

Smart Start patch



Strong leadership and preparation result in troop success. The Smart Start patch shows that a troop's girl and adult members worked together to make a bright beginning! Girls of all program age levels begin to take ownership of troop management and understand and appreciate the work their leaders do.

Girls and troop volunteers earn the Smart Start patch in partnership. When a troop earns the patch, both girls and adults may wear it proudly. Girls wear it on the back of their vest, sash or tunic.

To receive patches, the troop must complete the participation report (reverse), ideally together during a meeting. Bring the form to a council shop to purchase patches. Patches are \$2 each.

A troop can only earn the "Smart Start" patch for its first year. To earn the patch retroactively, your troop must still be active, review your past experiences, and affirm completion of requirements during your first year.

After their initial year, troops earn "Still Smart" rockers, focusing more on girl participation and achievement. Girls complete page 4 to report earning the patch. Rockers are \$1 each.

A troop can earn one patch or rocker each membership year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30). After that, girls and adults should keep working together on cool and rewarding activities beyond the patch requirements!

Smart Start patch requirements: Choose *at least one* from each category (more is great!)

Training Your Grown-ups (both 1 and 2 are required for all troops):

1. At least one adult needs to take *Getting Started with Your Troop* (online) and *Intro to Girl Scouts* (in person) within three months of the troop starting.
2. Have a grown-up who's trained in First Aid/First Aid/AED at every troop meeting and outing.
3. At least one adult can attend a specialized class for the troop's program age level (e.g. *Diving Into Daisies* or *Blasting Into Brownies*).

Troop Management:

1. Open your troop bank account. Email troopfinances@sdgirlscouts.org to get started.
2. Send an adult volunteer to attend at least two service unit meetings.
3. Get at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of parents to register and get background-checked, so they're ready to help out. Hold a parent meeting and talk about program goals and troop communication.

Traditions and Girl Scout Ways:

1. Take part in a service project or outing led by other Girl Scouts.
2. Learn about a different culture or country, or make a craft or food from another country.
3. Welcome new Girl Scout sisters: Have a "bring a friend" meeting or open spots in the Opportunity Catalog.

Program and Outdoors:

1. Talk as a group about what kinds of activities each girl wants to do this year.
2. Hold a meeting as well as a field trip at least once every month.
3. Take at least one outdoor field trip — go to the park, walk around the neighborhood, or hike on a trail.

Leadership and Entrepreneurism:

1. Earn a Financial Literacy leaf or badge.
2. Complete a Journey, *or* at least five petals or two badges, during troop meetings and outings.
3. Complete a Take Action project, where you identify a problem in the community and take steps to make the world a better place.

Smart Start patch participation report — To be completed by girls, with age-appropriate leader support. Bring the completed sheet to your local Girl Scout shop to purchase the patches (\$2 each).

Troop number _____ How many patches do you need? _____ Year earned: 16-17 17-18 19-20

Adult contact _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Training Your Grown-ups: Give your troop adults a big “Thank you!” for getting trained to lead you on wonderful adventures! (#1 and 2 are required for all troops)

- Who took *Getting Started with Your Troop* (online) and *Intro to Girl Scouts* (in person)?

- Is a person with First Aid/CPR/AED training with you at every troop meeting and outing? Who is it?

- Who took a program grade level class, like *Diving Into Daisies* or *Blasting Into Brownies*?

Troop Management (choose at least one):

- Does your troop have a bank account? _____
- Service unit meetings give your troop adults a chance to learn about cool Girl Scout events. Who attended those meetings this year? _____
- Lots of grown-ups are members of Girl Scouts! Did your leaders hold a parent meeting? Yes No
Find out if $\frac{3}{4}$ of your troop parents are background-checked members, then write “Woohoo! We have helpers!” here: _____

Traditions and Girl Scout Ways (choose at least one):

- Did you take part in a service project or outing led by other Girl Scouts? What did you do?

- Did you learn about a different culture or country? Or did you make a craft or food from another country? Tell us about it: _____
- Did you invite new Girl Scout sisters to a “bring a friend” meeting or make room in your troop for more girls? _____ If so, great job! Give each other a high five!

Program and Outdoors (choose at least one):

- Did you choose things you would do this year? _____ What was the last thing you did together?

- Do you meet every month (or more often)? _____ How many field trips have you taken? _____
- Tell us about an outdoor field trip you had: _____

Leadership and Entrepreneurism (choose at least one):

- Did you earn a Financial Literacy leaf or badge? _____ Which one? _____
- Did your troop work on any of these things together:
 - A Journey: Which one? _____
 - Daisy petals: How many did you earn? _____
 - Badges: Which ones? _____
- Did you take action to make the world a better place? Tell us about it: _____

Still Smart rocker requirements — To be completed by girls, with age-appropriate leader support. Rockers are available for troops that earned the Smart Start patch during their first year.

Complete *at least one* activity from each section this year. Instead of following the same patterns, step it up a notch each year, so girls and adults alike grow and stay engaged through increasingly challenging opportunities.

Training Your Grown-ups (#2 is required for all troops. Choose one more):

1. At least one adult should attend an extracurricular learning event, like Outdoor Skills Weekend, our Volunteer Conference, or a workshop on leading STEAM activities.
2. Have a grown-up who's trained in First Aid/First Aid/AED at every meeting and outing (required for all troops).
3. Did your troop bridge to a new program age level? At least one adult can attend a specialized class for the troop's new level, like *Blasting Into Brownies* or *Jumping into Juniors*. Another option is an outdoor or travel class, like *Let's Camp!* or *Troop Tripping*.

Troop Management:

1. Submit your troop financial report on time.
2. Renew all girls' and adults' memberships by Sept. 30.
3. Hold at least one parent meeting.

Traditions and Girl Scout Ways:

1. Take part in a service project or outing led by other Girl Scouts.
2. Attend a World Thinking Day celebration or another globally focused event.
3. Keep your troop open to new girls throughout the year in the Opportunity Catalog, or grow your troop by at least two girls.
4. Lead an event or large-scale activity for the girls in your service unit.
5. Learn about the Juliette Low birthplace or the four WAGGGS World Centres.

Program and Outdoors:

1. Make it girl-led: As a group, find a way to take charge of your troop's activities more than last year. Give more input on what you'd like to do, or do more of the planning yourselves.
2. Hold a meeting as well as a field trip at least once every month.
3. Take on a higher level of outdoor adventure than last year. If you went to encampment last year, have a troop cabin campout; if you've done that, try tent camping. Make sure your grown-ups have the right training for this year's outdoor activities.
4. Discover ways to stay safe: Earn the First Aid badge or the Safety pin, or take a self-defense class.

Leadership and Entrepreneurism:

1. Grow as young businesswomen: Earn a Financial Literacy leaf or badge; participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program and learn the 5 Skills; or become Cookie Captains.
2. Complete a Journey, *or* at least five petals or two badges, during troop meetings and outings.
3. Complete a Take Action project, where you identify a problem in their community and take steps to make the world a better place.
4. Help a group of younger girls with bridging requirements, skill-building, earning a badge, or another need.

Still Smart rocker participation report — To be completed by girls, with age-appropriate leader support. Bring the completed sheet to your local Girl Scout shop to purchase the patches (\$1 each).

Troop number _____ How many patches do you need? _____ Year earned: 16-17 17-18 19-20

Adult contact _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Training Your Grown-ups: Give your troop adults a big “Thank you!” for getting trained to lead you on wonderful adventures! (#2 is required for all troops. You can choose more.)

- Who went to a learning event, like Outdoor Skills Weekend, our Volunteer Conference, or a workshop on leading STEAM activities? _____
- Is a person with First Aid/CPR/AED training with you at every troop meeting and outing? Who is it?

- Who took a program grade level class, like *Diving Into Daisies* or *Blasting Into Brownies*? Or an outdoor or travel class, like *Let’s Camp!* or *Troop Tripping*? _____

Troop Management (choose at least one):

- When did your troop send its financial report? _____ .
- Did all girls and adults renew their membership by September 30? Yes No Yes=Yay!
- Did your leaders hold a parent meeting? Yes No What did they talk about? _____

Traditions and Girl Scout Ways (choose at least one):

- Did you take part in a service project or outing led by other Girl Scouts? What did you do?

- Did you attend a World Thinking Day celebration or other international event? What was the best part?

- Did you bring two+ new Girl Scout sisters into your troop, or make room in your troop for more girls?
_____ If so, great job! Give each other a high five!
- Did you lead an event or large-scale activity for girls in your service unit? Yes No
- Did you learn about the Juliette Low birthplace or the four WAGGGS World Centres? Yes No
Would you like to go there one day? Yes No

Program and Outdoors (choose at least one):

- Did you choose things you would do this year? _____ How did you make more decisions than last year?

- Do you meet every month (or more often)? _____ How many field trips have you taken? _____
- What kind of outdoor adventures did you have? _____
- Did you earn a Safety pin, First Aid Badge, or take a self-defense class? Yes No

Leadership and Entrepreneurism (choose at least one):

- How did you become better young businesswomen? _____
- Did your troop work on any of these things together:
 - A Journey: Which one? _____
 - Daisy petals: How many did you earn? _____
 - Badges: Which ones? _____
- Did you take action to make the world a better place? Tell us about it: _____

- How did you help a group of younger girls with bridging requirements, skill-building, earning a badge, or another need? _____