

Girl Scouts Louisiana East Hurricane Awareness Patch

Patch program for Girl Scout Brownies – Ambassadors



On August 29, 2005, the world changed for the people of southeast Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Hurricane Katrina tore families apart, destroyed our homes and businesses, and changed many of our lives forever.

The Hurricane Awareness Patch is a new program created by Cadette Troop 662 in 2004 for all Girl Scouts to learn about the effects of hurricanes and how to protect yourself and your community. Remember, you don't have to be located on the coast to feel the effects of a hurricane. So get ready all of you amateur storm chasers and learn about the inner workings of this powerful storm by completing one activity from the 4L's (Learn it, Look into it, Lend a hand, and Live it).

Learn It:

- ④ What makes up a hurricane? Create a model of a Hurricane, research and label the parts of your storm.
 - What is the category of your storm on the Saffir-Simpson Scale?
 - What are the conditions in the eye?
 - What are the conditions in the wall around the eye?
 - What time of year would a hurricane develop?

- ④ There are many words or terms used by the meteorologists to track and report hurricanes. Become familiar with at least 10 of the 17 terms below:
 - Hurricane/tropical storm
 - Hurricane warning
 - Hurricane hunter
 - Convection
 - Storm surge
 - Tropical disturbance
 - Eye wall and eye of the hurricane
 - Tropical depression
 - Rain bands
 - Saffir-Simpson Scale
 - Tropical storm watch
 - Time-lapse satellite pictures
 - Tropical storm warning
 - Surface winds
 - Hurricane watch
 - Tropical cyclone
 - Tropical storm

- ④ Do you know your communities Hurricane Evacuation Routes? Become familiar with the designated evacuation routes for your area. Learn the suggested time frame for an evacuation in your community and the surrounding areas by:
 - Studying a map of your community and finding possible alternative routes for evacuation in the event your access is cut off due to high water or other obstructions.
 - Learn how your local Emergency Management Office has prepared to evacuate citizens without transportation in your area.
- ④ View your local Hurricane Preparedness Video that may be available at your Public Library or Emergency Management Office, or participate in the Red Cross's local disaster program.

Look into It:

- ④ What makes a structure strong enough to handle the incredible strong winds of a hurricane? If possible meet with an architect or contractor to learn about the materials being used to build structures to withstand strong winds. Then complete the following activity:
 - Now it's your turn to be the architect. Using various materials (examples: straw, sticks, toothpicks, clay, mud, candy, etc) let the girls design and construct a model house (or build a complete neighborhood with trees, cars, parks, lakes, creeks, etc) and put them to a high wind test. Using a hair blow dryer (set on high speed with low heat) see how long it takes to blow down their structures. If their buildings are knocked down have them re-design their structure and try again. Then let the girls discuss why certain materials or designs worked better.
- ④ Is your name on the National Hurricane Center list of storms? Find out how the Center decides on which names are chosen for the upcoming tropical storm/hurricane season. Does the Center use the same names for the east and west coast of the United States? What about around the world?
- ④ Create a communication checklist for you and your troop in the case of a hurricane. Include numbers for: radio stations, television stations, emergency shelter site (church, community center, schools, etc) and emergency services that will be providing emergency information or help. Check to see if your area has amateur radio operators (Ham Radio Operators) that works with the emergency management of your community. Arrange a visit with them if possible.
- ④ Track an actual hurricane or tropical storm on a hurricane tracking map. Plot the coordinates. Record the time of the coordinates, the wind speed, the barometric pressure reading, and the speed of the hurricane movement on your hurricane tracking map. Try to predict the hurricane/tropical storm's landfall point. Compare your prediction to the actual landfall point.

- ⓐ In recent history, there have been devastating hurricanes that have made landfall along the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic shores. Research a specific hurricane, possibly one that hit in your area. Find out how it impacted the community. Include economical cost, recovery time, and changes in the Hurricane Preparedness procedures as result of the storm.

Lend a Hand:

- ⓐ Take what you have learned and make a poster or flyer of helpful emergency preparedness information. Share this information with other Girl Scouts and your community.
- ⓐ Does your community have a hurricane emergency preparedness checklist? If so, review the list and see if there are items you think need to be added. Keep in mind the additional items that may be needed for small children, the elderly, people with disabilities or pets. Could you bring these same items to a shelter? If not, develop a checklist to share with your community officials.
- ⓐ Being aware of simple steps you can take around your home to insure the safety of your family and your neighbors is a big step towards hurricane preparedness. Steps such as storing your garbage can and outdoor furniture inside a garage or storage shed or under your house can prevent disaster during a hurricane. Make a poster or develop a skit that identifies some of these simple steps. Share what you did with your neighborhood or community.
- ⓐ Being informed and learning information is important. When learning is fun, we seem to remember it better. Create a fun way for others to learn information of what you have discovered while earning this patch. Share what you created with your Girl Scout council, sister troops, library, or school.

Live It:

- ⓐ Interview a person who stayed for a severe hurricane and a person who evacuated for a hurricane. Ask them what factors influenced their decision of staying or leaving, how did they manage, and what will they do for the next hurricane.
- ⓐ Visit your local emergency preparedness office and learn about what they do in the event of a tropical storm or hurricane. Learn why it is important to leave when your local emergency preparedness office issues an evacuation for your area. Find out what career opportunities exist in their program.
- ⓐ Read a book or several first hand accounts in newspaper or magazine articles about someone who has experienced a hurricane. Discuss it with your troop or group. Talk about what helped the person survive such a disaster.

- Ⓒ Arrange a visit with a weather reporter or meteorologists. Find out how she or he obtains information to report to their viewer/listeners. Find out what educational requirements are needed to be a weather reporter or meteorologists.



Hurricane Awareness Patch Order Form

Troop # _____ SU# _____ Region# _____ Age Level (*circle one*): B J C S A

Troop Leader/Advisor Name _____

City _____ Parish/County _____ ST ___ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Number of patches _____ @ \$2.50 ea. (includes tax) = _____

Shipping & handling (needed if mailing) + \$1.00

Sub total = _____

Total = _____

Check enclosed (payable to GSLE) Credit Card (please circle) Visa/Mastercard/Discover

Credit Card _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Exp _____ / _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail or fax forms to Girl Scouts Louisiana East

Attn: Council Shop

Corporate Headquarters
841 S. Clearview Parkway
New Orleans, LA 70121-3119
Fax: (504) 733-8219

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