

Community Service Patch Program

Year of Volunteering

Girl Scouts promise to make the world a better place each time they recite the Girl Scout Law. This year, complete at least 1 activity from each season to earn each of the four parts of the Year of Volunteering Patch” and show off how you lived the Girl Scout Law in your community!



Fall

Registration for the Fall Community Service Patch closes the 2nd Sunday of December.



September 2026

It's time to get back in the classrooms! Students and teachers are both excited to start the new year. Let's lift up our awesome educators with love and support!

The Task: How can you show a teacher in your life that you're thankful for them? Is there something you can do to help them get ready for the year? Could you organize books or help prepare for a craft project? Maybe they need a little treat to tuck away in a desk drawer for a tough day later in the year. However you decide to show you appreciate and support them in their important job is up to you!



October 2026

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts, died in 1927 at the age of 66 from Breast Cancer. At the time of her death, the words “breast” and “cancer” were not spoken in “polite company.” It wasn't until 1996 that it was disclosed to Girl Scouts around the world that she passed away from Breast Cancer. As we move into the future, girls can be more involved in raising awareness about breast cancer. By raising awareness, girls can make a difference in the lives of women and families coping with the impact of breast cancer.

The Task: This month, as a troop or on your own, find a way to learn about Breast Cancer and a way to support cancer patients, cancer survivors, or families who have experienced loss due to cancer. There's lots of ways you might choose to do this. This time of year, there are lots of walks and rallies hosted by Cancer Research and Awareness groups- maybe you participate in one of those. Maybe you'll choose to read books about cancer or volunteer at a local clinic or hospital. Maybe you know a family who has been impacted by cancer and can show them love and support in a way that's personal to them. However you decide to learn about Breast Cancer and a way to support those impacted by cancer is up to you!



November 2026

In November, lots of us start thinking of all we're thankful for. Together as a Girl Scout Council, let's say a BIG THANKS to our local communities. Our communities (our towns, schools, faith communities, teammates, neighbors, troops, Service Units, and more) are our support systems. It's wonderful to have “a village” there when we need it, and it's important that we show up as “villagers” to others when they need it.

The Task: What is a way that you can say thank you to your community? For some this may be volunteering with an existing organization or community project- like a food pantry, animal shelter, or clothes mending day. For others, this might be more specific- like helping a neighbor or friend who is going through a hard time. However you decide to show up and show your thanks for your local community is up to you!

Winter

Registration for the Winter Community Service Patch closes the 2nd Sunday of March.



December 2026

Winter is a harsh time for many folks. This winter, give back to others by sharing warm things.

The Task: This might look like donating coats, hats, and mittens to a local organization or project. This might look like helping serve a warm meal to folks or caroling with warm chocolate chips cookies to share with neighbors (like reserve trick or treating!) However you decide to share some warmth with others is up to you!



January 2027

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’” Join Americans across the country by coming together on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday to serve your neighbors and communities. Turn your day off of school “ON” by donating time and energy to make an impact in your community.

The Task: This month we want *you* to answer Dr. King’s question for yourself. What are you doing for others? If you’re stuck and can’t think of any ideas, research the helpers in your community and see what they’re doing. Can you serve alongside them? Is there anything that isn’t being done already that you could do? However you decide to help others is up to you!



February 2027

Each year, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world celebrate World Thinking Day. It’s a day learning about our world and embracing perspectives outside your own. This year, learn about a challenge that’s impacting people all over the globe and spread awareness.

The Task: Maybe you learn about our climate and the challenges of adapting to a world where storms are stronger and temperatures are more extreme. Maybe you learn about tuberculosis, the world’s deadliest infectious disease (despite being completely treatable!) Maybe you learn about animal habitats and the challenges places like reefs, rainforests, and even our national parks face. Whatever you decide to learn about and however you decide to bring awareness to your topic is up to you!

Spring

Registration for the Spring Community Service Patch closes the 2nd Sunday of June.



March 2027

Spread some cheer as we enter Spring! During the cold, dreary, gray days of winter, lots of people feel more tired, irritable, and just “blah”. While we can’t “fix” this for anyone, we can sit alongside them in their “winter blues” and show them some love.

The Task: What kinds of emotions might someone who is feeling down be feeling? What small, simple things help you feel loved when you feel those emotions? Would those things make you feel good even if you weren’t having a hard time? Choose a small thing you can do to show your love to a family member, friend, or even yourself. Maybe this is as simple as having your parent pick the movie for movie night (since normally you or a sibling pick), or tucking a sweet note into the purse, lunchbox, or pocket of someone you care about. Maybe you decide to learn more about mental health and practice sharing how you feel with those you trust. However you decide to share some March Gladness with others is up to you!

Hey, leaders! Want to continue this conversation? Check out the Mental Wellness Patch programs from GSUSA.

<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/activities-for-girls/for-every-girl/mental-wellness-patches.html> These patches are written for Juniors and older, however the Junior patch could be adapted for younger Girl Scouts.



April 2027

Each year we pause and say thank you to all of the amazing Troop Leaders, Cookie Coordinators, Service Unit Leaders, Parent Volunteers, Community Partners, and other various grown ups who make our Girl Scout adventures possible.

The Task: What can you do to say Thank You to the people who make your Girl Scout experience possible? Maybe you make a card, bake their favorite treat, lead a troop meeting so they can have a “week off”, or surprise them with a heartfelt craft. However you decide to thank the Girl Scout Volunteers in your life is up to you!



May 2027

Did you know that the United States has roughly 40 million acres of just lawns? When we think of habitat loss, we often think of bulldozers in the forest, but acres and acres of manicured grass is just as much of a loss as any demolition site. No Mow May was started as a simple way to help out the local ecosystem without having to permanently change our yards.

Less mowing allows time for flowers to bloom in your lawn, helping early season pollinators find food and provides long grass shelters for critters needing to nest (like baby bunnies or bees). Some studies have shown that less mowing can lead to fewer pests and even cost savings.

The Task: This month you could take on this challenge at home and try to mow at least half as often, you could make flyers to distribute with information about protecting local habitats, or maybe you do what the citizens of Appleton, Wisconsin did and talk with your local City Council about suspending weed/grass height ordinances for the month. However you decide to help protect your local ecosystem is up to you!

JUNE - AUGUST



Summer

Registration for the Summer Community Service Patch closes the 2nd Sunday of September 2027.



June - August 2027

How can you show kindness to others over the summer? Your summer community service may be sweet as in friendly or sweet as in sugary, up to you!

The Task: You might spend time helping a neighbor, cleaning up a park with your troop, or putting on a bake sale to donate to a local charity (for a literally sweet summer project!). However you decide to give back to your community is up to you!

Register for the
Community Service Patch Program at
bit.ly/GSCIEventCalendar or scan the QR Code below!



Each patch is custom designed and will be available or mailed out roughly 8-10 weeks after each registration deadline. The cost of these patches is \$3 each.