

Rachel Carson

“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”

Rachel Carson is a writer, scientist and ecologist. She had a lifelong love of nature and studied marine biology and graduated with a degree in zoology. Learn more about Rachel Carson in this monthly patch!

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. You will get a confirmation email once the patches are headed your way.

Order patch on-line by October 15, 2020 at

GETYOURGIRLPOWER.ORG

Discover

1. Rachel grew up in Springdale, Pennsylvania. She developed her love of nature early in her life by taking time to go on adventures on her 65 acre farm. Take some time to go on an adventure in your backyard or in your neighborhood. Notice what type of birds are chirping, what flowers are growing and if the leaves on the trees are swaying. You can use the nature journal linked below to record your findings and to become better acquainted with the nature that's in your own backyard.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UBqXXEZnkLzq-X05F3qxOZbTOj6PBRrk/view>

2. Rachel is called “The Nun of Nature” because of her impact on the environmental movement. Her book “Silent Spring” warned the public about the impacts of poisoning nature and how then nature would turn and poison humankind. How have we seen this play out in recent decades since Rachel wrote her book in 1962? What environmental factors are at risk now, that weren’t 60 years ago? What environmental causes have you seen people rally behind in your lifetime? Discuss with your troop.
3. Rachel is credited with inspiring the first Earth Day in 1970. Can you imagine having a holiday credited to you? If you could make your own holiday what would you celebrate? It could be something that helps others or the planet, like Earth Day, or maybe something you like, such as National Pizza Day! Come up with your holiday and make a flyer letting everyone know how to celebrate.
4. Rachel is considered a citizen scientist. Do you know what that means? A citizen scientist is someone that is curious or concerned about a cause and who advocates with a scientist in ways to advance scientific research on topics they care about. Girl Scouts has Think Like A Citizen Scientist journey for each grade level. If you have already completed this journey, discuss with your troop the similarities between what you did with your project and what Rachel did with her cause. How did you conduct research and make observations? How did Rachel? If you have not started this journey, now is a great time to start. Make connections with your troop on how Rachel started her citizen scientist journey and what Girl Scouts can do to begin theirs.

Connect

5. Rachel started writing stories at age eight; they often had animals in them. She even had one of her stories published in a local magazine when she was eleven. Write a short story or article about something you care about, it could be about nature, animals or something else that you are passionate about. You can chose to make up a story or

write a true story. You can even draw a picture, don't be afraid to get creative! If you are feeling really brave, find a local magazine or children's magazine to submit your short story to.

6. Look up the definition of an environmentalist. Would you consider yourself an environmentalist? Why or why not? Discuss with your troop or family ways that you can be more conscious about your environment. For example, recycling, producing less waste, carpooling, etc.. What can you do individually and/or as a group to lessen your carbon footprint?

7. Rachel loved to read! She often re-read two books that had a lasting effect on her life. One was about an Otter who lived a playful, sometimes dangerous, life in the countryside. The other was a description of a year of living on the coast of Cape Cod. Is there a book you've read that had a lasting effect on you? What was it about the book that stuck with you? How has it impacted your life? Discuss with your troop. You may even find your next favorite book!

8. It may only take one teacher to change your life forever; for Rachel that teacher was Mary Skinker. When Rachel first went to college she was an English major, but Mary Skinner saw her passion for animals and the environment and convinced her to change her major to biology. She was only one of three women in the school at the time to study biology. Is there a teacher or mentor that you look up to that has changed your life? Do something special to thank them. It can be a virtual thank you like an email or you could make a card or draw a picture to say how much you appreciate their help and guidance.

Take Action

9. In Rachel's book titled *Silent Spring*, she presents the issue of pesticides and how harmful they are to animals; specifically birds. The pesticides on the plants were eaten by insects and fish and become ill. Afterwards, the birds would lay eggs with thin shells causing the baby birds to die. The Bald Eagle was among the birds affected and they almost disappeared from the United States. There are all kinds of endangered animals in the United States and the world as a whole. What can you do to help? Come up with a plan with your troop to help bring awareness to the animal of your choosing. Is there a reason that animal is endangered, like the pesticides with the eagles? Do some research on an endangered animal and discuss with your troop what you can do to make a difference.
10. Before Rachel's book *Silent Spring*, she wrote three bestselling books about the ocean. In her books she discusses climate change, rising tides, and melting glaciers, just to name a few. She often wondered "Isn't it the public's right to know?" Rachel asked the hard questions about whether and why humans had the right to control nature; to decide who lives or dies, to poison or to destroy non-human life. She urged the public to question authority and ask, "Who gets to speak on this issue and why?" I challenge you to do the same. It does not need to be an environmental issue, but pick an issue that you care about and ask the questions, "Who gets to speak on this and why?" Are they fighting for the greater good or is there an underlining problem that isn't being addressed? What can you do to help?
11. Rachel believed in being good stewards of our environment; which means to responsibly use and protect the natural environment through



conservation and sustainable practices. Get out there and roll up your sleeves to clean up your local park, plant a tree or start a community wide recycle program. What can you do today to help the environment?