The Water Conservation Patch Program is designed to teach San Diego's children about the importance of their water supply and how to conserve it. The program includes a set of requirements for 2 different age levels and is for San Diego County residents only.

THE REQUIREMENTS ARE BROKEN DOWN INTO TWO AGE GROUPS AND ARE AS FOLLOWS:

AGES 6 - 10

Complete the following requirements and share the results with your leader.

1. Describe what it means to conserve something.
2. Read a brochure on how to conserve water with your leader, or on your own.
3. Be able to name at least 5 ways to conserve water in and around your home.
4. Learn some basic facts about where San Diego's water comes from and how it gets here.

Choose two of the following four.

1. Draw a poster of yourself doing something to conserve water.
2. Look around the house and find an area where you think you might be able to do a better job of saving water. Take action to improve the situation.
3. Draw a picture of the water cycle.
4. Write your own pledge to conserve water and say it before your group.

AGES 11 - 15

Complete the following five conditions and two in the next section.

1. Learn about San Diego's water supply system. How does your water get to San Diego?
2. Identify your local water supplier. What agency serves water to your neighborhood?
3. Read a brochure or pamphlet on how to conserve water.
4. Name at least 5 ways to conserve water in and around the house.
5. Write a short description of the following terms. Conservation, Reclamation, Desalination. (Continued)
Choose two of the following.

1. Discuss with your family what you have learned about water as you have worked on this patch. Ask them to keep an eye on their water use habits for a week and then decide together if there are any permanent steps they can take to help save water. Suggestions – if your toilets are not water conservation models (1.6 gallons per flush) find out if your local water agency offers assistance to help you purchase more efficient models. Measure the amount of water that collects in a bucket when you leave the showerhead running for one minute. Investigate replacing it with a low flow model (possibly available for free from your local water agency) if you collect more than 4 gallons in one minute. Set automatic timers on sprinkler systems to water only during evening or early morning. Make sure the hose always has an automatic shut-off nozzle when you wash the car. Check for rebates on front-loading washing machines when it is time to purchase a new one.

2. Learn about three different types of plants that need very little water to grow. Know their names and where they come from (where they grow naturally).

3. Design an experiment that will demonstrate some part of the water cycle. Suggestions - Make a rain gauge to measure rainfall or invent some way to demonstrate one of the concepts that you have learned while working on this program.

4. Investigate how water is purified to make it safe to drink. Group leaders may wish to contact their local water agencies to see if there is a water treatment plant nearby and if tours are available.

RESOURCES

The following resources may help you complete the requirements for this patch. It is helpful if the group works on this patch together and leaders request information for the group rather than hearing from each individual.

BOOKS – Check your local library

**Deserts** Posell, Elsa (Children’s Press, 1991) Describes the climatic conditions, flora, and fauna of the desert, and explains that some people find it habitable and others profitable for its mineral riches.


**Sunset Garden Book** (California, Sunset Publishing Corporation, 1992) Good resource for information on water efficient plants.

**Water For All** Morgan, Sally (Franklin Watts, 2000) Examines the different water sources in the world, how water is treated, and the problem of supplying clean water to the world’s increasing population.


**The Young Scientist Investigates Water** Jennings, Terry (Chicago, Children's Press. 1982) Information on the properties of water. Includes many good experiments.

INTERNET LINKS

For information about the San Diego County’s water supply, local water agencies and conservation visit the San Diego County Water Authority’s site. [http://www.sdcwa.org/](http://www.sdcwa.org/)

For information about the Water Cycle visit the USGS “water science for schools” site. [http://wwwga.usgs.gov/edu/index.html](http://wwwga.usgs.gov/edu/index.html)

Requests for tours and information regarding water treatment should be directed to your local water provider. The numbers for the San Diego County Water Authority’s member agencies are below.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEMBER AGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

CARLSBAD MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  760-438-2722
CITY OF DEL MAR - Water Utilities Department  858-755-3294
CITY OF ESCONDIDO-Water Utilities Dept.  760-839-4657
FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT  760-728-1125
HELIX WATER DISTRICT  619-466-0585
LAKESIDE WATER DISTRICT  619-443-3805
CITY OF OCEANSIDE  760-435-5800
OLIVENHAIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  760-753-6466
OTAY WATER DISTRICT  619-670-2222
PADRE DAM MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  619-448-3111
PENDLETON MILITARY RESERVATION  760-725-1061
CITY OF POWAY  858-668-4401
RAINBOW MUN. WATER DISTRICT  760-728-1178
RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  760-789-1330
RINCON DEL DIABLO MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  760-745-5522
CITY OF SAN DIAGO - Water Utilities Department  619-533-7555
SAN DIEGUITO WATER DISTRICT  760-633-2876
SANTA FE IRRIGATION DISTRICT  858-756-2424
SWEETWATER AUTHORITY (NATIONAL CITY, SO. BAY ID)  619-420-1413
VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT  760-744-0460
VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  760-749-1600
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  760-597-3100
VISTA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  760-742-3704

Send in the form below, or call and leave a message including the information below, to request a packet of brochures to assist you with this project. As members complete the requirements for the patch fill out the record sheet on the following page. When it is complete, return it to the address below. Please allow two weeks between the time you send in your request for patches and the date you wish to distribute them. Certificates will be printed so please take care to write names legibly.

Send all requests for information or patches to:

Education Department – Patch Program
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 522-6720

Cut off and return the section below to request information

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Please send a brochure packet that will assist my group in completing the water conservation patch program.

Name:_______________________________________________ Number of members in group:_________________________
Address:_____________________________________________
____________________________________________
Phone Number (in case of question):__________________
____________________________________________
Organization:_________________________________________ Level of Group Members:_________________________

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Use this log to keep track of the completion of requirements and to provide the Water Authority with a record of recipients. There are six requirements for the 6-10 age group and seven for 11-15 age members.

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PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHEN RETURNING THIS SHEET

Group Leader's Name: ________________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Phone Number In Case of Questions: _______________________

Mail to:
Education Department
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123