

Girl Scouts Louisiana East Emergency Preparedness

Patch program for Girl Scout Brownies – Seniors



Are you ready if an emergency arrives? As Girl Scouts our motto is to “Be Prepared” but are you? The Emergency Preparedness Patch will help you prepare for some of nature's most common storm phenomenon. Knowing how these storms develop and their warning signs will help in the preparation of safe evacuation and needed supplies when help is hours or days away.

So, get ready to learn about Moonquakes, Whirly Winds, Lightning and Disaster Drills while you earn the path by completing one activity from the 4L's (Learn it, Look into it, Lend a hand, and Live it).

Learn it:

1. Dirt Devil, Whirly Wind, Twisters, Land Spouts and Waterspouts all of these are names for nature's vacuum the “Tornado”. You’ve heard the reports about this powerful storm but do you know how tornados form? What is the scale that scientist’s use to measure a tornado strength? What is the weakest wind and the highest wind a tornado can reach and how are they classified? What is the difference between a tornado warning and tornado watch? Visit the NOAA website to make your own tornado in a bottle:

www.crh.noaa.gov/abr/teacher/tornado_bottle.html

2. Make an emergency kit. Arrange a large number of items on a table along with several larger containers. The emergency kit should include –
- Blankets/pillows, etc
 - Flashlight
 - Batteries
 - Battery-operated radio
 - Weather Radio
 - Clothing
 - Food (non-perishable packaged or canned)
 - Juices and snack foods
 - Toiletries/Hygiene items/Moisture Wipes
 - Money
 - Children games/books/toys
 - Pet care items
 - Documents (in waterproof containers)

- Can-opener (non-electric)
 - First aid kit
 - Rain gear
 - Medicines
 - Special items for babies, disabled, and the elderly
 - Emergency phone numbers
 - Paper/plastic plates & utensils
 - Bottled water (at least a gallon per person for 3-7 days)
- Also have items you would include in a car emergency kit. Have the girls choose which items they would add to the kit and have them discuss why they chose their item.
3. Emergencies can happen at various places, such as a school, at home, your troop meeting site or at church. What you should do to prepare for an emergency in these different types of situations? Have your girls create a pamphlet with illustrations on how to prepare for one of their decided emergency situations.
4. Are you earthquake knowledgeable? What state(s) is/are the least and most earthquake prone? Expand your vocabulary by learning the following terms:
- New Madrid Fault
 - San Andres Fault System
 - Pacific Ring of Fire
 - Pacific Plate
 - North American Plate
 - Seismographs
 - Seismic Waves
 - Wasatch Range
 - Seiche
 - Hypocenter
 - Epicenter
 - Tsunami
 - Moonquakes
 - East African Rift System
5. Do you hear the rumbling in the distance or the see the flash light on the horizon? Natures' light show is arriving are you ready? Thunderstorms can bring a combination of weather phenomenon such as: tornadoes, lightning, strong winds, hail and flash floods. But lightning with its beautiful display of flashes can be deadly. According to the NOAA an average of 80 fatalities and up to 300 people are injured every year from lightning strikes. Test your girls lightning knowledge with the following questions:
- Lighting never hits the same object twice. **False**, lightning *can* hit the same spot.
 - Don't take showers during a thunderstorm. **True**, stay away from sinks and tubs and anything else wet that could conduct electricity.

- Rubber soled shoes or rubber car tires will ground you from the lighting. **False**, *rubber tires or soles offers no protection*
- Lighting strikes the highest objects. **True**, *lighting takes the shortest path.*
- If you hear thunder and see lighting at the same time the storm is right overhead. **True**, *count the number of seconds between flashes of lighting and thunder. Divide your answer by 5 to determine the distance to the lighting in miles.*
- Turn off all appliances including the TV and computer because lighting can follow the wires. **True**, *the surge and can crash your computer or short-out appliances.*
- Summer “Heat lighting” poses no threat. **False**, *the thunderstorm is just too far away for you to hear.*

Look into it:

1. What is your evacuation route? If a flood, tornado, hurricane, or house fire was in your path do you have a plan route to escape? Many of the buildings we enter have evacuation routes posted by law so we can safely evacuate but what about your home or meeting place? Does your plan have special considerations for: small children, the elderly, pets and people with disabilities?
2. Smoke alarms save countless lives every year but what happens if you can’t hear the alarm? Many smoke alarms we use in our homes make only audible loud beeping noises but there are some specially designed for people with hearing loss. Contact a local school, organization or therapist that works with people with hearing losses and find out what technology is used to alert people of a possible fire. For at least two days write in a journal or notebook how many smoke alarms you see in the buildings you enter and do they include technology to help those with disabilities.
3. Did you know that you can be living on an earthquake fault line? Earthquakes just don’t happen in California and Alaska they happen all over the United States. Do a little detective work and find out if your town is sitting on a fault line, has had an earthquake or experienced aftershocks. Make an earthquake disaster kit to provide supplies for at least three days.
4. Have you noticed after a natural disaster some structures are heavily damaged while others have little to none? Could the buildings structural

design or building materials have something to do with it? Visit the following website at: <http://mceer.buffalo.edu/education/k-12/exercises/struct.asp> and design and construct your own buildings to withstand storm damage.

Lend a hand:

1. If your community doesn't have a plan for evacuations or disaster kits, write a letter with suggestions and plans for them.
2. Write and perform a skit for sister scouts or your community on emergency preparedness during a meeting or event. The skit should have a problem (for example, someone isn't sure how to prepare for an emergency) and a solution (a friend tells them about the emergency preparedness plan and where they can go for information).
3. Hold a contest with the theme "Emergency Preparedness". Have participants submit posters, poetry or essays. Ask local community leaders or emergency personnel (fireman, EMT, Red Cross, etc) to judge.
4. Create a skit telling the audience how to prepare for an emergency. Perform your skit for younger Girl Scouts or another youth group. Possibly record the performance to show future groups.

Live it:

1. Visit your local TV station and visit with the meteorologist on staff. Discuss how high and low pressure systems, troughs, warm and cold fronts, temperature, and air density affect the weather
2. Does your local university work with the National Weather Service or other disaster assistance agencies to report on weather phenomenon (tornadoes, hurricanes, tidal surges, lightning, tornadoes, avalanches, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, etc) in your area? If so, arrange a visit to the department and take a tour of their facilities and learn about the equipment they use to measure and report their findings?
3. Attend an emergency preparedness class sponsored by your local Red Cross, Fire or Police Department, hospital or other local emergency assistance agencies. If possible participate in a emergency or disaster drill held in your area.

4. Volunteer with local shelters to help put together emergency kits. In order to assemble kits for a larger group of people, it may also be feasible for your troop or service unit to sponsor a drive for emergency kit items. Supply a list of needed items to members of your troop or service unit.

5. Brainstorm a community service project that involves working with a local disaster relief organization to help others become prepared for an emergency and put it into action.



Emergency Preparedness 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

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 New Orleans, LA 70121-3119
 Fax: (504) 733-8219

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