



# **OPERATION SNOWFLAKE**

## **PATCH PROGRAM**

Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains  
Serving New Hampshire and Vermont

Revised 01/2009 kag

# OPERATION SNOWFLAKE

Operation Snowflake is a popular winter patch program. Based upon troop evaluations and a new focus on the Girl Scout Leadership Development Program, the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains have revised the requirements. We hope that these changes will provide you enough flexibility to earn Operation Snowflake year after year.

Girls earning this patch for the first time earn the large patch and their first snowflake. Girls earning Operation Snowflake again should do different activities or repeat activities in different ways. They will add a new snowflake to their large patch.

The activities in this patch program are of three types:

Discover – Girls will learn about the effects of cold temperatures and snow, especially in New England, as they choose and complete activities which will help them to understand themselves and their values, and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.

Connect – Girls will feel connected to their communities while planning and completing fun activities outside with their parents, members of their troop/group, or at a community event.

Take Action – Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world when they design and implement a service project related to winter.

The entire patch cannot be earned at an outdoor event. The girls must be involved in planning and must complete the starred items ahead of time in order to participate safely and enjoy the outdoor fun day.

## To earn the Operation Snowflake patch:

1. All starred items are additional requirements and should be completed before the girls plan to carry out their outdoor event.
2. Complete at least two grade-level Discover activities. Remember that girls who choose to complete Operation Snowflake year-after-year should do different activities or repeat activities in different ways each time.
3. Complete the Connect Activity. Girls plan and participate in an outdoor winter fun activity such as skating, sledding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, snow sculpture, or a winter Olympics. The outdoor event may be a troop or community experience. In either case, **girls** should be doing the planning and evaluating. Don't forget to use *Safety-Wise*.
4. Complete the Take Action Activity. Girls design and implement a service project related to winter. Remember: A service project is something the girls do to help individuals or the community without receiving any reward other than knowing they've done a good job.

We hope you'll enjoy working on Operation Snowflake. Let us know on your evaluation any other ideas you have for improving this patch program.

## DAISY REQUIREMENTS

1. Starred activity must be completed before the girls plan to carry out their outdoor event.
  - \* Talk about dressing for out-of-doors activities, and some safety considerations for winter outdoor activities. (Don't forget to use *Safety-Wise*.)
2. Complete at least two of the following Discover Activities:
  - Girls Gain Practical Life Skills:
    - Plan and prepare a nutritious high-energy snack to eat at your outdoor event. Discuss why this is important.
  - Girls Seek Challenges in the World:
    - Learn about winter animal camouflage. Play hide and seek with different colored items in the snow such as stuffed animals that are white, gray and brown.
    - Learn/play (outside) a winter game from another country.
  - Girls Develop Critical Thinking:
    - Read two versions of *The Mitten* (such as ones by authors Jan Brett and Alvin Tresselt). Discuss how these two versions are different.
    - Make a snowy. Take a clean baby food jar and using waterproof glue, glue a small plastic or china figure of an animal that is active in winter to the center of the lid. While it is drying, use a paper punch to punch holes in waxed paper. Place the punched holes (and/or glitter), in the jar and fill the jar with water. When the glue has dried thoroughly, put the lid on the jar and tighten it. Run tape around the lid so it doesn't come unfastened. Invert the jar and watch it snow!
3. Complete the Connect Activity. Girls plan and participate in an outdoor winter fun activity such as skating, sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snow sculpture, or a winter Olympics. The outdoor event may be a troop or community experience. In either case, **girls** should be doing the planning and evaluating. Don't forget to use *Safety-Wise*.
4. Complete the Take Action Activity. Girls design and implement a service project related to winter. Remember: A service project is something the girls do to help individuals or the community without receiving any reward other than knowing they've done a good job.

## BROWNIE REQUIREMENTS

1. Starred activities must be completed before the girls plan to carry out their outdoor event.
  - \* Talk about dressing for out-of-doors activities, and some safety considerations for winter outdoor activities. (Don't forget to use *Safety-Wise*.)
  - \* Learn how to dress like an onion (in layers) by doing one of the following:
    - a. Have a relay race with clothes
    - b. Make a collage or poster
    - c. Have a fashion show
2. Complete at least two of the following Discover Activities:
  - Girls Develop a Strong Sense of Self:
    - Learn how people in your area prepared for winter and traveled in snowy weather at least 50 years ago. You may want to visit an elderly person to find out what your town was like in the winter.
  - Girls Gain Practical Life Skills:
    - Discover how animals adapt for winter weather. You could learn about hibernation, estivation, or food storage.
    - Do all birds fly south for the winter? Make a bird feeder and watch to see what birds come to eat at it during the winter months.
  - Girls Develop Critical Thinking:
    - Brainstorm a list of all the occupations you can think of that are dependent on a winter climate. (We could think of 49 in 5 minutes!)
    - Change the words to a nursery rhyme to relate to winter. (For example, you could change "1-2 buckle my shoe" to "1-2 build an igloo.")
    - Listen to "winter" music. Respond to the music by drawing a picture, writing a poem or story, making up and performing a dance. (You could submit what you've written to your local newspaper, school newspaper or to your Girl Scout Council office.)
3. Complete the Connect Activity. Girls plan and participate in an outdoor winter fun activity such as skating, sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snow sculpture, or a winter Olympics. The outdoor event may be a troop or community experience. In either case, **girls** should be doing the planning and evaluating. Don't forget to use *Safety-Wise*.
4. Complete the Take Action Activity. Girls design and implement a service project related to winter. Remember: A service project is something the girls do to help individuals or the community without receiving any reward other than knowing they've done a good job.

## JUNIOR REQUIREMENTS

1. Starred activities must be completed before the girls plan to carry out their outdoor event.
  - \* Learn the signs of frostbite. Learn and practice first aid for frostbite. (Don't forget to use *Safety-Wise*.)
  - \* Learn how to dress like an onion (in layers) and learn how weather factors such as wind and humidity affect how you feel outdoors. Show what you learn by making up a skit or fashion show.
2. Complete at least two of the following Discover Activities:
  - Girls Develop a Strong Sense of Self:
    - Learn how people in your area prepared for winter and traveled in snowy weather at least 50 years ago. You may want to visit an elderly person to find out what your town was like in the winter. Share what you have learned with your family, another troop/group or classmates.
  - Girls Develop Positive Values:
    - Learn why salt melts snow and the ecological impact of road salt use. Learn about alternatives to salting the roads and sidewalks. What does your town use?
  - Girls Gain Practical Life Skills:
    - Experience chemistry and geology. Learn about the crystalline nature of snow. Grow crystals.
  - Girls Seek Challenges in the World:
    - Learn when winter occurs in the southern hemisphere and find out what people do for winter fun. Invite a person who has lived or traveled during the winter in the southern hemisphere to visit your troop.
    - Attend a live performance or watch a video in which the winter setting is a prominent theme such as *The Snowman*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Polar Express*, or the Ice Capades. Talk about ways the performance and/or story might change without the winter setting.
  - Girls Develop Critical Thinking:
    - Make up a haiku or limerick about winter. Submit it to your local newspaper, school newspaper, or Girl Scout troop or community newsletter.
3. Complete the Connect Activity. Girls plan and participate in an outdoor winter fun activity such as skating, sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snow sculpture, or a winter Olympics. The outdoor event may be a troop or community experience. In either case, **girls** should be doing the planning and evaluating. Don't forget to use *Safety-Wise*.
4. Complete the Take Action Activity. Girls design and implement a service project related to winter. Remember: A service project is something the girls do to help individuals or the community without receiving any reward other than knowing they've done a good job.

## CADETTE REQUIREMENTS

1. Starred activities must be completed before the girls plan to carry out their outdoor event.
  - \* Learn why it is important to dress in layers and how weather factors such as wind and humidity affect how you feel outdoors.
  - \* Learn the signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Learn and practice first aid for frostbite and hypothermia.
2. Complete at least two of the following Discover Activities:
  - Girls Gain Practical Life Skills:
    - Make a snow person out of two scoops of ice cream or frozen yogurt. Decorate your snow person using candy or cookies. Before you eat your creation, estimate how many bites you will take to consume it. Complete a chart including the following information:
      - Individual girls' estimates
      - Average estimate for the troop
      - Actual bites taken by individual girls
      - Average bites for troop
      - Median number of bites taken by the troop
    - Invite a firefighter to visit your troop meeting and learn about ice rescue.
  - Girls Seek Challenges in the World:
    - Learn about wind chill factor. What is it and how can it affect outdoor activities in the winter?
    - Read a book with a winter theme. Several are included in the Resources on Pages 9 and 10
    - Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. For more information go to: [www.birdsource.org/](http://www.birdsource.org/).
  - Girls Develop Critical Thinking:
    - Compare and contrast how mammals adapt for winter with the adaptations of other animals such as insects, amphibians, birds or reptiles.
    - Create a song or poem with a winter theme.
3. Complete the Connect Activity. Girls plan and participate in an outdoor winter fun activity such as skating, sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snow sculpture, ice fishing or a winter Olympics. The outdoor event may be a troop or community experience. In either case, **girls** should be doing the planning and evaluating. Don't forget to use *Safety-Wise*.
4. Complete the Take Action Activity. Girls design and implement a service project related to winter. Remember: A service project is something the girls do to help individuals or the community without receiving any reward other than knowing they've done a good job.

## SENIOR REQUIREMENTS

1. Starred Activities must be completed before the girls plan to carry out their outdoor event.
  - \* Learn why it is important to dress in layers and how weather factors such as wind and humidity affect how you feel outdoors. Research/experiment to determine which fabric fibers retain heat best. Discuss how fabric choice could affect your comfort at an outdoor activity.
  - \* Learn the signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Learn and practice first aid for frostbite and hypothermia.
  - \* Learn about winter skin care.
2. Complete at least two of the following Discover Activities:
  - Girls Develop a Strong Sense of Self:
    - Learn about and then make a poster or display about the Inuit people or others that are native to the Arctic regions. Compare and contrast their lives with your own.
  - Girls Gain Practical Life Skills:
    - Be able to explain what is meant by hibernation and estivation. Observe a species that hibernates or estivates.
    - Write a play or a skit about winter survival to perform for younger Girl Scouts, senior citizens or your families.
    - Invite a firefighter to visit your troop meeting and learn about ice rescue.
  - Girls Seek Challenges in the World:
    - Learn about one of the following:
      - Ice harvesting
      - Sugaring off
      - Ice fishingIf possible, observe or try one of the above.
    - Try making an ice sculpture either from a block of ice or building from a frame.
    - Use a new cooking method to cook a well-balanced meal outdoors at your outdoor event.
  - Girls Develop Critical Thinking:
    - Brainstorm a list of occupations that are dependent on winter climates. Use the list to play Win, Lose or Draw or Charades. Visit a worker in an occupation that interests you.
3. Complete the Connect Activity. Girls plan and participate in an outdoor winter fun activity such as skating, sledding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, snow sculpture, or a winter Olympics. The outdoor event may be a troop or community experience. In either case, **girls** should be doing the planning and evaluating. Don't forget to use *Safety-Wise*.
4. Complete the Take Action Activity. Girls design and implement a service project related to winter. Remember: A service project is something the girls do to help individuals or the community without receiving any reward other than knowing they've done a good job.

## AMBASSADOR REQUIREMENTS

1. Starred activities must be completed before the girls plan to carry out their outdoor event.

\* Learn why it is important to dress in layers and how weather factors such as wind and humidity affect how you feel outdoors. Research/experiment to determine which fabric fibers retain heat best. Discuss how fabric choice could affect your comfort at an outdoor activity.

\* Learn the signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Learn and practice first aid for frostbite and hypothermia.

\* Learn about winter skin care.

2. Complete at least two of the following Discover Activities:

Girls Develop Positive Values:

- Explore winter energy demands considering pollution produced and costs. Compare types of home heating costs considering benefits and ecological impacts.

Girls Gain Practical Life Skills:

- Learn how people put food by (stored) for the winter 100 years ago. Try one of these food storage methods: drying, salting, pickling, or canning.
- Learn how winter affects very young children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Do something for someone who is shut-in by winter weather (shoveling, shopping, deliveries, library books, visiting, etc.). Contact local Visiting Nurse Associations, Meals on Wheels, Nursing Homes, etc. to see who or what you can do to assist.
- Research and try a winter hike. Many of the trails that we travel in spring, summer, and fall are also available during the winter. Many public parks, cities, and towns maintain trail systems which remain accessible for winter hiking and even snowshoeing. Some have special rules that apply to winter use, so check with them for specifics.

Girls Seek Challenges in the World:

- Try photography out-of-doors. You could “capture” animal prints, shadow and light, frost on windows, or snowy scenes.
- Work with a troop of younger girls to complete their pre-outdoor activity requirements. Teach younger Girl Scouts how to dress like an onion and how to recognize the early signs of frostbite.
- Learn to knit, crochet, quilt, or weave. Donate your item(s) to a community agency to distribute.

3. Complete the Connect Activity. Girls plan and participate in an outdoor winter fun activity such as skating, sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snow sculpture, or a winter Olympics. The outdoor event may be a troop or community experience. In either case, **girls** should be doing the planning and evaluating. Don't forget to use *Safety-Wise*.

4. Complete the Take Action Activity. Girls design and implement a service project related to winter. Remember: A service project is something the girls do to help individuals or the community without receiving any reward other than knowing they've done a good job.

## RESOURCES

### MUSIC

| <u>Composer</u>                  | <u>Title</u>   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Vivaldi                          | The Four Seasons (Winter–Concerto #4, F m)   |
| Prokofiev                        | Alexander Nevsky (The Battle on Ice)   |
| Tchaikovsky                      | The Nutcracker (especially Winter Scene and Waltz of the Snowflakes [Act 1 Scene 2]). This music was written for a full-length ballet. It is sometimes found in recordings rearranged as the Nutcracker Suite. Look especially for Suite #2. |
| Windham Hill<br>Assorted artists | Winter Solstice's  |
| Tchaikovsky                      | Symphony #1 (Winter Daydreams)   |
| George Winston                   | December   |
| Rimsky-Korsakov                  | The Snow Maiden (especially Snowflakes Are Falling)  |

### BOOKS

| <u>Author</u>                        | <u>Title</u>                       | <u>Suggested Level</u>     |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Virginia Lee Burton                  | Katy and the Big Snow              | Brownies                   |
| Jean George                          | Julie of the Wolves                | Juniors                    |
| Berta Hader                          | The Big Snow                       | Brownies                   |
| Jack London                          | To Build a Fire                    | Older Girls                |
|                                      | White Fang                         | Junior                     |
|                                      | Call of the Wild                   | Older Girls                |
| W. A. Bentley and<br>W. J. Humphreys |                                    | Snow Crystals – nonfiction |
| John Houston                         | Akavak: An Eskimo Journey          | Junior                     |
|                                      | Long Claws: An Arctic Adventure    | Junior                     |
| Ezra Jack Keats                      | The Snowy Day                      | Daisy                      |
| Carolyn Kennedy                      | Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting |                            |
| William Kurelek                      | A Prairie Boy's Winter             | Daisy/Brownie              |
| P. Mendez                            | The Black Snowman                  | Daisy/Brownie              |
| Greene, Hertzberg<br>& Vaughan       | Putting Food By                    |                            |
| Normee Ekoomiak                      | Arctic Memories                    | Junior                     |

### POETRY

|              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Robert Frost | Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening |
|              | Looking for a Sunset Bird in Winter  |
|              | A Winter Eden                        |
|              | To a Moth Seen in Winter             |
|              | Dust of Snow                         |
|              | Birches                              |
| J. Prelutsky | It's Snowing, It's Snowing           |

|                  |                                   |             |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| John G. Whittier | Snow-Bound                        |             |
| Dylan Thomas     | A Winter's Tale                   | Older Girls |
| e.e. cummings    | all ignorance toboggans into know |             |
| Shel Silverstein | Come Skating                      |             |

### **STORIES**

|                         |                                      |               |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Toni De Gerez           | Louhi, Witch from North Farm         | Brownie       |
| Hans Christian Andersen | The Snow Queen                       | Brownie       |
| Samuel Marshak          | The Month Brothers:<br>A Slavik Tale | Junior        |
| Mary Calhoun            | Cross-Country Cat                    | Brownie       |
| Astrid Lindgren         | The Tomten                           | Brownie       |
|                         | The Tomten and the Fox               | Brownie       |
| Jane Yolen              | Owl Moon                             | Daisy/Brownie |

### **VIDEO RESOURCES**

The Nutcracker  
The Snowman  
The Snowchild (F. Littledale)

### **OTHER**

EMS brochures such as Cold Weather Layering  
N.H. Fish and Game Department brochures such as Safety on Ice



## OPERATION SNOWFLAKE PATCH ORDER FORM

Please return your Operation Snowflake patch order and evaluation forms together!

Troup Age Level: Daisy \_\_\_ Brownie \_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_ Cadette \_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_ Ambassador \_\_\_

Troop Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#:(day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of patches @2.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (purchase first year earned only)

\_\_\_\_\_ # of snowflakes @.50 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (purchase each year earned)

Shipping/handling (see below): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VISA and MasterCard are also accepted.

Please charge my: VISA  MasterCard

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(A signature is required on all credit card orders.)

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_ / \_\_

### Shipping and handling rates

|              |        |                |         |
|--------------|--------|----------------|---------|
| Under 18.99  | \$4.50 | \$75-\$99.99   | \$10.00 |
| \$19-\$29.99 | 5.75   | \$100-\$149.99 | 12.50   |
| \$30-\$44.99 | 7.50   | \$150-\$199.99 | 13.75   |
| \$45-\$59.99 | 8.00   | \$200-\$249.99 | 18.50   |
| \$60-\$74.99 | 9.50   | Over \$250.00  | 23.00   |

If you have any questions, call 603-627-4158 or 1-888-474-9686.

