Water charm

Before completing this charm, girls should have completed the Be Wild, Be Free patch

Part 1. Learn about the water cycle and how what we do affects the water around us.

With your troop, find out what you can about the water cycle. You might ask a knowledgeable adult or look online. How does the water cycle work for your area? Is there a lot or a little precipitation? Do you have run-off areas? What happens to water in and around your city? How do all the people in your city get their water? Find out where the water for your city comes from. What happens to waste water? Where does water go after a storm?

Part 2. Learn about all the ways people use water.

To start this part, look at your family's use of water.

- What are ways your family uses water every day? Remember to count every time you turn on a faucet.
- Are there ways your family could use less water?

Now look at those around you. Discuss with your troop ways to use water wisely. Is there a way your troop could help the community save water?

Part 3. Learn about drought.

Many people in California are trying to save water because of drought. What is a drought? How does drought effect your area? Does your city have rules about how much water you can use?

Find out ways you can help save water. Even if there is not a drought, water shouldn't be wasted. What can you do to help? Sometimes small things can make a big difference. Try some of the following things to help save water.

- Turn off water that isn't being used. Sounds simple but many people run the water while doing dishes, brushing their teeth or showering. How many changes can you make to make a difference?

- Take shorter showers. There is no need to stand under the running water for minutes at a time. Practice for when you camp and take a "camp shower." Turn off the water when you're soaping up.
- Hang up clothes that have been worn but aren't dirty. This not only saves water by not having to wash as much, it saves your clothes and can help them to last longer.
- Plant drought tolerant plants instead of water guzzling grass. Find out what drought tolerant plants your already have at your house. With your troop or family, plant a succulent garden.

Part 4. Visit a local waterway. It may be a river, lake, stream, reservoir, or beach.

- Does the area have places to camp, fish, hike?
- Do people respect it?
  - Notice if there is any garbage in the area. What impact does that garbage have on the water?
  - What structures or landforms near that waterway contribute to the trash? Before you leave the area, pick up trash. All waterways lead to the ocean and all trash will end up there eventually.
- How has the drought affected the waterway? How does it affect the animals and plants in that area?

Part 5. Investigate the native animals near you by talking to an expert – a ranger at a local park is a great place to get information.

- What do the animals do when there is not enough water, or if there's too much water?
- Find out how native plants and animals of California are better adapted for drought.
- What happens when a drought stricken area has heavy rain? What do the animals do?

The following resources will help in the completion of this charm. There are many more resources online and at your local nature preserve areas.

https://water.usgs.gov/education.html

http://www.watereducation.org/

https://www.thespruce.com/make-a-succulent-plant-container-garden-848006

http://www.laspilitas.com/garden/drought.html