

Community Safety

Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails Patch Program

Girl Scouts will develop an understanding of what community safety means, how they can help increase safety awareness, and make their community a safer place.

To earn your Community Safety Patch you must complete:

- **Daisies & Brownies:** Each activity with a * and one additional activity for each Discover, Connect, and Take action to total 5 activities.
- **Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, & Ambassadors:** Each activity with a **, two additional activities for each Discover, Connect, and one or more Take Action to total 7 or more activities.



DISCOVER

- * What does community safety mean to you? Explore your neighborhood and note what things make it safe and what are safety issues that need to be addressed.
- ** What do you consider an emergency? What kind of emergencies might happen in the home? Involving transportation? Because of weather or nature? Caused by other people? Caused by yourself?
- Research community safety to see what are the hallmarks of safe communities vs. the struggles of communities perceived as less safe. Do you agree with what you found? Why or why not?
- What are the different street signs you see while traveling in a vehicle? What do they all mean? Have you found any that you thought meant one thing, but it turns out it means something different?
- Visit your local museum or library to view documents and photos from before and after a local disaster. How did people respond in those situations? Does the area look the same as it did before?
- Sometimes emergency situations can come from things we cannot see. What do you know about germs? What do germs look like? What can happen if germs get inside your body? How do germs get from person or object to another?
- What times of weather occur where you live? Discuss with your troop, family, or friends the different weather announcements you have seen or heard. Learn the difference between a Weather Watch and a Weather Warning.

CONNECT

- * How important is it to relay important information during an emergency? Play the game “Telephone” with your troop, family, or friends. Pick an emergency phrase such as “If the fire alarm goes off, meet in the playground area to the left of the school.” Sit in a circle. Whisper the statement to the person next to you. They will say what they heard to the next person and the message will continue to be shared in this way until it reaches the last person. The last person says the message out loud. Was the final message the same as the first one said? What does this show? Why is it important to listen carefully when being told directions in an emergency?
- ** How do emergencies affect people with disabilities differently than those without them? Speak with someone with a disability such as needing to use a wheelchair, someone who has a hearing impairment, or is blind. Ask them what you can do to help them prepare for an emergency. How can you help someone with a disability during an emergency?
- Visit a PNM office, emergency management office, police station, firehouse, or public health facility. What types of emergencies do they respond to? How do they prepare for an emergency before it takes place? What happens when they respond to an emergency? What do they do after the emergency is over? Find out what you can do to help prepare ahead of time, during, and after an emergency.
- Visit a local animal shelter to learn about their emergency plan. Is there anything you can do to help them be more prepared?

TAKE ACTION

- Is there a safety concern in your community you would like to address? What steps do you need to take to address it? Who can help you in the process? Come up with a plan to address your safety concern.
- Take a walk around your house, school, or troop meeting place. Think about the geography and terrain of the area. As you walk, write down some of the things you see that might lead to a problem. Visit www.homesafetycouncil.org or www.weather.gov/stormready/ online to help you identify other hazards in your home and storm risks in your community, respectively. Work with your family, educators, or troop leader to come up with a plan to make your area safer.
- Knowing and understanding local alerts and warning systems for your community, your school, and other places where people might need to be warned of an emergency, will help people be more prepared and have a better response time if there is an emergency. Design a flyer or poster with information on these alerts to help members of your community, school, or family be prepared.
- Does your family have a designated meeting place if an emergency occurs within your home? Pick a place that is easy for all members of your family to remember, but far enough away from your home so that your family will be safe to wait for others to arrive. Make each family member a “Family Communication Card” with information on where to meet and whom to call. See below for one option or create your own.
- Research what kind of supplies you might need in an emergency. Create an emergency kit for your troop, family, or classroom.
- Visit a local senior center and learn about their emergency needs. Help them create or restock their emergency kits. If they don’t have one, create one for them.
- Create a TikTok or Instagram Reel about emergency preparedness. This will help empower others to be prepared in case of an emergency. What information about emergency preparedness is most important to share? Share with your troop, family, friends, and us by tagging us @nmgirlscouts or sending us the video at bit.ly/GSNMTPHOTOS.

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Out of Town Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____

Phone: _____

Dial 911 for Emergencies!

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