

# Nevada Area Council, Boy Scouts of America Domestic Violence Patch

## "Peace Begins At Home"

### ACTIVITIES

Requirements: All Boy Scouts must complete Activity #1 and #2 in order to get your patch. In addition, all Scouts must do six additional activities from the following.

1. **REQUIRED** Attend the domestic violence program at a Merit Badge Fair/Boy Scout Expo with members of Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto's "Domestic Violence Team"

**ALTERNATE REQUIRED** Contact local domestic violence program, shelter, or agency to invite them to present or speak at a Boy Scout meeting or school.

2. **REQUIRED** After reviewing the reference list provided, design and make a poster about domestic violence. Bring your poster to the Merit Badge Fair, second session, for the Attorney Generals Domestic Violence Team to use and display at other Domestic Violence Team events. This poster may be done as a pack or by an individual.

**ALTERNATE REQUIRED** Design and create a poster about domestic violence awareness to share with your local shelter agency, Boy Scout meeting or school. This poster could be hung in a Boy Scout Office lobby or Meeting Room. This poster may be done as a pack or by an individual.

3. Find out how you can get help if you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence. Write down helpful telephone numbers and some positive things you could say to someone in an abusive situation. Discuss when it is appropriate to turn to an adult for help, and who those trusted adults might be.

4. Perform a service project that will benefit your local domestic violence shelter (clothing drive, blanket drive, etc.). *Before you begin, be sure to contact the shelter program to see what you could do that would address a current or future need.*

5. Collect and donate used cell phones to your local program. These phones can be turned in to Shelter Alliance ([www.shelteralliance.net](http://www.shelteralliance.net)),

who will then donate funds to that program in exchange for the cell phones. This activity may be done as a pack or as an individual.

6. Learn about domestic violence laws in your state. Discuss the penalties and if the laws are strict enough, and if not, what could be changed. Learn how you could work to change the law.
7. Identify characteristics of a healthy relationship and of an unhealthy relationship. Make a list of the differences. Also complete [**\*requirement for Family Life merit badge**]
  - \*Discuss your understanding of what makes an effective father and why.
  - \*Discuss your thoughts of the father's role in the family.
  - \*Discuss your understanding of the responsibilities of a parent.
8. Find out what the important elements of a safety plan might be for someone living in an abusive situation. Create a sample safety plan.
9. Read an account/story of a domestic violence victim (unit leaders can check the Appendix for a listing of helpful websites that may contain victims' stories, and/or contact the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence Resource Center Library). Discuss the actions in the story that might signal the beginning of an abusive relationship.
10. Learn how a victim could obtain a protection order in your area—where does the victim go and what does the victim do? Write down the steps.
11. Have a unit leader read and discuss with you "Acceptance and Respect" page 14 from the Family Life Merit Badge Pamphlet.
12. Have Scouts learn about the negative impact and prevention of cyberbullying, sexting and teen dating violence. The Scouts create a presentation and present to another Pack, Troop, community organization (Boys and Girls Club, runaway or homeless teens at a local drop-in center) and/or during the DV patch launch.
13. To build awareness of the problem related to relationship violence, research statistics on the occurrence of domestic violence in Nevada and across the United States. Prepare a report on the comparisons between men, women, and teens, as victims of relationship violence and how this violence affects children in these relationships. What conclusions can you come to based on this research? Share this information with your troop and discuss ways to prevent this from happening.
14. Research professional sports figures that have taken a stand against violence. What did they say and what are they doing to take a stand?

Share this information with your Troop and consider mentoring/modeling respectful behavior with other Scouts.

15. With fellow Scouts, create a proposal to the school principal to present an assembly or youth retreat based on showing respect. Include a keynote speaker (local community expert or ask a survivor of relationship violence to speak, do a performance, power point, etc.)
16. Learn what law enforcement agencies handle domestic violence reports in your area – do they have officers dedicated solely to domestic violence cases? What information do they collect to make a report?

### **Domestic Violence is Not About Anger**

Some people think that anger or stress causes domestic violence, or that batterers simply "lose control of their temper". Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of intentional coercive behavior used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Therefore, battering is not about a loss of control, but rather about the exertion of power and control. Batterers are no angrier or more stressed than the rest of us—these are just more excuses and justifications for the abusive behavior. Batterers who are stressed or angry at work do not attack their bosses or co-workers. All of us experience stress and anger, but do not take it out on those around us with violence.

Additionally, when physical abuse is occurring, batterers often only batter parts of the body that are hidden by clothing, or inflict injuries that rarely leave obvious marks, such as pulling hair. If a batterer were truly "out of control" he would not be able to direct or limit where his kicks or punches land. As you administer the Peace Begins at Home Council Patch Program, please keep in mind that domestic violence is not about anger; rather, it is about pattern of intentional behaviors used by the batterer to maintain power and control in a relationship.

### **Disclosure of Information**

Physical abuse is the most visible type of domestic violence, but it is only part of the story. Verbal and sexual abuse are often considered the most permanently damaging, and verbal abuse is the most prevalent form of domestic violence. The battered woman's fear of serious injury or death for herself or her family, and her fear of being unable to support her family economically continue to trap women in extremely violent and dangerous situations, particularly when children are involved. Tell the adult victim that she can call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-799-SAFE/7233 or 1-800-787-3224 for TTY) or the Nevada Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (also available 24 hours a

day, seven days a week at 1-800-500-1556) to speak with an advocate about her situation and to get referrals for community resources. Please see the Appendix of this curriculum for further resources to help a victim of domestic violence, including a listing of all the domestic violence programs in Nevada. You will also find in Appendix listings of the many resources available from the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence Resource Center—we offer free brochures, posters, topical information packets, and other written materials to anyone interested; we also maintain a resource lending library of over 800 books, videos, and manuals that are available on loan to individuals/organizations across Nevada.