

Girl Scouts Louisiana East
“Rebuilding Our Community”
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.

R.O.C. (Rebuilding Our Community) is a new patch program created by Girl Scouts Louisiana East for all Girl Scouts affected by a natural disaster. Rebuilding communities is not all about bricks and mortar; it also includes people’s hopes and dreams. To earn the R.O.C. patch, girls need to complete at least one activity in each of the 4L’s (Learn it, Look into it, Lend a hand and Live it). This patch program is a little intense due to the nature of the subject. There are additional activities to help lighten the program material at www.gsle.org.

Learn It

- ⌘ What is a natural disaster? Discuss the types of natural disasters that can occur in your geographical location. Make a journal and write about your experience during a natural disaster. How did your neighborhood change? What did you learn? Share your experience(s) with your troop/group.
- ⌘ History is a significant part of any community and many times historical buildings are damaged in a natural disaster. List the historical places in your community? Why are these important to your community? Did any of these places get damaged? If so, how can you help rebuild this historical site?
- ⌘ After a natural disaster, health concerns play a part in the destruction. What would be health risks in your community (water, air, food, chemicals)? How can these areas be avoided? How can you educate others to avoid an affected area?
- ⌘ Neighborhoods are full of homes, community centers, businesses, schools and even your favorite hang-out! Write a list of all your friends’ names and phone numbers and start a communication chain.

Look into It

- 🔗 Learn how to read a local road map to help identify your community. Calculate how many miles away your neighborhood is from the affected area. How long would it take you to get there in normal conditions? How long would it take you to get there after a natural disaster?
- 🔗 Research the proper equipment necessary to use before landscaping a damaged area. Contact your local extension service or landscape architect to find out the correct plants to use.
- 🔗 Create an ongoing collage by drawing, photographing, collecting pictures from the newspaper or magazines of your neighborhood (or similar to your neighborhood) after a natural disaster. Display the progress of your neighborhood over time by creating a scrapbook.
- 🔗 Go online or to a local library and learn about the term economy. How will the economy be in an area affected by a natural disaster? What can you do to help rebuild the economy? Think creatively, how have you seen other groups working together to financially support a community?
- 🔗 Create new memories and embrace the old. Start a new journal, scrapbook, or photo album. Think of a plan to keep these memories safe from future natural disasters. Where will you keep your memory book? Will it be easy to get if you have to make a quick evacuation?

Lend a Hand

- 🔗 Find a way to contact the community leaders in your area to learn about ways to help rebuild your neighborhood/community. Ask the following questions: What areas are safe to go into for your age? What can you do for your age? What equipment will you need to bring? What equipment will be provided? What is a good time/day to help? How many girls can help at one time? Should there be shifts? What type of attire should be worn (long pants, closed toed shoes, face mask)? If unable to help, organize suggestions to help rebuild your neighborhood/community and send them to your community leaders.
- 🔗 Adopt a neighborhood! Contact your neighbors to help replant any landscaping that has been damaged. Replanting can be in the form of seeds, seedlings or larger more mature plants. Give each landscaped area a personal touch by posting a small sign signifying who the landscaping is for and who it is from!
- 🔗 Reach out to other Girl Scout troops or people in your area or in an area affected by a natural disaster. Send letters of encouragement, teddy bears, school supplies, toiletries or other needed items. Contact local Girl Scout councils to help you contact troops or organizations in need of your help.

- ☞ Contact a soup kitchen to help serve food and drinks to those in need. Give each table a personal touch by creating a centerpiece and/or leaving notes of encouragement.

Live It

- ☞ There are many careers in disaster relief efforts, and some examples are police officers, firefighters, EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians), doctors, nurses, engineers, biologists, chemists, search and rescue people and many more. Interview someone in a career that could be a part of a disaster relief effort. Find out what made them decide to go into their field of work. Ask if they have ever been involved in a disaster relief effort. If so, what were the challenges? What were the rewards?
- ☞ Reporting information is important in a time of a disaster. Interview a reporter to find out how they get the facts, set up interviews and report information to the community. Set up a mock interview with a friend or troop/group by asking a list of questions as it pertains to a made up situation.
- ☞ Learn about one woman in local history who pioneered or helped build your community. Interview a woman who has a similar job today. If you were the woman pioneer in history, and could see the future, what contributions would you make to improve or change your community to fit the needs of the 21st century?

Girl Scouts Louisiana East “Rebuilding Our Community” 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

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