

# WELCOME GIRL SCOUTS!

We hope you enjoyed First Lady Pat Nixon's 98th Birthday celebration! In honor of your "Girl Scouts Go Green" theme, here is some important information about the EPA.

## WHAT IS THE EPA?

EPA stands for the Environmental Protection Agency. Its mission is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment—air, water, and land—upon which life depends.

## WHEN WAS IT CREATED?

December 2, 1970, when Richard Nixon was President.

## WHY WAS IT CREATED?

For many decades the government had little power to prevent people or companies from dumping chemicals into rivers, littering, producing cars with too much exhaust, or wasting precious resources. In fact, in those days nobody recycled! We had neglected our planet to such an extent that on June 22, 1969, the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland Ohio actually caught on fire!

President Nixon and Congress created the EPA because they wanted one group in charge. Before the EPA, responsibility for protecting the environment was spread over many different agencies, which often did not cooperate. President Nixon believed that if one agency took the lead in going green, the federal government would do a better job of cleaning up our water and our air.

## HOW IMPORTANT IS THE ENVIRONMENT TO YOU?

In 1972, President Nixon said, "The starting point of environmental quality is in the hearts and minds of the people. Unless the people have a deep commitment to the new values and a clear understanding of the new problems, all our laws and programs and spending will avail little." Do you agree?



*This is the original seal from 1971.*



*The seal was changed in 2002. Can you spot the differences?*