

# Patch Requirements

Do any two or more of the bulleted requirements (or make up one of your own), as per the best judgment of the leader/mentor for the organization. If you have questions on how to complete individual requirements, please contact the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services (753-7526) for details. Contact DES to receive your patches upon completion of the chosen requirements.

- **Visit the Monroe County Recycling Center**

See what is being done to reduce and recycle the region's waste. Tours of the Monroe County Recycling Center, located at 384 Lee Road, can be scheduled for community, scouting and school groups. The Recycling Facility is designed to efficiently sort recyclable materials. The design of the facility is simple. Two large conveyors (one for paper and one for containers) move materials to various platforms where mechanical or hand sorting directs each type of recyclable material to a baler (paper, plastic, aluminum, steel) or to an outside storage bunker (glass).



- **Visit the Mill Seat or High Acres Landfill**

Come and see Monroe County's "state of the art" facility. The landfill's total property occupies some 385 acres. The footprint of the landfill is 98.6 acres. The construction cost was approximately \$60 million. The design capacity is for 1,945 tons per day. Stage one and stage two of the landfill includes 52.3 acres. Future stages will add approximately 46.3 acres. The site life is expected to last until 2018.

- **Survey Your Neighborhood Recycling Boxes**

Your Troop may find that some residents are not aware of all the materials that can be recycled here in Monroe County. The law states, in general, that **residents** *must* recycle steel, aluminum, glass (clear, green, and brown only), plastic (#s 1 & 2 only) and paper (gable-top cartons/drink boxes) food and beverage containers. Empty steel aerosol cans (no pesticides or spray paint) *may* also be recycled. Residents *must* also recycle newspapers, magazines and corrugated cardboard. Large appliances are also *required* to be recycled—this is usually done by your garbage hauler. Although not required by law, additional paper materials *may* be recycled. The Monroe County Recycling Center is now accepting **all clean** paper from haulers for recycling.

- **Start a Home Composting Project**

Take some individual action. Composting is the most environmentally-friendly way to handle your yard waste and can be easier and cheaper than bagging it. Compost can improve your soil and the plants growing in it. If you have a garden, a lawn, trees, shrubs, or even planter boxes, you have a use for compost.

- **Host a Clothing Drive**

Reclaimed textiles can contribute considerably to reducing the impact of textile processes on the environment including the demand for chemicals, water and energy consumption (used heavily in the generation of new textiles). Local organizations provide a great outlet for these materials. Some of these companies will come to your door to pick up this reusable material and you may receive a receipt for a

tax deduction.

- **Promote a Household Hazardous Waste or E-Waste Collection**

Most household paint and chemicals are safe when used and stored properly. When disposed of improperly, household wastes can become environmental hazards. Monroe County provides residents with a way to safely recycle or dispose of this household hazardous waste (HHW) **free-of-charge**. Improper disposal of computer equipment can lead to environmental damage and potential identity theft. Contact a local computer recycling company for advice on how to promote a residential computer collection ([www.monroecounty.gov/des-electronicsrecycling.php](http://www.monroecounty.gov/des-electronicsrecycling.php)).

- **Research the Life Cycle of a Product's Packaging**

Chose a product and find out where the product life began, what raw material was used to create it, and then consider every conceivable phase of the material until its "death." This can be displayed in pictures, on a time-line, or you can write an autobiography of the product.

- **Visit Your Local Market. How Many Products are Recyclable or Made from Recycled Materials?**

Visit the market near by and check out all the products on the shelf. How many of them are recyclable? How many are made from recycled materials? How do you feel about what you find? After your research, write a letter to the market with your comments and suggestions.

- **Become the America Recycles Mentor for Your School**

America Recycles is a national campaign geared to increase the purchase of recycled content products and recycling throughout America so that we conserve natural resources for future generations. It strives to make consumers aware of the importance of "buying recycled" and to emphasize the message that you are really not recycling unless you buy recycled products. The theme for the national America Recycles campaign is "*It all Comes Back to You.*" Our local campaign encourages students to make a pledge to support recycling and increase their purchases of recycled content products. The schools (individual schools not the district) with the highest percentage/number of students filling out cards can win an ice cream party (or other prizes) for the whole school.

- **Organize a Cell Phone Collection**

More than 156 Million Americans now use cell phones and many of them are teens. Like any product, making a cell phone uses natural resources and energy. Cell phones can also contain materials such as mercury, nickel-cadmium or lead acid. You can help minimize the environmental impact by reusing or recycling your phone. Local companies such as T-Mobile and Radio Shack will also take collected phones.