



Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast Building Your Community Patch Program

This patch program offers girls an opportunity to learn more about their community, connect with local decision makers and advocate for the changes they would like to see in their community. This patch can be done by individual girls, families or troops.

This patch program aligns with GSUSA's Democracy Civic Engagement badges at every level.

All requirements must be completed to earn the patch:

Discover! Complete a simple community canvassing.

- Take a look around your neighborhood/community. Ask yourself the following questions.
 - What makes me and my family *feel comfortable and safe* in our neighborhood/community? (sidewalks, street lighting, clean parks, friendly neighbors, grocery stores, etc.) What else can you think of?
 - What makes me and my family *feel uncomfortable and unsafe* in my neighborhood/community? (busy streets, lack of street lighting, unsafe parks, too many liquor stores, homeless encampments, etc.) What else can you think of?
 - What would you like to *see more* of in your neighborhood/community?
 - What would you like to *see less* of in your neighborhood/community?

- Track what you saw in your neighborhood/community, your data on this [form](#) or create one of your own.

Connect! Attend a community or neighborhood meeting.

- Attend a neighborhood/community meeting (virtually or in-person) with an adult - parent, caregiver, or troop leader.
- Review the [GSUSA Internet Safety Pledge](#) with an adult before attending a virtual meeting.

The following is a list of neighborhood/community meetings you might attend. This is a limited list. You might find other meetings like an art council meeting that you are more interested in attending.

- City Council meetings
- County Board of Supervisors meetings
- County Office of Education or Board of Education meetings
- Community Action Commission meetings
- Neighborhood Advisory Council meetings
- Neighborhood Watch meetings

Pro-Tip: Most neighborhood/community meeting dates and times will be posted on their official website!

Take Action! Educate a neighborhood or community decision maker.

- Review your neighborhood/community canvassing data.
- Decide the data you would like to share with others.
 - Do you want to share what you would like more of in your neighborhood/community?
 - Do you want to share what you would like less of in your neighborhood/community?
- Pick a local decision-making group or individual to share your data with, i.e. Mayor, City Council, School Board, Chief of Police, Neighborhood Watch, etc.
- Write a letter or email to this group sharing your data and the change you would like to see.
- Share your experience with your Girl scout friends!

Optional GSUSA At Home Democracy Activity!

Pick one (1) of the following:

- Daisy - Democracy for Daisies Badge AT Home Activity <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/girl-scouts-at-home/activities-for-girls/daisies/daisy-democracy-badge-activity.html>
- Brownie - Democracy For Brownies Badge Activity <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/girl-scouts-at-home/activities-for-girls/brownies/brownie-democracy-badge-activity.html>
- Junior - Democracy for Juniors Badge Activity <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/girl-scouts-at-home/activities-for-girls/juniors/junior-democracy-badge-activity.html>
- Cadette - Democracy for Cadettes Badge Activity <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/girl-scouts-at-home/activities-for-girls/cadettes/cadettes-democracy-badge-activity.html>
- Senior - Democracy for Seniors <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/girl-scouts-at-home/activities-for-girls/seniors/senior-democracy-badge-activity.html>
- Ambassador - Democracy for Ambassadors Badge Activity <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/girl-scouts-at-home/activities-for-girls/ambassadors/ambassador-democracy-badge-activity.html>