



DIVERSE. INCLUSIVE. TOGETHER.

Diversity and inclusion have been core values of Girl Scouts since its founding in 1912. What is especially important about the Girl Scouts' rich history of supporting women's leadership is our insistence on being a voice for all girls, regardless of their background or neighborhood.

In this patch program, participants will have the opportunity to explore developmentally appropriate activities that start the conversation of race and racism by learning to appreciate diversity and to honor and celebrate our differences in our local communities and around the world. They will also deepen their understanding and respect for people who may be different from them and learn how to better relate to others.

Here at Girl Scouts of Colorado, we adapted this patch program from our Girl Scout sisters at the Girl Scouts of River Valleys council and would like to thank them for being the trailblazers in developing this program. In this new version, we have changed the language to be inclusive to all youth groups, not just Girl Scout troops. This patch program would be a great addition to your family, community, school, or religious group curriculum, schedule of activities, or dinner time conversations. Our developmentally appropriate activities make it easy to have meaningful conversations with youth starting at kindergarten through 12th grade.

In Girl Scouts, girls earn patches by completing a series of activities related to a skill, theme, or issue. They proudly display their patches on the back of their vest or sash to show their passion, interest, or skill that they acquired while completing the patch. Even if you do not have a Girl Scout vest or sash, you can still earn a digital patch that can be proudly displayed on social media outlets to show your commitment to appreciating, understanding, and respecting people of all races and cultures. Once you have completed the activities in this booklet, fill out [this form](#) to receive your digital patch and/or purchase your physical patch.

If you are a girl in K-12th and want to explore more with Girl Scouts, join us at girlscoutsofcolorado.org.



DAISY (K-1)/ BROWNIE (2-3)

DIVERSE. INCLUSIVE. TOGETHER PATCH – MEETING 1

Purpose: When individuals earn this patch, they will have developed an appreciation of the uniqueness and commonalities of themselves and others, and the rich diversity of various cultures in their community and in the world. They will also deepen their understanding and respect for people who may be different from them, and learn how to better relate to others.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
10 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop ground rules for being inclusive when sharing. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster
15 minutes	Story Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read a book about the ways people are similar and different from one another. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Book about diversity
20 minutes	Our Many Skin Colors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paint a self-portrait. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Acrylic or tempera paint in various colors <input type="checkbox"/> Bowls <input type="checkbox"/> Spoons <input type="checkbox"/> Thick paper <input type="checkbox"/> Paint brushes <input type="checkbox"/> Water (for rinsing brushes) <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) newspaper or craft paper (for covering work space) <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) handheld mirrors
15 minutes	Same and Different <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore similarities and differences of their group. 	<input type="checkbox"/> “Same, Different” Venn diagram sheet (one per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
15 minutes	All About Me! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview a family to learn more about their personal heritage. 	<input type="checkbox"/> “Family Interview” sheet (one per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster

Note to Adults/Leaders

For a long time, many people, including social learning experts, believed that if we didn’t call attention to racial differences, then children would be less likely to notice these biases themselves and therefore, less likely to



discriminate against others. This is commonly known as the “colorblind” approach to handling discussions and interactions dealing with race.

Research, however, has since disproven this theory. Studies have shown that children notice and begin assigning meaning to race at a very young age (examples of this include distinguishing between white and black people, and drawing conclusions about traits inherent to those groups of people). The good news is that research has shown that parents and guardians who meaningfully talk to their kids about race end up with better racial attitudes than kids with parents or guardians who don’t.

Erin N. Winkler, a professor at the University of Wisconsin who studies racial identity, states, “Children pick up on the ways in which whiteness is normalized and privileged in U.S. society.” When working through these activities with your troop, make a concerted effort not to make whiteness the default and inadvertently marking other races as “other.” For additional resources on how to support healthy racial identities, refer to the list at the end of this activity plan.

Getting Started

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster

Ask individuals to share some rules that we should keep in mind. As they share, write them down on a piece of paper or board for them all to see.

Activity #1: Story Time

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: Book about diversity (see suggested book list below)

Prep Needed:

- Obtain a copy of the book you’ll be reading to girls. If you plan on reading *All the Colors We Are* by Katie Kissinger, try to use the latest edition (published in 2014), which has updated images.
1. Read your selected book to your group/child. While you’re reading, allow time for them to ask questions or make on-topic comments (for example, girls might offer observations like, “My grandpa has a lot of freckles like that grandpa!” or “My neighbor has that color skin, but I don’t.”)
 2. After you’ve finished reading, explain that one of the ways that we’re all special and different from each other is the color of our skin. Everyone in the room has a different color skin, and no two skin colors are exactly the same. There might even be variations in color on different parts of your own body.

Book Suggestions:

- *The Skin You Live In* by Michael Tyler
- *The Color of Us* by Karen Katz
- *Same, Same, But Different* by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
- *Let’s Talk About Race* by Julius Lester
- *All the Colors We Are* by Katie Kissinger

Activity #2: Our Many Colors

Time: 20 minutes

Materials Needed: Acrylic or tempera paint in various colors; bowls; spoons; thick paper; paint brushes; water (for rinsing brushes); (optional) newspaper or craft paper (for covering work space); (optional) handheld mirrors

Prep Needed:

- Set up painting station: cover table with newspaper or craft paper (if using), squeeze paints into separate bowls, place spoons into bowls.



- You can mix skin tones with just the primary colors (for a tutorial on how to mix skin tones, visit www.craftsy.com/art/article/mixing-paint-skin-tones), or you can offer girls white, brown, tan, yellow, and red paints for easier mixing.
1. Explain to them that they're going to be mixing paints to match their skin tones and using the paints to create a portrait of themselves.
 2. Demonstrate how to mix the various paints to create different skin tones. Give girls a few minutes to mix the paints. Once they're satisfied that their paint matches their skin tone, hand them a large sheet of paper to paint their self-portraits. If using, offer them handheld mirrors as well.
 3. After everyone has completed their portraits, have everyone reconvene in a large circle and share their finished work.

Activity #3: Same and Different

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: "Same, Different" Venn diagram sheet (one per girl); writing utensils

Prep Needed:

- Print off copies or draw the "Same, Different" Venn diagram (one per person, at the end of activity plan).
1. Have them remain in a circle for this next activity. Ask girls, what are some things our group has in common? What are some things that are different about our group? Give girls a few minutes to come up with examples.
 2. Tell them that even though they're all part of the same group, there are many things that are different about them. Today, they're going to explore some of these similarities and differences with their friends.
 3. Have them pair off and then complete the "Same, Different" Venn diagram with their partner. Young girls can draw pictures or write (with adult assistance as necessary) their observations on their sheet. Some questions they could ask each other:
 - What's your favorite food?
 - What's your favorite color?
 - What's your favorite animal?
 - What holidays do you celebrate?
 - Who's in your family?
 - What do you like to do for fun?
 - What makes you happy?
 - What makes you sad?
 - What makes you feel special?
 4. Allow them a few minutes to complete the sheet. Then, gather as a large group to share their findings.
 5. After everyone has had a chance to share, ask them, what things did you have in common? What things were different? Why is it positive that everyone has things that make them different from other people?

Activity #4: All About Me!

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: "Family Interview" sheet (one per person); writing utensils

Prep Needed:

- Prior to the meeting, connect with families and let them know about the take-home activity they will need to complete before you gather. If possible, arrange to have a few family members attend the follow-up gathering to talk to the group about their personal heritage or culture.



1. Ask the group if they remember the word “ancestor” from the book they read together in the first activity. Discuss how, just like how their skin color is one way that makes them special and different, each one of them has ancestors who have come from other places—and that makes them special and different too!
2. Explain to them that people learn skills and customs from their ancestors—another word for the things you get from your ancestors is culture, or heritage. This can be the food you eat, the kinds of clothes you wear every day or for special occasions, and the holidays you celebrate. If you’re comfortable sharing, tell them a little bit about your own cultural background.
3. Tell them that they’ll be chatting with someone from their family (or community) about their family story. Hand each of them the “Family Interview” sheet. They will need to complete the sheet at home and bring back to the next gathering. If they would like, they can also attach (or bring in) photos or other meaningful items (with parental permission) to the next gathering as well.

Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

Additional Resources

- A Guide for Selecting Anti-bias Children’s Books. socialjusticebooks.org/guide-for-selecting-anti-bias-childrens-books
- Children Are Not Colorblind, Erin N. Winkler, Professor and Chair, Africology Department, UW-Milwaukee. wpt.org/University-Place/children-are-not-colorblind (video). Professor Winkler explores how children form ideas about race, what children learn, and when they learn it.
- *Talking About Race: Alleviating the Fear* by Steven Grineski, Julie Landsman, and Robert Simmons
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Family Interview

My name is: _____ . There are _____ people in my family.

I am chatting with _____ today. She/he is/they are my _____ (how is this person related to you?).

We speak these language(s) in our home: _____.

An ancestor is a relative who lived before me. My ancestors came from (list one or more countries): _____.

When my ancestors arrived in the U.S., they spoke these language(s): _____.

One relative or important adult in my life who came to this country from another country is named _____. He/she/they came to this country in _____ (year) because _____.

Family traditions include holidays, foods we eat, games we play, and things we like to do. The family tradition that is most special to the person I am chatting with is _____ because _____.

The family tradition that is most special to me is _____ because _____.

Adapted from Teaching Tolerance.







DAISY (K-1)/ BROWNIE (2-3)

DIVERSE. INCLUSIVE. TOGETHER PATCH – MEETING 2

Patch Purpose: When individuals earn this patch, they will have developed an appreciation of the uniqueness and commonalities of themselves and others, and the rich diversity of various cultures in their community and in the world. They will also deepen their understanding and respect for people who may be different from them, and learn how to better relate to others.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop ground rules for being inclusive when sharing. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster
20 minutes	All About Us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take turns sharing their family stories. 	<input type="checkbox"/> “Family Interview” sheet, completed (from previous meeting)
15 minutes	A Map of Us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a map of the different places their families are from. 	<input type="checkbox"/> World map <input type="checkbox"/> Tape <input type="checkbox"/> Star stickers <input type="checkbox"/> Strips of paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
20 minutes	Potato, Potahto <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about the importance of recognizing the uniqueness of individuals. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Potatoes (one for each)
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster

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Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster

Ask individuals to share some rules that we should keep in mind. As they share, write them down on a piece of paper or board for them all to see.

Activity #1: All About Us

Time: 20 minutes

Materials Needed: “Family Interview” sheet, completed (from Meeting 1)

Prep Needed:

- (Optional) Send a reminder to families to have them bring their completed “Family Interview” sheet (along with any mementos or items you’d like to share) to the meeting.
1. Have them take turns and share their family stories. Allow time for them to ask questions as well.
 2. If relatives have volunteered to be guests at your meeting, allow time for them and their respective relatives to tell their stories together, and to show any family mementos they’ve brought along to share.

Activity #2: A Map of Us

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: World map; tape; star stickers; strips of paper; writing utensils

1. After everyone has had a turn to share their family story, lay out the world map for all to see.
2. Tell them that they’re going to map out all the different places that their families have come from. Help them locate their ancestors’ place of origin on the world map. Mark the place with a star sticker (some might have ancestors with multiple places of origin—use additional stickers to mark those places too).
3. Hand strips of paper to the them and have them write, “[Name’s] family is from here!” and tape the paper on the map next to their corresponding stars.
4. Note: For many reasons, some individuals and families may not know exactly where their ancestors came from. Encourage them to mark the map to the best of their ability. The activity can also be adapted to have them mark the map with the places where their family members currently live (for example, an uncle who lives in Florida, cousins from Peru, grandparents in Missouri, etc.).

Activity #3: Potato, Potahto

Time: 20 minutes

Materials Needed: Potatoes (one per girl)

1. Tell them that you’re going to go around the room with a bag of potatoes. As you go around the room, they will each select one potato. That potato will become “their potato.” They should get to know their potato—they can look at the different marks on the potato, the various lumps and bumps, the shape of the potato, etc. They can sketch their potato or (those able to) take notes about their potato. However, they *cannot* make a mark on their potato to distinguish it. Tell girls to really get to know their potatoes because in a few minutes, you’ll collect them all again, and they’ll have to pick out their specific potato from the bag.



2. After a few minutes, go around the room and gather up the potatoes. Tell girls that you'll roll out all the potatoes onto the floor (or a table) and they need to pick out their potato. Once they think they've found their potato, they should be able to say why they think that potato was their original potato.
3. Ask them, when you first saw this bag of potatoes, they probably just looked like a regular old bag of potatoes, right? But they were able to pick out their potato from the bag. How did they do this? *They took some time to get to know the marks and features that helped them differentiate their potato from all the other potatoes.*
4. Ask them, is this something that we sometimes do with people too? Sometimes, we put everyone in the same group and say, "They're all the same." Ask girls to come up with some examples of lumping people in the same group. For example, "All girls like to wear dresses," or "All boys like to wrestle," or "All second graders walk to school by themselves," or "All grandparents live in nursing homes," etc.
5. Say: But as we learned in this activity, when we take the time to get to know someone, we find out the many ways that each one of us is different and special.

Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

Additional Resources

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