



San Diego County Water Authority

Youth Organizations Water Conservation Patch Program

Sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority



The Water Conservation Patch Program is designed to teach youth organization members in San Diego County about the importance of the region's water supply and how to make the most of every drop. We sometimes call this "conservation," but these days we also refer to it as "water-use efficiency" because it's not just a response to an emergency such as a drought, but rather a commitment to make the most of our natural resources no matter the weather. Thank you for joining the San Diego County Water Authority and its 24 member agencies to promote careful stewardship of our water supplies.

Requirements are divided into the following age groups: 6-10 and 11-15.

Ages 6-10 Patch Program Requirements

To earn the Water Conservation Patch, members must complete the following requirements:

1. Describe what it means to conserve something, and what it means to use water efficiently.
2. Read a brochure or visit a website about how to use water efficiently with your group leader, or on your own, and discuss what you learned with your group.
3. Be able to name at least five ways to use water efficiently in and around your home.
4. Learn where San Diego County's water comes from and how it gets here.

In addition, perform two of the following tasks:

1. Draw a picture of yourself doing something to conserve water or using it efficiently.
2. Write your own pledge to use water efficiently, and say it in front of your group.
3. Draw the water cycle.
4. Be able to identify on a map the Sierra Nevada mountain range and the Colorado River. Use a map of California that includes physical features such as mountain ranges.
5. Find an area at your house where you think you might be able to do a better job of saving water. Take action to improve the situation.

Ages 11-15 Patch Program Requirements

To earn the Water Conservation Patch, members must complete the following requirements:

1. Learn about San Diego County's water supply system. How does water get to San Diego?
2. Identify your local water supplier. What agency serves water to your neighborhood?
3. Read a brochure or visit a website about how to use water efficiently with your group leader, or on your own, and discuss the information with your group.
4. Be able to name at least five ways to use water efficiently in and around your home.
5. Write a short description of the following terms: Conservation, Reclamation, Desalination and Water-Use Efficiency.

In addition, perform two of the following tasks:

1. Discuss with your family what you have learned about water as you have worked on this patch. Ask them to track their water-use habits for a week and then decide together if there are any permanent steps they can take to be more efficient. Suggestions;
 - If your toilets are not low-water-use models, find out if your local water agency provides rebates for purchasing a more efficient model. (See online resources below).
 - Measure the amount of water that collects in a bucket when you leave the showerhead running for one minute. If you collect more than 4 gallons in one minute, investigate replacing the showerhead with a low-flow model.
 - Set automatic timers on sprinkler systems to irrigate only during early mornings or evenings.
 - Make sure your hoses have automatic shut-off nozzles.
 - Check for rebates on water-efficient washing machines. (See online resources below).
2. Learn about three types of plants that need very little water to grow. Know their names and where they come from (their native habitat).
3. Design an experiment that will demonstrate part of the water cycle. For instance, make a rain gauge to measure rainfall.
4. Investigate how water is purified to make it safe to drink. (Note: Group leaders may wish to contact local water agencies to see if water treatment plant tours are available).
5. Learn about plans your local water district has to ensure it has enough water for the future.

Internet Resources

- **San Diego County Water Authority** – Regional water issues (sdcwa.org)
- **Live WaterSmart** – Water-use efficiency resources, classes, rebates and more (watersmartsd.org)
- **City of San Diego** – Water conservation games and challenges (sandiego.gov/water/conservation/kids)
- **Pure Water San Diego** – Water purification project (sandiego.gov/water/purewater/purewatersd)
- **Advanced Water Purification East County** –Water purification project (eastcountyawp.com/about-the-program/)
- **Save Our Water** – Conservation lifestyle tips (saveourwater.com/conservation-lifestyle)
- **The Water Conservation Garden** – Local demonstration garden for low-water plants and landscapes (thegarden.org)
- **USGS Science for a Changing World** – The Water Cycle (water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids-adv.html)
- **Water Use It Wisely** – Games and water-saving tips (wateruseitwisely.com/kids)

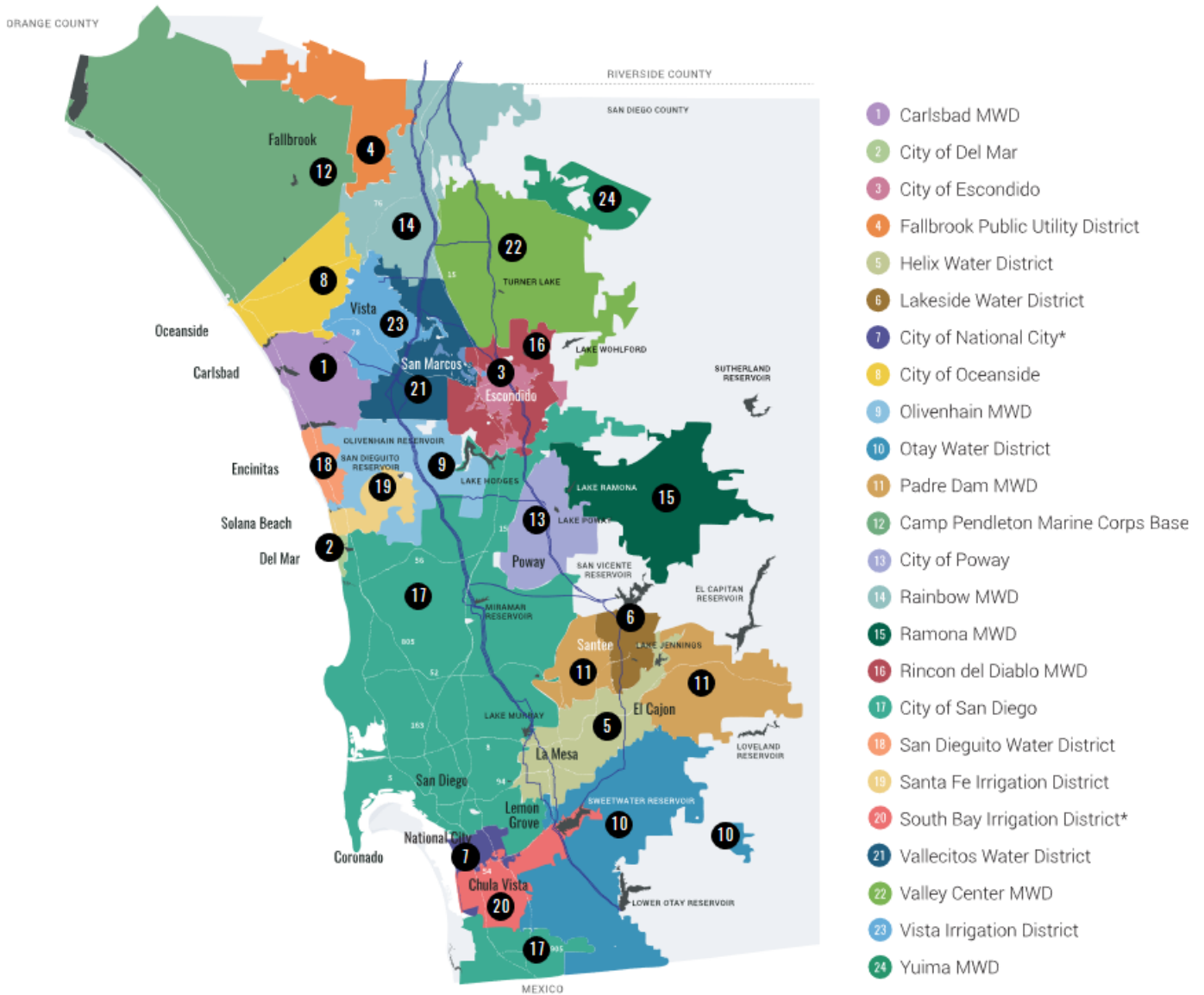
Additional Resources

For additional materials to help complete the requirements of the Patch Program, send an email with the following information to sdcwa@sdcwa.org.

- Name:
- Organization:
- Level of Group Members:
- Number of Members in Group:
- Phone Number:
- Email Address:
- Address:

Locate Your Local Water Agency

A public agency created in 1944, the San Diego County Water Authority delivers wholesale water supplies to 24 local water providers (shown below). Together, the agencies serve 3.3 million people and a \$222 billion regional economy.



1. Carlsbad MWD carlsbadca.gov/water
2. City of Del Mar delmar.ca.us
3. City of Escondido escondido.org
4. Fallbrook Public Utility District fpud.com
5. Helix Water District hwd.com
6. Lakeside Water District lakesidewater.org
7. City of National City sweetwater.org
8. City of Oceanside ci.oceanside.ca.us
9. Olivenhain MWD olivenhain.com
10. Otay Water District otaywater.gov
11. Padre Dam MWD padredam.org
12. Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base pendleton.marines.mil

13. City of Poway poway.org
14. Rainbow MWD rainbowmwd.com
15. Ramona MWD rmwd.org
16. Rincon del Diablo MWD rinconwater.org
17. City of San Diego sandiego.gov/water
18. San Dieguito Water District sdwd.org
19. Santa Fe Irrigation District sfidwater.org
20. South Bay Irrigation District sweetwater.org
21. Vallecitos Water District vwd.org
22. Valley Center MWD vcmwd.org
23. Vista Irrigation District vidwater.org
24. Yuima MWD yuimamwd.com



Youth Organizations Patch Program Log Sheet

Use this log to keep track of completed requirements and to provide the Water Authority with a record of patch recipients. When completed, send this form to the address below or email it to sdcwa@sdcwa.org. Allow two weeks for patches to arrive. Please write legibly.

Name (Please Print)	Patch Requirements							Date Completed
	6-10 (6)						11-15 (7)	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								
11.								
12.								
13.								
14.								
15.								

Email to: sdcwa@sdcwa.org

Group Leader's Name:

or

Phone Number:

Mail to:

Education Department: Patch Program
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Email:

Mailing Address: