

Council Patches

Honor Guard **D B J C S A**

This program is designed to help girls learn how to properly display the American flag and conduct flag ceremonies.

D B J C S A

Complete all activities.

Discover:

1. Learn about the history of the American flag.
 - Who created the first official flag of the United States of America?
 - What did the flag look like?
 - What do the colors and symbols represent?
 - How many other American flag designs have there been?
2. Learn how to properly care for the American flag.
 - How should a flag be cleaned?
 - When and how should a flag be destroyed?
 - In what types of weather should a flag be displayed outdoors?
 - When is a flag flown at half-staff?
3. Practice an indoor flag ceremony with the American flag and at least one other flag (State flag, Girl Scout flag, etc.) Learn the proper way to carry several flags in procession and to display several flags in stands.
4. Practice an outdoor flag ceremony. Learn the proper way to raise, lower, and fold the American flag.
5. Learn the Pledge of Allegiance. If you already know the Pledge, learn it in sign language or create a picture or poem that explains what the Pledge means to you. How is the Pledge of Allegiance similar to the Girl Scout Promise?

Connect:

1. Share what you have learned with another Girl Scout troop.
2. Expand your knowledge by completing a patriotism-related Try-It, Badge or Interest Project OR complete a patriotism-related patch from another Girl Scout council.

Take Action:

1. Participate in a flag ceremony at an event planned by your troop, school/town, service unit/area, council or community.

Restrictions on Political Activities for GSUSA & Girl Scout Councils

Although a charity may engage in certain types of lobbying activities, it may not engage in political activity. The IRS may revoke an organization's tax-exempt status if the organization intervenes or participates "in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office." (Internal Revenue Code 501 (3).) "Political activity" is defined as intervention in a political campaign, while "legislative activity" concerns communication in regards to legislation (broadly defined). This restriction on political activity involves three major areas of consideration.

- A "candidate" is a person running for an elective public office at the national, state or local level. The fact that the election is non-partisan does not make it any less a political campaign. A person becomes a candidate once he or she declares candidacy for the office.
- "Intervention" or "participation" occurs when an organization expresses an opinion about any candidate in a political campaign. Charities may, however, carry out "voter education" activities. The voter education activity could indicate how candidates voted on various issues, as long as several issues are included and the organization does not comment on how a candidate voted. Voter education could also mean a survey of candidates' opinions, as long as all the candidates are included and the charity does not indicate a preference.
- The law of agency, which generally describes how one entity can be responsible for the actions of others, governs whether political activity by individuals will be attributed to Girl Scouts. In other words, political activities by individuals under actual or apparent authority of GSUSA or a council, whose acts are ratified by GSUSA, are treated as acts of GSUSA. You may be approached by representatives of a candidate or party to have Girl Scouts participate in various activities or events. The most likely event would be a flag ceremony to open a rally or parade. At first glance, it may appear that this type of invitation would be an opportunity for TV or newspaper visibility. However, accepting the invitation would be in direct violation of GSUSA's policy. The restriction also prohibits wearing campaign buttons on the Girl Scout uniforms as well as on non-Girl Scout apparel while conducting Girl Scout business, and use of Girl Scout stationary for political purpose.