

TARHEEL TRIAD GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL

CRIME PREVENTION PATCH

PURPOSE:

- To become active partners in our state's work to control crime and to increase public safety.
- To help Girl Scouts learn and put into action positive steps to reduce opportunity for crime.
- To serve families, friends and communities in this special way of being **responsible citizens**.

FOR:

Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors

REQUIREMENTS:

Each participant will learn and repeat frequently the North Carolina Crime Fighter's Pledge:
As an official Girl Scout Crime Fighter, I pledge

**To obey the law at all times and in all places.*

**To encourage my family and friends to practice Crime Prevention.*

**To mark my valuables with a driver's license or other official number to discourage stealing.*

**To participate in a Community Watch program in my community if there is one or to help get one started*

PROGRAM LEVEL

REQUIREMENTS:

Each troop or group **must meet at least three additional requirements** suitable for its members and program level. All three may be chosen from the following suggestions. If; however, the troop or group wishes to design a requirement for its own special needs, it may do so. In that case, only two of the following need to be chosen.

Each activity begins with a key suggesting the program levels most likely to be able to accomplish the activity successfully. The key uses B for Brownie, J for Junior, C for Cadette, S for Senior, A for Ambassador.

1. **B/J/C/S/A** Learn the names of your local law enforcement agencies. Who is in charge of them? Find out how and when to get in touch with them.
2. **J** Use the "Community Health and Safety" badge activities 1, 3, and 6 to focus on crime prevention in your community.
3. **C/S/A** Organize a COMMUNITY WATCH PROGRAM in your own neighborhood.
4. **B/J/C/S/A** List and learn about things that make your home secure. How many kinds of locks are there - for different kinds of doors, windows, barns and storage buildings, garages? Visit a hardware store or a locksmith. Do the same with lights, alarms, buzzers, bells.
5. **B/J/C/S/A** Find out about OPERATION IDENTIFICATION. Know which valuable objects (including bicycles, skates and record players!) may be permanently marked. Help make a list of things your family owns, so that if they were ever lost or taken, the items could be described.
6. **C/S/A** Organize a project to arrange a permanent marking service for homes in your neighborhood.
7. **B/J/C/S/A** Mental health is an important part of well-being. Talk about the differences between being

suspicious and

being alert... between being a scaredy-cat and being wisely afraid. at do law enforcement people mean by "defensive living?" Invite someone from a Mental Health Association, or a police or sheriff's department to help you explore this.

B/J/C/S/A Learn about safety problems in your community. What kinds of things and places should you be careful about for your own safety?

B/J/C/S/A Learn about vandalism in your community, in schools, in other public places, on private property. Find out what it costs tax-payers and individuals. Talk with the information officer in your police or sheriff's department, with a school official, or an insurance agent.

J/C Use requirements for the "Active Citizen," "Around the Town," or "Junior Citizen" badge to focus on crime prevention and public safety in your community.

J/C/S/A If your class or school is bothered by "small" thefts -- pencils, pens, erasers, paper -- start a "Supplies Bank," with everyone putting in something.

C/S/A Organize a project to increase teenagers' understanding of the cost of vandalism, shoplifting, etc.

C/S/A Participate in a career exploration program of one or more law enforcement or public safety jobs. Do research on special skills that women may bring to such careers.

C/S/A Organize a rap session with another troop, or at your school or church. Talk about why teenagers steal or vandalize. Are there connections with youth unemployment in your area? With drug use? What can teenagers themselves do about this?

15. C/S/A Find out from the sheriff's department if your county has established a Crime Prevention Committee. If it has, find out its membership, leadership and activity. Are teenagers represented? If your county has not organized such a committee, urge your sheriff and county commissioners to do so.

16. B/J/C/S/A Machines are the servants of people. Find out how television and radio help make your community a safer place to live. How do they help discourage or control crime? Visit a store where closed circuit television or electronic sensor alarm systems are used to discourage shoplifting. Talk to the store security officer about these "helpers."

B/J/C/S/A Business, industry and agriculture are major parts of American life. How does crime affect them in your area? Visit a supermarket, a convenience store or a general store; find out from the manager how prices are affected by shoplifting and vandalism.

B/J/C/S/A Whether you live in the city or the country, rural theft affects you! Food prices go up when farm equipment, seed, crops or animals are stolen or vandalized. Find out from your county agricultural agent what modern farmers can do to protect their property.

J/C/S/A Shopping malls are becoming social gathering places as well as sales areas. What kinds of security services and equipment are used in malls? What improvements can you suggest?

J/C Use requirements of the "Science Around Town" and "Science in Action" badges to learn what anti-crime, security, and crime detection technology is used locally. How do you local law enforcement agencies use technology? Are funds sufficient to their needs?

J/C Learn how to install home safety devices such as door chains, simple window or deadbolt locks, etc. Install one or more as a way to work on the Ms. Fix It badge!

C/S/A City, suburban and rural planning is becoming critically important to our future. How does planning increase or decrease opportunity for crime? How does zoning affect community safety? Find out the answers from your city or county planning department.

23. **B/J/C/S** Every person can improve her or his powers of observation. Increasing your ability to use all of the senses you have is basic to appreciation of beauty and responsible citizenship. Practice describing people and things. Learn to recognize different heights, weights, hair and eye colors you see. Learn to describe voices and speech patterns you hear. Learn exact words to describe things you feel, such as textures and shapes. Make up a game or contest based on such

skills.

- N. B/J/C/S/A Learn to recognize instantly at least ten different vehicles by make, year, body style and color.
- 25. B/J/C/S/A Learn to read and memorize license plates faster and faster. Make a game of this.

26. J/C Develop a "skilled observation" requirement focused on personal safety and use it as an addition to the "Visual Arts" badge.
27. B/J/C/S/A How can houses, mobile home parks and residential buildings be designed to increase theft safety and security? Study and report on your own living places' design for safety and security.
28. J/C/S/A Lighting is important security. What kinds of outdoor lighting can be used for security and still be a good part of landscaping? Talk with a landscape architect about this. Make a landscape plan for your own living place, or a public place new you.
29. J/C/S/A Design and carry out a survey of your neighborhood to see how well lit it is, how trees and plants, signs and buildings help or hinder public safety.
30. J/C/S/A Design and create an eye-catching poster calling for citizen crime prevention. Interest local merchants in displaying prints made from it.
31. B/J/C/S/A Write five good slogans to encourage other children and young people to obey the law and to be honest citizens. Use the slogans to make posters, and arrange to display them at school, church, community centers, neighborhood stores.
32. B/J/C/S/A Read at least one detective story, such as a Nancy Drew, Sherlock Holmes, Alfred Hitchcock or Agatha Christie mystery, and report to your troop how the crime was discovered, solved, and punished.
33. B/J/C/S/A Plan and carry out a discussion, debate or other spoken program on a positive approach to reducing opportunities for crime. Find out if your Service Unit or a local club would be interested in your troop's presenting such a program.
34. C/S/A Design a speech contest on positive approaches to reducing opportunities for crime. Secure a contest sponsor, such as a local merchant or churches Help find contest judges and arrange prizes.
35. B/J/C/S/A List ways that the natural environment can be maintained for the personal safety of human users. Learn how these things can be done, what skills are necessary to do them, what costs are.
36. B/J/C/S/A Study and learn Girl Scout rules for personal safety in the out-of-doors. Find out what "security" protections are used in Girl scout resident and day camps.
37. J/C Write a new requirement specific to personal safety on walks and hikes for girls in your troop who are working on the "Foot Traveler" or "Hiker" badge.
38. C/S/A Design a project to improve the security of an outdoor area, such as mini-park, playing field, camp.
39. B/J/C/S/A Invite a U.S. Forestry Service official or a North Carolina Park Ranger to present an outdoor safety and personal security program to your troop, to several troops, or to a special audience of young people in your school or neighborhood.
- Q. B/J/C/S/A Find out the best ways to contact law enforcement authorities if you should need them while on a walk or hike, camping or sporting trip, in your own area, in your community, in your county, in other counties. Make a plan for what you would do, and encourage everyone where you live to use it.
41. S/A Organize a "Halloween Event" that would be fun and safe to include candy, popcorn, fruit, games, theatre, clowns, jugglers, haunted house, a "ghostbuster patrol" in the neighborhood.
42. S/A Hold a Crime Prevention Fair in a shopping mall, in a school, or set up a booth in connection with another event to generate interest in and volunteers for crime prevention. Team up with other community groups. Include videotape and slide shows, information displays, and demonstrations.
43. J/C/S/A Celebrate "I Love My **Park (or Street, Playground, or Alley)** Day." Clean up brush, broken glass, and debris. Have safe lighting installed and strat patrols, especially at local playgrounds. Get abandoned cars removed. Ask teens to help, and get businesses involved with donations of McGruff litterbags or other syumbolic products or educational materials.
44. C/S/A Start a Safewalk Program for senior citizens. Teens can escort seniors while going to the store, bank, or doctor's office, and can provide reassurance and daily phone checks.

- 45_ C/S/A Have your Neighborhood Watch group fix up senior citizens' *homes*. install locks, trim overgrown shrubbcry, replace light bulbs. Invite senior citizens to join Neighborhood *Watch*.
46. C/S/A Make sure senior citizens in your area know about **Direct Deposit**. This free service provides recipients of government payments a safe, reliable method of handling their funds. Money is automatically deposited into their checking or saving account, eliminating the possibility of a check being lost or stolen. The Treasury Department has free brochures and other promotional materials about Direct Deposit which they make available to law enforcement and community agencies, businesses and civic groups_ For more information, contact Direct Deposit Marketing, Financial Management Service, 401 1.4111 Street,, SW, Room 316A, Washington, DC 20227, or call (202) 287-0504.
47. S/A Plan a special education program with The American Association of Retired Persons (HARP) that includes the new slide/tape program called Crime Prevention: **Then** and Now. Each kit contains brochures on protecting your neighborhood and spotting a con artist, an LS-minute audiocassette and L1.1. color slides, a slide script, information on finding guest speakers, and recommendations for follow-up and discussion. For more information, contact AARI', 1909 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049.
48. S/A Combine the forces of local television, law enforcement, McGruff, and perhaps a theatre group a "Partners Against Crime" series. The series could describe the criminal methods used in your community, inform viewers of prevention techniques. highlight Neighborhood Watch and other citizen involvement programs, interview victims, and talk about crime prevention and victim/witness resources. Include a live question-and-answer phone-in segment, perhaps on such issues as vigilantism, victim assistance, drug abuse, isolation of the elderly, latchkey children, and teens as community resources. Invite local experts and community leaders to co-host.
49. S/A Provide story ideas. These can be descriptions of people or events in Crime Prevention, can be for print (newspapers and magazines), for television or radio. For instance: a volunteer who has helped run a successful Neighborhood Watch for several years (or a group of volunteers) on "what it takes" to get a neighborhood involved and keep it involved; a group of teenagers, who can talk about what teens can do to avoid being victims of crime (since they're Lhe most victimized age group); performing groups of teens, adults, and children who have incorporated crime prevention and substance abuse prevention into their repertoire; a neighborhood or business district besieged by crime which has "turned the corner" to reclaim itself.
50. B/J/C/S/A Have the troop members i kc the "Home Safety Quiz" with their families.



A Home Safety Quiz

1. Do you know if any burglaries or acts of vandalism have occurred in your neighborhood recently?
2. Do you know and look out for your neighbors? Do they look out for you?
3. Is your shrubbery trimmed so it doesn't cover any doors or windows?
4. Are your home's external doors made of solid wood or metal?
5. Do they have deadbolt locks?
6. Have you properly secured all means of entry, including sliding glass doors, skylights, and basement windows?
7. Do you use your door and window locks, even when working in the yard, running an errand, or just being in the house? If
8. your front door does not have a window, do you have and use a peephole?
9. Do you avoid hiding keys outside the house?
10. Have you marked valuable property with numbers recommended by the police?
11. Do your children know not to open the door to strangers and not to give your address to strangers over the telephone? Do
12. you alert a neighbor when you'll be away from home for more than a day?
13. Do you use timers to turn lights and radios on and off when you're on vacation?
14. Are vacant lots in your neighborhood cleaned up?
15. Have you joined a neighborhood crime watch or apartment watch organization?

If you answered "yes" to all 15 questions, congratulations! A score of 10 or more indicates your home is fairly secure. If you scored under 10, then you're a good target and should make your home safer.