

# ZERO-WASTE CHALLENGE



Where does our waste go? Recently, news hit the headlines that one of China's mega dumps was **filled 25 years early**. Instead of having enough space to last until 2044, it was declared full this year. That's A LOT of trash!!

The 2020 USAGSO Zero-Waste Challenge is designed to help you think about all the things you and your family can do to help preserve our planet. Remember, environmental conservation isn't just about reducing waste either. It's about minimizing our use of resources too, like not leaving the tap running when you brush your teeth, turning off lights, and unplugging chargers when they're not in use or using public transit to lower fuel consumption and air pollution.

## Activity Requirements

- Daisy – 3 actions for 1 week
- Brownie – 5 actions for 2 weeks
- Juniors – 7 actions for 3 weeks
- Cadettes – 10 actions for 4 weeks
- Seniors – 10-12 actions for 5 weeks
- Ambassadors – 10-12 actions for 6 weeks

## Challenge Rules & Deadlines

Girls must complete the required number of activities for their grade level and take at least 3 photos of herself completing activities. After, submit the [Zero-Waste Challenge Form](#) with the photos by December 31, 2020 to earn a patch and set of reusable travel cutlery. Girls may complete activities as a group, but each girl and should only count activities that they participated in.

The challenge is open to current girl members of USAGSO. Family members may participate in activities but are not eligible for patches or prizes. Girls may only submit one patch request. Zero-Waste Challenge activities must be completed between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. All entries must be submitted by December 31, 2020 to earn patches and the travel utensil set.

## Bonus Challenges

To further help the planet, get your family or troop to participate in one of these extra challenges!

### Family Challenge: Go completely trash free for one week!

Most days we're oblivious to the amount of trash we generate. Whether it's a wrapper, receipt, cleaning container, and/or stir stick. Try to go one full week without generating any trash. At the end of the week, reflect on what's there and consider what your family can do differently to avoid it!!

**Troop Challenge: Refuse to use!** Track how many times a day you can refuse something that would quickly end up in the trash. Keep a tally of how many times you refuse to take excessive and wasteful items to track your progress and your benefit to the planet. Start a competition within your troop (or school class!) to see who the most active conservationist is!



You'll earn a reusable travel utensil set **AND** this rocker to add on to the center patch!



\*Keep an eye out for future challenges - collect all the rockers!

## Zero-Waste Challenge Activities

Below are some examples of Zero-Waste Challenge Activities --- but we have more! Check out the [full list!](#)

### AT HOME

- Use beeswax wraps for leftovers
- Sort and recycle your trash
- Use rechargeable batteries
- Turn off water when brushing teeth
- Make an up-cycled gift
- Compost leftover food

### OUT SHOPPING

- Bring your own reusable bags to the store
- Tell the cashier you don't need a receipt
- Don't buy bottled water
- When ordering ice cream ask for a cone instead of a bowl!
- Opt for reusable products
- Find products that come in refillable containers

### WHEN TRAVELING

- Bring your own meal on an airplane
- Bring your own cup for water on a plane
- Use an electronic ticket instead of printing a paper one
- Don't take paper maps or from the hotel, take a photo

Don't forget to take photos!



### IN THE COMMUNITY

- Take leftovers home
- Use public transport instead of family car
- Bring your own to-go containers
- Plan a zero-waste picnic for your family, friends or troop!
- Purchase a reusable water bottle or refill a single use container when going out.

### AT SCHOOL

- Bring snacks/lunch from home in a reusable container instead of using foil or plastic wrap
- Pack trash-free lunches
- Pack reusable utensils with your lunch
- Wash and re-use Ziploc bags - they last a really long time!
- Take photos of important info instead of making photocopies
- Don't use glitter in crafts - it's a microplastic!