

GIRL SCOUTS OF INDIAN WATERS COUNCIL

“Celebrating & Respecting People”
Council Patch Program

Throughout the history of the Girl Scout Movement, pluralism has been an integral part of the program and philosophy. Reaffirmed in the Affirmative Action Statement of Girl Scouts of Indian Waters Council:

Girl Scouts of Indian Waters Council is committed to respecting and celebrating the differences of all people; to practicing affirmative action; and to inspiring the personal commitment of each member to these goals.

The need for pluralism to be incorporated into Girl Scout program is increasingly critical as our world becomes more global. We are not a world of people from the same background and heritage; we have many cultures, religions, and customs right here, across the country, and around the world. Girls need to be comfortable with people who may seem different than themselves and respect and appreciate these differences, while understanding that similarities abound as well. At the same time, girls must feel good about themselves and the uniqueness they have to offer those around them. When we all believe that we are special and others around us are special too, we will know pluralism.

Definition of Pluralism: A philosophy and way of being that respects and embraces the differences in all people.

Outlined on the following pages is a council patch program that may be earned by Brownie through Senior Girl Scouts to better understand and appreciate the differences and similarities of all people.

This patch program is intended to augment various other Girl Scout program activities that help girls better understand and appreciate the diverse world around them. At the end of each section, other recognitions relating to pluralism topics for each program level are noted and troops are encouraged to work on these related recognitions as well.

To order “Celebrating & Respecting People” patches, complete the patch order form and mail, fax or bring to the service center, 4222 Oakwood Hills Parkway, Eau Claire, WI 54701. (715) 835-2768 - fax

Celebrating & Respecting People
Patch Requirements for
Brownie Girl Scouts

Connections: Issues for Girl Scouts: (Complete two activities.)

Please describe:

1. _____

2. _____

I Am Special, Too: (Complete two activities.)

- ___ Play at least two games to learn about what makes you special and different from anybody else. (Examples are attached.)
- ___ Make collage of your favorite things and/or what you want to be when you are older. Share with the girls in your troop. In what ways do you have the same or different tastes or dreams?
- ___ Write a story or act out a play about some of the problems people would have if everybody was alike.
- ___ Share something you do well or enjoy with your troop. It could be a special hobby, talent, or collection.

Respecting People: (Complete two activities, including the one starred.)

- * ___ Participate in a service project that helps people.
- ___ Cooperative Game (See attached ideas.)
- ___ Discuss ways we sometimes mistreat people who we think are different from us. Make a list of ways all people need to be treated.
- ___ Find a partner and make a list of the ways that you are the same and the ways you are different. Display this on a chart or chalkboard. For example: we are both Girl Scouts, we both have different hair color, we both like pizza and root beer, I have pets but my friend does not, etc. Be creative and think of as many ways that you are alike and different. Discuss what you discovered.



Celebrating People: (Complete two activities.)

- ___ Learn about people from another country or culture. Invite someone to your troop meeting who is of African American, American Indian, or Asian American heritage. Or invite someone who is from or has visited another country. And/or attend a festival or event that teaches about a culture or cultures other than your own.

- ___ Do activities in conjunction with Thinking Day. Discuss with your troop what it might be like to be having your troop meeting in one of the 134 other countries that are members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

- ___ Pick three disabilities to learn about. Find out some of the causes of each and the kind of help and support available to people with the disability. “Try on” the disability. Discuss with your troop how you felt and how your everyday life may be affected.

- ___ Learn a game and a song of Native American, African American, or Asian American origin.

Program Links

Below are Try-Its related to the topic of pluralism and the page on which they are found in *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*.

- Around the World
- Caring and Sharing
- Citizens Near and Far
- Listening to the Past
- People of the World



Celebrating & Respecting People

Patch Requirements for Junior Girl Scouts

Connections: Issues for Girl Scouts: (Complete two activities.)

Please describe:

1. _____

2. _____

I Am Special, Too: (Complete two activities.)

- ___ Share something special about yourself with your troop or other group such as a hobby or special talent.
- ___ Think about the ways that people are different. Think about how the girls in your troop are different and the same. Make a list of statements that are true for everyone in the troop. Then imagine what it would be like if everyone was exactly alike. Discuss what this would be like.
- ___ What role does religion play in your life? How does this make you special? Do your friends have religions different from yours? Think of the way religion influences the things you do. Make a list of the type of things religion can influence.
- ___ Learn about your family tree. Make a poster with your troop or family that shows your family tree and who your ancestors are.

Respecting People: (Complete two activities, including the one starred.)

- * ___ Participate in a service project that helps people.
- ___ Learn about American sign language. Learn to sign some phrases. Spend some time in your troop “trying-on” some disabilities. Discuss how a disability affects your everyday life and/or invite a girl to join your troop who might not join because of a disability. Be sure that she can participate in all troop activities.
- ___ Play a Cooperative Game or use the Talking With TJ program at a meeting. (See attached ideas.)
- ___ Invite someone who has a career working with people who are disabled, elderly, or from a different culture to present at a troop meeting.

Celebrating People: (Complete ___ activities.)

- ___ As a troop, write to a pen pal in another country or part of the United States.
- ___ Read a story or watch a movie about a famous person who is African American, American Indian, or Asian American. Be able to tell what the person did to make life better for people around him or her.
- ___ Attend a festival or event where you can learn about people from a different culture or cultures or invite someone to your troop meeting who is African American, Asian American, Native American, or from another country.
- ___ Study a world map and pick three countries from two different continents. Find out if these countries are members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and something about Girl Guides or Girl Scouts there. If not, find out about what girls your age might enjoy doing in that country.

Program Links

Below are badges related to the topic of pluralism and the page on which they are found in *The Guide for Junior Girl Scout Leaders* or *Girl Scout Badges & Signs*.

- Healthy Relationships
- My Self-Esteem
- Celebrating People
- My Heritage
- Now & Then: Stories from Around the World
- The World in My Community
- World Neighbors



Celebrating & Respecting People

Patch Requirements for Cadette/Senior Girl Scouts

Connections: Issues for Girl Scouts: (Complete two activities.)

Please describe:

1. _____

2. _____

I Am Special, Too: (Complete two activities.)

___ Sometimes we do not want to think of ourselves as different, yet each one of us has something special to offer. Explore careers that help people and the ways that you can make a difference. List these ways and share with your troop or other group. Invite someone who is a role model for you or has a career that you are interested in to a troop meeting or to present to another group.

___ Learn about your family tree and make a poster or other display of your family tree. Ask members of your family to share stories about your ancestors. Find out what they were like.

___ Think about what the world would be like if we were all the same. Develop a play that shows what this would be like and put the play on for a younger group.

___ Think about your religion and those of your friends. How does this make you a special person? List some of the world religions and some of the customs and holidays celebrated by these religions. How does this affect their lives and those around them. Do the customs of society pose any barriers for participation in these customs and holidays?

Respecting People: (Do two activities, including the one starred.)

* ___ Participate in a service project that helps people.

___ Consult an up-to-date world map and compare it to one just a few years ago. Notice the many changes. Learn about the issues that have affected our world geography. What role does ethnicity play in these changes? Display what you have found out pictorially or in a display.

___ Learn something about three disabilities and how people with these disabilities communicate how their disabilities affect their everyday lives. Visit an agency or organization that works with persons with disabilities.

___ Think about discrimination. What does it mean? Do you see discrimination around you? Toward what group of people, under what circumstances? Look for barriers to participation for certain people. What do you find? How can they be eliminated?

Celebrating People: (Complete ___ activities.)

___ Plan a cultural fair or other activity that will help younger Girl Scouts or children learn about people from many cultures.

___ Find out about the ethnic composition of the area in which you live. Is this the same for other parts of the country?

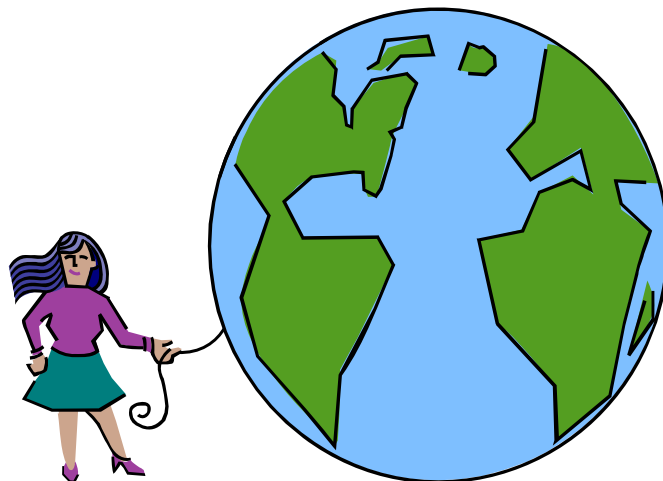
___ Put on a fashion show of the fashions worn by women in other countries. Research modern and traditional dress of women in various cultures. Be sure to include both in your presentation.

___ What are the roles of women in other countries? Learn about the roles of women in three other countries and share your findings with your troop or another group. Identify recent or current female leaders in countries that represent more than one continent. Share something about these leaders with the troop/group.

Program Links

Below are Interest Project Patches that relate to the topic of pluralism found in *Interest Projects for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts*.

- American Indian Lore
- Global Understanding
- Heritage Hunt
- Understanding Yourself & Others



Cooperative Games

Cooperative Games are a fun way for girls to learn teamwork and the value of everyone's contribution. Listed below are a few examples of cooperative games. For more ideas, check out New Games or use the *Talking With TJ* program.

Amoebae

You will need: several long, stout ropes

How to play: Divide into teams of any size. Simply tie a rope around the entire team at the waists. Have the team bunch up together as closely as they can and hold their arms up while you tie the rope around them. After they are tied, they can race to a goal and back. Unless they work together as a team, they will fall down or go nowhere. It's a riot to watch.

Birthday Lineup

You will need: an area where girls can line up

How to play: Explain to the group that you want them to line up in chronological order according to birthdays, without talking. After the girls have lined up, discuss how they arrived at their formation and note if there are any double birthdays.

Human Knots

How to play: Five to ten girls stand in a circle. Each places her hands in the center and takes hold of the hands of two people other than those standing next to her. The group must work together to untie the knot without releasing hands.

Puzzles

How to play: Puzzles can be a fun way of learning cooperative skills. Use two large pieces of construction paper that are the same color. Have girls cut each piece of paper into twelve simple shapes, making two different puzzles. Have girls mix all the pieces and put twelve of the mixed-up pieces into one envelope and twelve into another envelope. Ask them to divide into two groups. Each group gets an envelope and, without talking, tries to put together its puzzle. The trick is that girls will most probably need to get pieces from the other group in order to finish their own puzzle. What happened? Did each group solve its puzzle easily or did each group have a hard time discovering the need for cooperation within the group and between the groups? What can be learned from this activity?

Helps: If you notice that girls are getting frustrated or having a hard time working cooperatively, offer some hints for solving the puzzle and for working as a group. You might also want to use this as an opportunity to place girls with others whom they would not usually choose to be in their groups. Some girls might display competitive behavior. They can be most helped by these kinds of activities.



Girl Scouts of Indian Waters Council

Celebrating and Respecting People Patch Order Form

Troop # _____ Program Level _____ Service Area _____

Number of Girls _____ School/Community _____

Troop Leader's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Number of Patches x \$.80/patch = \$ _____

Plus Postage - \$3.00 if your order totals \$25 or more \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

What activities worked well?

What suggestions or comment would you offer?