

## **Girl Scouts-North Carolina Coastal Pines Fashion Forward Council-Wide Community Service Project**

Two in five American kids are unable to adequately dress themselves every day. “Lack of clothing” accounts for three of the top ten reasons kids miss school. The truth is: the clothes children wear can affect the development of their independence and self-help skills. Our bodies are rapidly changing until our late teens, and everyone deserves to look good and feel confident. Rising costs means sometimes families need to prioritize other purchases like school supplies, car maintenance, or medical expenses. This issue includes members of our own communities, friends and family, or members of our troops, making this a sensitive and important issue for Girl Scouts.

Sustainability is a social goal for people to co-exist on Earth over a long time. Experts often describe sustainability as having three or pillars: environmental, economic, and social; many publications emphasize the environmental dimension. Earth has a lot of man-made “stuff” on it. How can we use what we have, to avoid using more in the future? There are 2,000 active landfills in the country, and the average American throws out 4.4 pounds of trash a day!

Girl Scouts can make a big difference in their communities by supporting the Fashion Forward Project council-wide community service project.

### **Here’s how troops and individual Girl Scouts can get started:**

1. Discuss sustainability in the U.S. What does it mean? What does our society teach us about needing more “stuff”? What can we do with items we no longer need or want that are still in good condition?
2. Ask Girl Scouts what makes them feel confident. We all know that what’s the most important is on the inside, but do they get confidence from the way they present themselves as well? Discuss the difference and similarities.

### **Join The Fashion Forward council-wide community service project!**

During the months of March and April, Girl Scouts can donate an entire outfit they’ve curated for someone else to wear! Participation in the Fashion Forward project is a great way to combat clothing insecurity for others and promote

sustainability. All clothing donated will be distributed locally so donations benefit communities where Girl Scouts live.

### **Donating is easy:**

**Step 1:** Pick out an outfit to donate. Take your time and put some thought into it. Have fun with it! Picking out clothes can be stressful for some people. Take the stress out of it by creating an entire outfit just for them!

For example, you could make a package that includes a pair of jeans, belt, shirt, and jacket or one with a dress, shoes, and a headband. The point is to put together a complete ‘look” for someone else.

Clothes should be clean with no damage. We want the new owners to feel confident in their new look.

**Step 2.** Collect your outfit and secure it in a bag that you can close, or tie shut. Be sure to include a list of what’s in the ensemble you put together. You can even include helpful tips on the best way to style what you’ve picked!

**Step 3.** Drop off your bag in the specially marked box. Visit our [website](#) for a complete list of participating partners. That’s it! Your outfit is on its way to a new owner.

## **Discussion Guide for Fashion Forward**

### **What is Clothing Insecurity?**

Clothing Insecurity is defined as the lack of access to affordable, adequate, appropriate clothing. Families facing clothing insecurity may have some clothing and shoes, however, they may not fit properly, be in wearable condition, or be seasonally appropriate for the weather. Additionally, clothing insecure families may not know where their clothing resources will come from or what kinds of financial tradeoffs they will need to make to fulfill them.

**What is Sustainability?** The avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance. Check out this video [here](#).

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does recycling/reusing items we own help us achieve worldwide sustainability?
2. Anyone from any background can wear previously worn clothing! Why?

3. We can't always know how others are feeling or what challenges others may be experiencing—including who in our communities might be suffering from clothing or food insecurity. How can we express compassion and support to others, regardless of if we know their personal circumstances?
4. Why are thrift and vintage stores so popular right now? What are some benefits to places like these?
5. Why is it important to care for your own community? How do you wish to support others around the world as well?
6. What are textiles? How many tons of textiles are thrown away each year?
7. (Especially for older Girl Scouts) How has COVID-19 changed your view on the importance of supporting our community? What increased challenges do you think COVID is causing to people's lives across the country?
8. How can you help others? What actions feel most meaningful to do?

### **Get the Patch!**

Once you've made your donation, be sure to log your participation and reflect on your experience to receive a free fun patch! Scan the QR code to log your donation. Please note, patches will be available in mid-March 2024.



### **Start making a difference today!**

Contact: Chandler Davis

Program Director

[cdavis@nccoastalpines.org](mailto:cdavis@nccoastalpines.org)

[www.nccoastalpines.org](http://www.nccoastalpines.org)