

## Recycling Badge

This badge focuses on reducing, reusing, or recycling waste.



### **Otter: Do 4 requirements including the 2 starred**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1.\* Participate in a recycling project such as a bottle or paper drive.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2.\* Choose something that you currently throw away and come up with a new idea on how to reuse it safely.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Make a list of items in your home or at the store that could be sold with less packaging.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Bring your own non-disposable mug and eating utensils to use at camp or bring a garbage-free lunch to school regularly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Explain and show new uses for old plastic containers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Explain and show new uses for old jars and cans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Describe and show new uses for different kinds of paper, greeting cards, bags and cardboard boxes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Visit or learn about a company or industry that is involved in recycling or collecting recyclable materials.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Make a poster describing what is recyclable.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. A great way to learn about "reuse" and "recycle" is to go on a trip to your local thrift store, recycling center, or church. Gather old clothing, toys, shoes, or other items in reusable condition, and make a family trip down to the donation center to can see how your trash is someone else's treasure. Teach kids how items can be reused for different purposes--for example old towels, blankets, and comforters can often be donated to local animal shelters for bedding. These real-life examples will teach kids that many items they would normally throw away can actually have a second life.

### **Dolphin: Do 5 requirements including the 2 starred**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1.\* Do Otter requirements 1 & 2.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2.\* Make a list of ways recycling can be a part of our daily lives: i.e. wash out plastic bags, take sacks and bags with you to the grocery store, place foil with cans to recycle, save rubber bands and give them to the newspaper carrier for reuse, start a compost pile for fruit and vegetable peelings and yard clippings. Come up with at least 20 different ways to recycle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Make a list of all the things that you didn't need to buy during one week because you reused items you already had. Explain how reusing items reduces the amount of energy needed to make new things.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Make a project from old lumber or Christmas trees.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. With help from an adult, collect old clothes, furniture or books and donate them.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Show or tell your troop or friends about three products that are made with recycled materials.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Make a list of products that display the recycling symbol.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Make a poster describing what is recyclable.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Explain and show new uses for old plastic containers, old jars and cans, different kinds of paper, greeting cards, bags and cardboard boxes. Make a craft using items you would normally throw away.

**Butterfly: Do 6 requirements including the 2 starred**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1.\* Do Dolphin requirements 1 & 2.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2.\* Find two items at the store, in your home, etc. One should display poor packaging and one should display good packaging. Discuss why each is good and bad. How could they be better? Write a letter to a manufacturer suggesting or requesting better packaging. Voice your concerns about the packaging.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Repair and donate old toys to somebody.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Using old paper products, make your own recycled paper.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Write a short booklet on the "recycling process" in your community. What happens to a tin can or bottle?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Understand the meaning of recycling, and describe why recycling has become more important in recent years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Search out all recycling centers in your community and/or county. Make a list of the recycling centers and their locations along with a list of the items which are recycled at each location. Make this list available to local businesses, schools, real estate agents, etc. in your community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Visit the home of someone who composts in his own yard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Make your own reusable shopping bag. Plastic shopping bags are a big garbage problem -- it takes 1,000 years for a bag to break down! Choose some heavy fabric and sew it into simple rectangular bags with handles. Or, buy some canvas bags at a craft or environmentally friendly gift shop. Then use fabric pens to draw pictures on them. Take the bags out with you every time you shop.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Explain and show new uses for old plastic containers, old jars and cans, different kinds of paper, greeting cards, bags and cardboard boxes. Make a craft using items you would normally throw away.

**Eagle: Do 7 requirements including the 2 starred**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1.\* Do Butterfly requirements 1 & 2.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2.\* Help organize a recycling program such as a paper or can drive. Donate the money earned to a local charity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Build a composter and either use it yourself or give it to a friend.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Help publicize a home toxic waste collection day in your community, such as for collecting old paints, garden chemicals, oil, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Learn which items in your house can be returned when you are done with them (examples include computer parts, batteries, tires etc.). Identify one item (from this list) you were planning to throw out and with an adult, bring it somewhere to be recycled.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Find out all of the items that your county will accept for recycling. Examine what you recycle at home or at the home of your grandparents or another relative and expand your efforts to include all of these items. Don't forget about items that can be donated (e.g. clothing, dishes, etc.), repaired (e.g. resoling shoes) and reused (e.g. flyers, excess packaging, etc.). Find a way to help your family, relative or grandparent to recycle, reduce, reuse and refuse all these possible items.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Interview someone who works in the recycling industry. What do these companies do with the collected items? Find out what kind of training and education are necessary for a career in the recycling business.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Explain and show new uses for old plastic containers, old jars and cans, different kinds of paper, greeting cards, bags and cardboard boxes. Make a craft using items you would normally throw away.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Make your own reusable shopping bag. Plastic shopping bags are a big garbage problem -- it takes 1,000 years for a bag to break down! Choose some heavy fabric and sew it into simple rectangular bags with handles. Or, buy some canvas bags at a craft or environmentally friendly gift shop. Then use fabric pens to draw pictures on them. Take the bags out with you every time you shop.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Search out all recycling centers in your community and/or county. Make a list of the recycling centers and their locations along with a list of the items which are recycled at each location. Make this list available to local businesses, schools, real estate agents, etc. in your community.