

# GSWPA Boot Camp Patch Program For Girl Scouts

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**The Boot Camp Patch Program was introduced and field-tested at GSWPA Boot Camp 2008. Location: Camp Elliott, Volant, PA. Dates: 12 AUG – 13 AUG, 2008.**

To earn the GSWPA Boot Camp Patch, scouts must attend the entire event. Girls who leave camp early will not receive the patch as they will not have completed all of the requirements for the patch. The format for this patch program was modeled after that of the newest Interest Projects, which can be found on-line at [www.studio2b.org/lounge/gs\\_stuff/ip\\_intro.asp](http://www.studio2b.org/lounge/gs_stuff/ip_intro.asp).

Complete the PATCH's REQUIRED activity. LEARN by doing THREE activities from the LEARN category. DO by completing both activities from this category. SHARE by doing ONE activity from the SHARE category. DESIGN a SMART Goal related to the U.S. military and achieve it. Prepare a short REFLECTION describing which part(s) of the Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law relate to what you did while earning this PATCH.

SAFETY ISSUES. As with all Girl Scout activities, you must adhere to the guidelines for safety that are outlined in *Safety-Wise*.

## Boot Camp Patch Program

**REQUIRED: Complete all 7 parts.**

1. Identify the five branches of the U.S. Military.
2. For one of the five branches, describe the following:
  - What is the mission of this branch of the military?
  - Find the military base of this branch that is located closest to where you live.
  - All of the branches of the military, but one, have schools of higher education called academies. What is name and location of the academy for this branch of the military?
  - What is the history of women in this branch of the military?
  - How can someone become involved or enlist in this branch of the military?
  - Each branch of the military has advanced skills training that enlisted recruits complete after basic training. What is this training called for this branch of the military? What are three of the skills that you would be interested in learning about for this branch of the service?
3. Discuss the current military situation in the U.S. and abroad.
4. Describe how earning the Girl Scout Gold Award affects one's rank and salary upon joining the U.S. military.
5. Interview a female member of the U.S. Military and find out about her career and experiences. Why did she join this branch of the military? Where has she lived? What skills has she learned and jobs has she held?
6. When are Memorial Day and Veteran's Day observed? What is the significance of each of these days? How are they observed in your community?
7. Learn to use the military alphabet and the military clock.

**LEARN: Do THREE activities from this category.**

There are many skills that new members of the military learn when they attend boot camp. Below are some of these skills.

1. Rock (wall) climbing and belayed rappelling. *Identify climbing harness, helmet, belay rope, carabiner, belay device and appropriate knot. Learn proper adjustment of harness. Learn verbal safety commands. Learn proper climbing techniques.*
2. Land navigation using a compass and map. *Identify parts of compass and features of maps. Learn how to measure distances through pacing. Learn how to navigate on and off trail to marked coordinates.*
3. Knot tying. *Identify different types of ropes and discuss their uses. Learn the difference between dynamic rope, static rope and utility rope. Learn how to tie three of the following knots: bowline, figure eight, figure eight follow-through, square and fisherman's or barrel knot. Learn the use of these three knots.*
4. Semaphore alphabet signaling system. *Learn the semaphore flag signaling system. Learn how flags are used in the international code of signals.*
5. Marching. *Learn the meaning of "march, halt, mark time, right step, left step, double time, change step, and at ease." Learn about marching in formation.*
6. Personal defense techniques. *Learn to increase awareness for personal safety. Learn two methods to disable an attacker in order to escape.*
7. Water safety. *Learn how to select, use and care for different types of PFD's (Personal Floatation Devices). Learn techniques used to stay safe in cold water, including the HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Position). Learn safe water rescue techniques.*
8. Physical Training. *Learn about the physical fitness test requirements of one branch of the military. (How ready are you?)*
9. First Aid. *Identify parts of a first aid kit used to treat minor field injuries, including: blisters, cuts/abrasions, insect bites, sprains/strains, burns, and hyper- or hypothermia injuries. Learn about universal precautions.*

**DO: Complete both activities from this category.**

1. Practice the THREE skills you learned in the LEARN category so that you can teach someone else these skills.
2. Complete a service project that benefits members of the U.S. military, their families, or veterans.

**SHARE: Do ONE activity from this category.**

1. Create a television commercial for one of the branches of the U.S. military and perform it for family, friends, or another Girl Scout troop.
2. Create a 5 minute skit teaching about the U.S. military and perform it for family, friends, or another Girl Scout troop.
3. Create new lyrics for a military cadence and perform it for others to demonstrate some of the things you've learned about the U.S. military while completing this PATCH.

**DESIGN a SMART Goal related to the U.S. military and achieve it.** A SMART goal is Simple, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely.

**Prepare a short REFLECTION** describing which part(s) of the Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law relate to what you did while earning this Patch.