

News Release
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Girl Scouts Earn Water Drop Patch at Western Carolina Environmental Awareness Day

Greenville, S.C. (June 15, 2007) Several Girl Scout troops from the South Carolina –Mountains to Midlands worked to fulfill the requirements to receive their Water Drop Patch by attending an environmental workshop at Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority's Georges Creek Wastewater Treatment plant, which is located in Greenville. The Environmental Awareness Day is a six-hour workshop developed collaboratively by the Girl Scouts and Western Carolina to provide an interactive learning experience for the girls.

During the workshop, Girl Scouts participated in activities to earn their Water Drop Patch. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital developed the program curriculum required to receive this patch. Western Carolina is the only organization in the state of South Carolina that offers a program where the girls can earn this patch. The Girl Scouts rotated through the following four workstations throughout the day:

1. **Stream Hike**
On the hike, Girl Scouts learned to identify flora and fauna. They also collected stream samples for testing.
2. **Testing Stream Samples**
Using the water samples gathered on the stream hike, the Girl Scouts tested the water for phosphorus, microscopic organisms and other potentially harmful materials.
3. **Georges Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour**
This tour included an overview of Western Carolina's Water Reuse Program.
4. **Overview of Saluda Watershed**
This workstation featured a discussion of watersheds and how to protect them. Girl Scouts also learned about Western Carolina's WAIT Program (Wildlife and Industry Together) and participated in providing food for the wildlife by creating pinecone birdfeeders.

Western Carolina welcomes the opportunity to educate area youth about the wastewater treatment process and how individuals can help protect the environment of the Upstate. To learn more about Western Carolina's facility tours, please call Patty Buchanan at 299-4040 ext. 312.

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