



April

Monthly Patch Program Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

Susan Abulhawa

*“We’re all born with the greatest treasures we’ll ever have in life.
One of those treasures is your mind, another is your heart.”*

Susan Abulhawa is a Palestinian American writer and human rights activist. She is the founder of a non-governmental organization, Playgrounds for Palestine, which is dedicated to upholding Palestinian children’s right to play, even under occupation and in refugee camps.



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 May 15th at www.getyourgirlpower.org



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Discover

1. Who is Susan Abulhawa? Where did she grow up? What is she known for? Research Susan Abulhawa on the internet with permission from an adult.
2. Susan was born in Kuwait in 1970. Her parents were living there as refugees of the 1967 Six-Day War which happened in At-Tur, Jerusalem. What was the Six-Day War? Who was involved? What was the outcome of the war?
3. Susan is known for being a writer. What genre of books does she write? A genre is the category or style of a book. What genre of books are your favorite?
4. Before she wrote her first book, she had a successful career in biomedical science and worked as a researcher for a pharmaceutical company. What is biomedical science? What does a researcher for a pharmaceutical company do?

Connect

5. Susan Abulhawa wrote articles for medical and scientific journals, which makes her one type of journalist. Other types of journalists include newspaper writers, news anchors on TV, and online article journalists. Find a journalist in your area and see if you can meet with them and interview them. What do they do? What is their day-to-day like? How do they conduct their research for the type of journalism they do?

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6. Susan has been quoted saying “I wrote poetry before I wrote anything else,” in the introduction to her book of poems, *My Voice Sought the Wind*. Some of the themes of her poems are love, loss, identity, and family. She writes from her own experience. Reflect on your own experiences with your family, friends, or acquaintances and write about them. Was there love or loss involved? How did those interactions make you feel? You can write it as a poem or a journal entry. If writing isn’t your thing, find another way to express yourself.
7. Susan’s childhood was irregular. She was constantly moving between Kuwait, the United States, Jordan, and Palestine. At 13 she came to the US to live briefly with her father before she ultimately ended up in the U.S. foster care system. What is it like living in foster care? How are kids who grow up in foster care the same and different from kids who don’t?

Take Action

8. Susan founded Playgrounds for Palestine, a non-governmental children’s organization dedicated to upholding the Right to Play for Palestinian children. Research on your own or with your troop what Playgrounds for Palestine does. What are some ways you could help this organization flourish?
9. Susan is involved in the campaign for “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions”, or BDS, which is a Palestinian-led movement against Israel. What is this organization’s objective? They compare the Palestinian’s plight to that of the South African’s apartheid movement. How are they the same and how are they different? What are your thoughts on this movement and what actions would you take if you were a part of this campaign? If you don’t agree with BDS’ objectives, what objectives would you change and how would you accomplish those ideas? Discuss this with an adult or your troop.

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10. Susan was a speaker for Al-Awda, or the Right to Return coalition. What is Al-Awda and what do they do? Besides donating money directly, what are ways you could help support the Al-Awda refugee Educational Fund? On your own or with your troop decide how you can help and follow through with your plan. If you can't think of anything, come up with ways to give back to your local educational institutions, like a school supply drive or donating to your school's Backpack program that offers students free food for weekends and school breaks.

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