



January

Monthly Patch Program Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

Wangari Maathai

“It’s the little things that citizens do. That’s what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees.”

Wangari Maathai started a grass-roots movement in 1977, known as the Green Belt Movement, aimed at countering deforestation and played an active part in the struggle for democracy in Kenya.



Complete 3-Daisy, 4-Brownie, 5-Junior, 6-Cadette, and 7-Senior/Ambassador steps to earn your patch.

All monthly patches are custom designed patches. Once we get the final number of patches after the 15th of each month, we place an order. Patches take about a month to create and then we mail them to you.

Order patch on-line by February 15th at www.getyourgirlpower.org



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Discover

1. With help from an adult, go online or visit a library to learn more about Wangari Maathai. Who is she? Where did she grow up? Why is she well-known?
2. What is the Green Belt Movement? When was it founded and by whom?
3. Where is Kenya? What is the capital? What is the national language? What is Kenyan culture like? What industries are popular in Kenya? What countries border it?
4. Wangari was the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. When did she win this prize? Why did she win this prize? Discover other African women who have won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Connect

5. The Green Belt Movement was a response to the needs of rural Kenyan women who reported their streams were drying up, their food supply was less secure, and they had to walk further to get firewood for fuel. How did the Green Belt Movement encourage women to work together to help solve these problems? Are there movements like this today that encourage teambuilding and working together?
6. Lisa Merton and Alan Dater created a documentary film about Wangari Maathai and her story. With permission from an adult, watch [*Taking Root*](#) with your troop.
7. Research other grassroots movements. How do they differ from the Green Belt Movement? How are they similar? Pick one movement and analyze it. What movement did you choose? How did it get started? Why did you choose this movement?

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Take Action

8. The Green Belt Movement offers seminars in civic and environmental education, now called Community Empowerment and Education seminars. With your troop, consider different efforts you could do to help educate others on the environment. Create posters, make a video, or find another medium to explore.
9. Wangari encouraged women to plant trees in their local environments to counter deforestation. The movement spread across Africa and contributed to over 30 million trees being planted. With your troop, plant a tree and watch it grow. Since it is winter, plant a tree indoors. Be creative. Plant it in a cup and transfer to a pot. Once the sapling has grown and the ground has thawed, plant outdoors.
10. The Green Belt Movement and Wangari's efforts of grassroots organizing is a prime example that a small idea can blossom into making a change. Think of a small idea you have. What are some ways you can trailblaze and advocate for your idea? How can your grassroots idea become a reality?

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