the globe.

Part 4: Coming Together

Each year, World Thinking Day focuses on a theme where the whole community of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the globe works together to find ways to help. This year’s theme is *Our World, Our Thriving Future: The Environment and Global Poverty*.