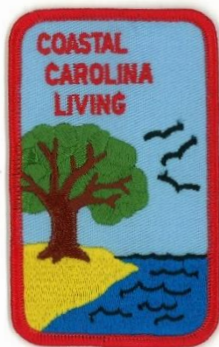


The North Carolina Coast Patch Program



The North Carolina Coast patch program is a combination of the retired Know Your Coast and Coastal Carolina Living patch programs. This patch program was created for Girl Scouts to explore our coastal counties. Troops will learn about coastal climate, culture, attractions, and animals through this program.

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We thank the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management for this development of the Know Your Coast patch program. We also want to thank Silver Award recipients Dane Sweitze and Crystal Roland for their design of the Coastal Carolina Living patch program. Both patch programs were inspiration for The North Carolina Coast patch program.

Requirements

Daisies/Brownies/Juniors – Must complete 2 activities from each section Discover, Connect, and Take Action.

Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors – Must complete 3 activities from each section Discover, Connect, and Take Action.

Activities

Discover

1. Map the coast

The best way get to know about the coast is to look at geography. Use the map in the **Resource Section** to map out the list of things below.

- Put a star where your home is located
- Color the coastal counties that are in our council-footprint yellow
- Mark a blue triangle in the coastal counites that you've visited and/or lived in before
- Draw an X where the Wright Brothers first flew a plane
- Mark with a circle where 2 lighthouses are on the coast

2. Identify animals and plants

There are animals and plants special to the coastal region. Fill out the chart below to learn more about coastal creatures and plants. Don't forget to try to find the plants and animals on the chart if you visit the coast- take pictures!

Animal/Plant	First Fun Fact	Second Fun Fact	Where is it found?
Loggerhead Sea Turtle			
American Alligator			
Brown Pelican			

Bottlenose Dolphin			
Beach Grass			
Cypress Tree			
Spanish Moss			
Yucca Gloriosa			

3. Division of Coastal Management

The Division of Coastal Management developed the original The Know Your Coast Patch Program. North Carolina's Division of Coastal Management protects the coastline through education, prevention, and research. Let's learn about this very important department. Hop online to the [department's website](#) or invite a staff member to answer the questions below.

- What does CAMA stand for?
- When was CAMA enacted?
- What counties are covered by CAMA?
- What are the 6 core values of the Division of Coastal Management?
- Are any of the Division of Coastal Management values similar to the Girl Scout values?

4. Discover Life on Coast with Your 5 Senses

Time to use all your senses to explore life on the coast. People vacation and live on the coast because they enjoy the experience. Engage each of your senses through one of the activities below and decide if coastal living is for you. You must do one activity from each sense.

Smell: Sometimes the beach may smell refreshing and salty. Other times, the tide may be a little stinky from fish.

Activity Options:

- Visit the beach and sniff around - Does it smell good? What does it smell like? If it smells like fish, could you put up with the smell if you lived there? Write down what you smell.
- Reminisce on the smells of the beach – talk as a troop about what the beach smells like. Bring in candles or other scents that resemble the beach. Write down what you smell.

Touch: People love to put their toes in the sand or play in the water. Many are drawn to the textures of the beach.

Activity Options:

- Visit the beach and play – Make a sand castle to explore the texture of the sand. What does the sand feel like when it is wet vs. dry? Do you like the feeling of sand on your feet? Don't forget to put your toes in the water. Is the water warm or cold? What other textures do you feel at the beach?
- Bring the beach to your meeting – Buy some sand, water, cups, and maybe a tarp. Build your own beach and let everyone explore the textures of the sand and water.

Hear: The beach is full of relaxing sounds. Many people fall asleep at the beach because they are so relaxed.

Activity Options:

- Stop and Listen – Bring a blanket to lay on when you go to the beach and listen to the sounds. What do you hear? Are you relaxed? As a troop talk about how the sounds coast make you feel.
- Listen Online- Many people love the sounds of the beach so much there are clips online of the sounds of the ocean. Have everyone relax on the floor and listen to the sounds of the ocean online. As a troop talk about how the sounds coast make you feel.

See: There is no question that the beach is beautiful to many people. The hues of the ocean and sunset are incredible.

Activity Options:

- Take a Look Around – Head to the beach to explore. What do you see? What colors are most common around you? Draw or paint a picture to represent what you saw on the beach.
- Imagine It – Review pictures of different beaches across the world. Then draw or paint a picture of the beach you would want to visit or live on.

Taste: It isn't advised to taste the sand and water at the beach. However, there are so yummy coastal treats you can try.

Activity Options:

- Local Cuisine – After your trip to the beach grab a bite to eat somewhere local. Try a new seafood or another local dish.
- Taste Test – Make a common coastal food. Whether is shrimp, hushpuppies, or grits. There are plenty of taste cuisines to try.

5. Boat Float

Living on the coast means using boats for fun and business. Do you know how a boat works? Can you build your own boast? Do the following activity to learn about the buoyancy of boats.

[Activity Guide](#)

Website for details: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/fetch/activities/act/act-floatmyboat.html>

Connect

1. Coastal Art

Do a craft inspired by the coast and beach. Use the items you find on the coast to create art to remember your visit by.

[Driftwood Necklace](#)

[Driftwood Art](#)

Shell Letter- use shells found on the beach to make the first letter of your name. Glue the shells in the shape of the letter on painted cardboard and then frame it. Or you can purchase a wood letter and glue the shells onto it.

2. Visit the Coast

Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines had 8 counties on the coast. Take a trip to visit one of the towns on the coast. Explore the animals, culture, and activities of these coastal areas.

- Topsail Beach
- Wrightsville Beach
- Oak Island
- New Bern
- Kern Beach
- Morehead City
- Beaufort
- Carolina Beach
- Holden Beach
- Bald Beach Island

3. Interview someone from the coast

The best way to learn about life on the coast is from someone who lives there. Use the prompts below to draft your list of interview questions. Add your own questions that you want answered. Interviews can be done individually or as a troop. If you live on the coast, interview someone who lives on a different part of the North Carolina coast than you do.

1. Where do you live on the North Carolina Coast?
2. How long have you lived on the North Carolina Coast?
3. What do you like most about living on the coast?
4. How often do you go to the beach?
5. Do you have to prepare for hurricanes? If so, what do you do?

4. Decomposition Activity

Trash contributes to marine debris that can harm plants and animals in water. Animals can eat plastic debris or get tangled in it. Some marine debris take many years to decompose which means it is floating around the ocean for a long time, potentially harming many animals and plants. Do the following activity to teach about trash decomposition and encourage recycling and reduction of plastic in your troop.

- Talk to your troop about the following topics before starting the activity:
 - What is decomposition?

- Why is it important to reduce plastic and recycle?
- Use this site to help you explain these concepts if needed:
 - <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/discover-issue>
 - <http://thankyouocean.org/threats/marine-debris/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFZS3Vh4lfI>
- Activity Instructions
 - Use the “How Long Does It Last” sheet in the **Resource Section** to pick out 8-10 marine debris items
 - Gather the chosen marine debris examples for your meeting
 - Put all the debris on a table
 - Then have the girls guess how long it would take for each item to decompose
 - After they have guessed all the items make the connection between decomposition of debris and keeping the ocean clean. Talk as a troop how you can reduce plastic usage and increase recycling.

Take Action

1. Clean the Beach

Much of the coastline of North Carolina is beach. Beaches are home to many plants and animals. These plants and animals share the beach with humans like you. Sometimes garbage from humans can end up on the beach. Trash that ends up on the beach or in the water can harm the plants and animals that call the beach home. Do your part to help marine plants and animals by cleaning up the beach. As you take a stroll, bring gloves and bags to help you collect waste on the coastline. Make sure to properly dispose of anything you have collected.

2. Make a Poster

Make a poster advocating to protect the beach. You can encourage people to pick up trash or save the beach from erosion. Use what you learned to make posters to hang up in your community.

3. No Straw Pact

Plastic straws are notorious for hassling the environment and causing problems for wildlife. Think about how many straws you use per week: you use them when you go out to dinner, when you grab an iced coffee, and when you drink your breakfast smoothie? Be intentional about reducing your straw usage. Make a pact to help the environment by going straw free for 2 weeks. Encourage Girl Scout families to participate too.

4. Recycle Program

Recycling is an important part of keeping the coast safe and clean. Even if you don't live on the coast it matters what you throw away and recycle. Start up a recycling program at your school, home, or church. Here are some ways to get your program started:

- Analyze trash – where is a lot of trash thrown out in your community? Where could a recycling program can be started to reduce trash?
- Recycling Agency - how is recycling collected in your town? Is it free? Explore your options
- Collection System – when you are connected with a recycling agency figure out where your recycling bins will be this is your collection system
- Educate – how are you going to share the new about the new recycling program?

Resource Section



Source: <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/multimedia/9669>

HOW LONG UNTIL IT'S GONE?

Estimated decomposition rates of common marine debris items



Estimated individual item timelines depend on product composition and environmental conditions.
 Source: NOAA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US / Woods Hole Sea Grant, US Graphics: Oliver Lude / Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, Zurich

Source: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration