



## **COUNCIL PATCH**

**The following agencies contributed to the development of the  
*Peace Begins at Home* patch:**

Catherine Cortez Masto, Office of the Attorney General

Girl Scouts of Frontier Council

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force

## **Girl Scouts Peace Begins at Home Council Patch Project** **ACTIVITIES**

Requirements: All program levels must complete Activity #1. In addition, Daisy Girl Scouts need to complete one more activity, Brownie Girl Scouts, three more activities, Junior Girl Scouts, five more activities, and Cadet & Senior Girl Scouts, seven more activities.

1. Ask your troop leader to invite a speaker to your group from a local domestic violence program (see the Appendix for a listing of these programs). Ask the speaker to explain/define domestic violence, and the options that are available for someone who's in an abusive situation.
2. 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.
3. Design a poster or display about how *Peace Begins at Home*. Discuss places where you can display your poster in your neighborhood; if possible, display the poster.
4. Read a book or watch a movie about domestic violence (see the Appendix for a listing of resources, all of which are available on loan from the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence). Write a short paragraph about the story and share it with the group.
5. 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.*
6. Collect and donate used cell phones to your local program or to the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence. These phones can be turned in to Shelter Alliance, who will then donate funds to that program in exchange for the cell phones.
7. Learn about domestic violence laws in your state. Discuss whether you believe the laws are strict enough, and if not, what could be changed. Learn how you could work to change the law.
8. Identify characteristics of a healthy relationship and of an unhealthy relationship. Make a list of the differences. Then go over the Power & Control and Equality Wheels (contained in the Appendix—the dating relationships wheels are written in a way that should be easy to understand for girls of any age) and discuss any characteristics you didn't identify.
9. Teach what you've learned about domestic violence and *Peace Begins at Home* to another troop or to another group.

10. Find out what the important elements of a safety plan might be for someone living in an abusive situation. Create a sample safety plan.
11. Play the “In Her Shoes” and/or the “It’s Your Move” games (available on loan from the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence) to learn about the various barriers that exist for victims trying to get out of violent situations.
12. Read an account/story of a domestic violence victim (group leaders can see the Appendix for a listing of helpful websites that may contain victims’ stories, and/or contact the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence Resource Library). Discuss the actions in the story that might signal the beginning of an abusive relationship.
13. 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?
14. Learn how a victim could obtain a protection order in your area—where does she go and what does she do? Write down the steps.
15. Create a visual memorial at your local park (or other place of interest) to raise awareness of domestic violence in your community—tie purple ribbons around all the trees, or ask a local nursery to donate purple flowers that you can plant (being sure to get permission first). Make a sign that you can post nearby that explains the significance of the display and the ways in which domestic violence impacts your community. (Remember to determine ahead of time how long you want the ribbons tied to the trees and/or your sign posted, and be sure to take them down at the end of that time.)

**Note to Troop Leaders:**

*Remember to acquire parental permission when performing activities around sensitive issues.*

# GIRL SCOUTS *PEACE BEGINS AT HOME* COUNCIL PATCH APPLICATION FORM

*Once you have completed all required activities for your Girl Scout level, please complete this form to purchase a patch from your local Girl Scout Headquarters.*

Girl Scout Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (or if completed as a Troop, # of girls in Troop:\_\_\_\_)

Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Daisy Girl Scouts (Choose 2 Activities)**

- Activity #1 completed
- Activity #3 completed
- Activity #5 completed
- Activity #6 completed
- Activity #13 completed
- Activity #15 completed

## **Junior Girl Scouts (Choose 6 Activities)**

- Activity #1 completed
- Activity #2 completed
- Activity #3 completed
- Activity #4 completed
- Activity #5 completed
- Activity #6 completed
- Activity #8 completed
- Activity #9 completed
- Activity #13 completed
- Activity #15 completed

## **Brownie Girl Scouts (Choose 4 Activities)**

- Activity #1 completed
- Activity #3 completed
- Activity #4 completed
- Activity #5 completed
- Activity #6 completed
- Activity #9 completed
- Activity #13 completed
- Activity #15 completed

## **Cadet and Senior Girl Scouts (Choose 8 Activities)**

- Activity #1 completed
- Activity #2 completed
- Activity #3 completed
- Activity #4 completed
- Activity #5 completed
- Activity #6 completed
- Activity #7 completed
- Activity #8 completed
- Activity #9 completed
- Activity #10 completed
- Activity #11 completed
- Activity #12 completed
- Activity #13 completed
- Activity #14 completed
- Activity #15 completed

## **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 a 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.

It is possible that a youth may disclose information about abuse in her family while completing the *Peace Begins at Home* Council Patch Program. Girl Scouts group leaders are mandated reporters of child abuse in the state of Nevada. If a child self-discloses any kind of abuse, believe her and take her seriously. If possible, comfort the child—tell her that the abuse taking place in her home is not her fault and she cannot control it. Tell her that, while the abuse and violence need to stop, it is not her responsibility to protect her parent and/or siblings from the abuse, and her first concern should be for her own safety. (Please note: witnessing abuse in the home is not considered child abuse; child abuse occurs when the abusive behaviors are directly perpetrated on the child.) Let the child know that you will get the information to someone who can help deal with the situation; then report the incident immediately to either your group director or headquarters. If you, your group director, or headquarters decide to make a report to Child Protective Services, you must be sure to tell the child that that is what you’re going to do. If you don’t inform the child that you’ll be making a report, and the authorities subsequently show up at her home, this could cause the child to feel betrayed and could severely limit her willingness to seek help in the future.

It is also possible that a group leader or other adult involved in the *Peace Begins at Home* Council Patch Program may disclose information about domestic violence taking place in her life. Again, tell the adult that the abuse is not her fault and that she cannot control it. Tell her that she's not alone, and that there are options available to her to help stop the violence in her home (shelters for battered women can provide safety for her and her children, courts can provide help with an Order for Protection against domestic violence, etc.). Respect the danger of her situation and keep what she says confidential. There is no mandatory reporting law for domestic violence in Nevada (unless the victim is a child or elder); you must respect the battered woman's autonomy and her right to make her own decisions about her situation. 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.

## **APPENDIX CONTENTS**

In addition to the **List of Activities** and the **Statement on DV vs. Anger/Disclosure of Information**, the curriculum should also include the following:

1. Nevada DV programs list
2. NNADV Brochure order form
3. NNADV Poster order form
4. NNADV Information Packet order form
5. NNADV annotated bibliography—Children
6. NNADV annotated bibliography—For Children
7. NNADV annotated bibliography—Dating Violence
8. NNADV Resource Library order form
9. Power and Control Wheels, English and Spanish
10. Equality Wheels, English and Spanish
11. Teen Power and Control and Equality Wheels, English
12. Teen Power and Control and Equality Wheels, Spanish
13. Helpful websites