

## Girl Scouts Domestic Violence Merit Badge Project

### ACTIVITIES—DRAFT

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. 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 domestic violence. Include ways to protect yourself and others. 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. Cadet and Senior Girl Scouts: 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) and discuss any characteristics you didn't identify.
9. Teach what you've learned about domestic violence to another troop/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.)