



# Girl Scout Tree Promise



## How to Plant a Tree

**SAFETY FIRST!!** Before you dig a hole, call 811 to have a technician mark where your underground lines are located. Usually takes 2-3 days for them to schedule a visit.

- Safety – did you identify where it is safe to dig?
- Prepare a planting area where the seedling will have adequate space to grow into a full-size tree both above and below the ground. Avoid overhead and underground utilities.
- Determine the size of hole needed for your roots to fan out without bending upward. The hole should be deep enough to accommodate the roots.
- Roots should be separated or fanned out without cramping and do not form a “J”.
- Put some loose soil in the bottom of the hole.
- Place tree over the hole and lower so roots are spread downward keeping the tree vertical placing the root collar (the place where the roots join the stem) at soil level.
- While holding the tree upright, gently begin filling the hole with soil around the roots making sure the roots stay straight down.

- Shovel in remaining soil and lightly tamp down to remove air pockets.
- Sod chunks can be turned upside down around the top of the hole – this will keep grass from growing too high, competing with the tree to grow.
- Water as needed.
- If available, pound in a tree stake about 3-4 inches from the trunk of the tree.
- If available, attach a tree tube to the stake around the newly planted.
- Log your tree into the Girl Scout Tree Promise Tracker at [girlscouts.org/treepromise](http://girlscouts.org/treepromise)

Girls (or an adult on behalf of the girls if they are under age 13) **MUST** log their tree-planting each day they plant trees for us to track all trees to reach 5 million trees! Go Girl Scouts!

Scan the QR code to log your tree!  
**Remember to log the tree(s)**  
 that you've planted each day you  
 plant trees. Your council is  
 Northern Indiana-Michiana.



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## Tree Planting Tips

### Containerized Trees

- Important Note: Always handle trees by the container or root mass.
- Remove tree tags, ribbons, or trunk wrapping.

### Balled and Burlapped Trees

- Important Note: Always handle trees by the root ball.
- Cut away as much of the wire basket as possible without breaking the root ball. Cut and remove all twine and rope. Remove the staples holding the burlap together and peel the burlap back. Cut away any loose burlap. It is OK to leave any remaining burlap and wire under the root ball.
- Remove tree tags, ribbons, or trunk wrapping.



Once you log your tree on the tree tracker, you will receive an email with details to purchase this patch!

#### Too Deep

needles buried  
hole okay  
tree position poor



#### Too Shallow

roots exposed  
hole too shallow



#### Air Pocket

from improper  
tamping



#### "L" Roots

hole shallow



#### "J" Roots

hole shallow  
roots often  
exposed to air



#### Compacted Roots

hole too narrow  
not properly  
opened



#### Not Vertical

shallow planting  
caused by  
improper  
digging of  
hole



#### Too Loose

Improper  
tamping  
after  
planting



#### Poor Planting Soil

Planting in rotten wood,  
deep duff or debris,  
not damp mineral soil



#### Satisfactorily Planted Tree



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