



March

Monthly Patch Program Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

Irena Sendler

“Every child saved with my help is the justification of my existence on this Earth, and not a title to glory.”

Irena Sendler was a Polish humanitarian, social worker, and nurse who served in the Polish Underground Resistance during World War II. She was born in Warsaw in 1910 and led a Polish underground group to save Jewish children from the Germans.



Complete 3-Daisy, 4-Brownie, 5-Junior, 6-Cadette, and 7-Senior/Ambassador steps to earn your patch.

All monthly patches are custom designed patches. Once we get the final number of patches after the 15th of each month, we place an order. Patches take about a month to create and then we mail them to you.

Order patch on-line by April 15th at www.getyourgirlpower.org



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Discover

1. Who was Irena Sandler? Find out more about her life and accomplishments. With an adult, research online or check out books from your local library.
2. What is a humanitarian? Discover other humanitarians during World War II. What did they do? Who did they save?
3. Irena grew up in Otwock, Poland, a small town just outside of Warsaw, in the early 1900's. What was the community like in her town? Her father died in 1917 from typhus. How did her community offer to help her family during that time?
4. Irena was nominated and won many awards for her humanitarian efforts during World War II. What awards was she honored? What qualifies someone to win those awards? Who else has qualified? Do you think Irena was thinking about winning awards when she was helping those children? Why or why not?

Connect

5. Connect with Girl Scouts in your troop to research World War II and the Holocaust. Who was involved? What happened? Who do you hear about most when researching World War II and the Holocaust? Put yourself in their shoes and talk with your troop about what you would've done if you were there.
6. Irena's birthday is February 15th, but her name day is October 20th. What is a name day? Why, where, and how is it celebrated? See if you can discover when your name day is.

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7. In 2016 a book was written by Tilar J. Mazzeo called *Irena's Children*. Mary Cronk Farrell adapted that into a young reader's edition and was named as a notable book for older readers by the Sydney Taylor Book Award. Jennifer Roy wrote a children's non-fiction picture book called *Jars of Hope: How One Woman Helped Save 2,500 Children During the Holocaust*. See if you can borrow one of these books from your local library and read either by yourself or with a friend or parent. After reading the book, draw a picture or write a short paragraph about how the book made you feel.

Take Action

8. Three teens in rural Kansas rediscovered Irena Sandler and what she did for Jewish children during World War II. They made a play about it called "Life in a Jar". On your own or with your troop, pick a historical event that is of interest to you and do some research. Create your own play about that event. Plays aren't your thing? Find another medium to express yourself and your research!
9. The non-profit organization "The Blue Card" assists Holocaust survivors in need and encourages everyone to volunteer in any way they can. One of the ways they suggest is by making Holiday or Get-Well cards for Holocaust survivors. On their website, www.bluecardfund.org, you can also send a virtual greeting card with a short one-minute video to brighten a survivor's day. On your own or with your troop, create a virtual card on their website, or make physically cards for Holocaust survivors and send them to:

The Blue Card, Inc.
171 Madison Avenue, Suite # 1405
New York, NY 10016

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10. Before World War II, Irena attended the University of Warsaw. The university practiced what was called a “ghetto benches system”. What was this system and how was it used to discriminate against Jewish students? With your troop or family, discuss whether Irena felt like it was right or wrong of the university to put that system into place. How did the university treat her because of her views on the “ghetto benches system”? How do you feel about the system the university used? Make a poster that expresses your views.

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