



**Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles  
Presents  
The Justice Patch Program\***

By earning the Justice Patch, girls will develop a sense of fairness, and an understanding of why we have laws and how laws can be changed. Girls will also learn how laws are designed to help people, as well as the role of lawyers and judges in the community.

*The criteria to earn a Justice Patch at the Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador level are listed below. To earn the Justice Patch, girls must complete three of the requirements at their level. Patches can be purchased at any GSGLA retail store. Please note: some Girl Scout levels have steps that are required.*

**DAISY (Grades K-1)**

1. **Law Talk:** What is a law? Why do we need laws? What are the qualities of a good law? Brainstorm a list of characteristics that make a good law.
2. **Practicing Law:** What is a lawyer? How do you become a lawyer? Interview a lawyer with your troop and learn about that lawyer's job. Brainstorm with your troop before the interview to prepare questions.
3. **Broken Rules:** What is a consequence? When you do something wrong at school, is there a consequence? Give some examples. What would happen if there were no consequences? Explain why. Tell your troop about a rule at your school and the consequence if you break it.
4. **House Rules:** Every home has a basic list of rules. What are your house rules? Do you think they are fair? If you could, what would you change? Develop your own list of house rules. Explain your new rules to your troop.
5. **I Propose:** Do you have an idea for a new law? Create a poster to show why this new law is necessary and how it will help people. Present your poster to your troop.

\* This Patch Program is modeled after the Justice Patch Program established by the Touro Law Center and the Girl Scouts of Suffolk County. Content is used with their express permission.

## **BROWNIE (Grades 2-3)**

1. **Take a Tour of a Court (Required):** Plan a visit to a local courthouse to learn more about our legal system. To schedule your tour of a local courthouse, please contact that court directly.
  - a. **At the Courthouse,** meet with a judge and his/her staff, learn about the judge's job, the different kinds of judges, and the work performed by each member of the judge's staff.
2. **Law Talk:** What is a law? Why do we need laws? What are the qualities of a good law? Brainstorm a list of characteristics that make a good law.
3. **Practicing Law:** What is a lawyer? How do you become a lawyer? Interview a lawyer with your troop and learn about that lawyer's job. Brainstorm with your troop before the interview to prepare questions.
4. **Judgment Day:** What is a judge? Learn about the job of a judge. What qualities make a good judge? Are there different types of judges? Create a simple book to teach others about the different types of judges.
5. **Troop Rules:** Each Girl Scout troop has a basic list of rules. What are the rules of your troop? Do you think anything is missing? Brainstorm with your troop and develop a list of potential additional troop rules. Be prepared to explain your reasons for the additional rules to your troop leader.
6. **I Propose:** Do you have an idea for a new law? Create a poster to show why this new law is necessary and how it will help people. Present your poster to your troop.

## JUNIOR (Grades 4-5)

1. **Take a Tour of a Court (Required):** Plan a visit to a local courthouse to learn more about our legal system. To schedule your tour of a local courthouse, please contact that court directly.
  - a. **At the Courthouse,** meet with a judge and his/her staff, learn about the judge's job, the different kinds of judges, and the work performed by each member of the judge's staff.
2. **Children's Rights:** Children's rights are the basic human rights of children. But what does this mean, exactly? Learn about children's rights. Why do you think these rights were developed? Which of these rights do you feel is most important? Once you have chosen the right that you feel is most important, create a poster illustrating the importance of this right and explain your reasons to your troop.
3. **I Propose:** Do you have an idea for a new law? Write a short essay explaining why this new law is necessary and how it will help people and society. Present your essay to your troop.
4. **School Rules:** Every school has a basic list of rules. What are the rules at your school? Do you agree with the rules? Why or why not? Develop your own list of rules that you believe all students should follow at your school. Be prepared to explain your reasons to your troop.
5. **Ancient Law:** What is the Code of Hammurabi? Select two of the laws from that Code. How do they differ from similar laws today? Create a comparison chart to illustrate your findings.
6. **Know Your Rights:** Develop a brochure for the community to help people understand their legal rights.
7. **Judgment Day:** What is a judge? What qualities make a good judge? What is required to become a judge? What does a judge do? Create a simple book to teach others about what you learned.
8. **Great Debate:** Select a law to research with your troop. What would happen if we did not have this law? How would it affect people? Divide your troop into two groups. Have one group argue in favor of the law and the other group argue against it.

## CADETTE (Grades 6-8)

1. **Take a Tour of a Court (Required):** Plan a visit to a local courthouse to learn more about our legal system. To schedule your tour of a local courthouse, please contact that court directly.
  - a. **At the Courthouse,** meet with a judge and his/her staff, learn about the judge's job, the different kinds of judges, and the work performed by each member of the judge's staff.
2. **Become an Advocate:** Pick a topic that you feel strongly about and develop a five minute presentation to convince others why your topic is important. The topic choice is yours. Get feedback from your audience. Did they learn anything new from your presentation? Did you make them see things in a different way?
3. **National vs. State:** What is the difference between a national and a state law? Why are there different laws in different areas? Research and learn about one national and one state law. Do you feel that the state law that you learned about should become a national law? Why or why not? Make a presentation to your troop.
4. **Student Rights:** Research the rights of students in school. For example, is what you put in your locker private? Can you wear anything you want to school? Can the school look through your backpack? May the school force you to walk through a metal detector? Can you refuse to say the Pledge of Allegiance? Can a teacher take your phone? You may be surprised at what you discover. Share what you have learned with your troop.
5. **Ancient Law:** What is the Code of Hammurabi? Select two of the laws from that Code. How do they differ from similar laws today? Create a comparison chart to illustrate your findings.
6. **Great Debate:** Select a law to research with your troop. What would happen if we did not have this law? How would it affect people? Divide your troop into two groups. Have one group argue in favor of the law and the other group argue against it.

## SENIOR (Grades 9-10)

1. **Take a Tour of a Court (Required):** Plan a visit to a local courthouse to learn more about our legal system. To schedule your tour of a local courthouse, please contact that court directly.
  - a. **At the Courthouse,** meet with a judge and his/her staff, learn about the judge's job, the different kinds of judges, and the work performed by each member of the judge's staff.
2. **Become an Advocate:** Pick a topic you feel strongly about and create a five minute presentation to convince others why your topic is important. The topic choice is yours. Get feedback from your audience. Did they learn anything new from your presentation? Did you make them see things in a different way?
3. **Student Rights:** Research the rights of students in school. For example, is what you put in your locker private? Can you wear anything you want to school? Can the school look through your backpack? May the school force you to walk through a metal detector? Can you refuse to say the Pledge of Allegiance? Can a teacher take your phone? You may be surprised at what you discover. Share what you have learned with your troop.
4. **Trials and Tribulations:** To learn more about the trial process, participate in a mock trial through Girl Scouts or your school's mock trial team, or organize your own mock trial with friends. What did you learn from this process? What surprised you?
5. **Great Debate:** Select a law to research with your troop. What would happen if we did not have this law? How would it affect people? Divide your troop into two groups. Have one group argue in favor of the law and the other group argue against it.

## AMBASSADOR (Grades 11-12)

1. **Take a Tour of a Court (Required):** Plan a visit to a local courthouse to learn more about our legal system. To schedule your tour of a local courthouse, please contact that court directly.
  - a. **At the Courthouse,** meet with a judge and his/her staff, learn about the judge's job, the different kinds of judges, and the work performed by each member of the judge's staff.
2. **Become an Advocate:** Pick a topic you feel strongly about and create a five minute presentation to convince others why your topic is important. The topic choice is yours. Get feedback from your audience. Did they learn anything new from your presentation? Did you make them see things in a different way?
3. **Student Rights:** Research the rights of students in school. For example, is what you put in your locker private? Can you wear anything you want to school? Can the school look through your backpack? May the school force you to walk through a metal detector? Can you refuse to say the Pledge of Allegiance? Can a teacher take your phone? You may be surprised at what you discover. Share what you have learned with your troop.
4. **Trials and Tribulations:** To learn more about the trial process, participate in a mock trial through Girl Scouts or your school's mock trial team, or organize your own mock trial with friends. What did you learn from this process? What surprised you?
5. **Great Debate:** Select a law to research with your troop. What would happen if we did not have this law? How would it affect people? Divide your troop into two groups. Have one group argue in favor of the law and the other group argue against it.
6. **Career Exploration:** Research at least three different careers involving the law. What does each career entail? What type of schooling is required? Create a pamphlet highlighting the careers you investigated. Share the pamphlet with the members of your troop.