

OPERATION SNOWFLAKE

PATCH PROGRAM



GIRL SCOUTS OF THE GREEN AND WHITE MOUNTAINS
Serving New Hampshire and Vermont

Operation Snowflake

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 take action project related to winter

Use this patch program as a side trip to your current Journey program. Every Journey book has activities from the three keys to leadership built in - discover, connect and take action- as part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (to find out more about the GSLE, go to www.girlscouts.org/gsle). In all our programs, our goal is to help build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. This patch program ties in well with the It's Your Planet - Love It! Journey series.

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 Activity Checkpoints in all your activity planning (found online at our council website www.girlscoutsgwm.org).
4. Complete the Take Action Activity. Girls design and implement a take action project related to winter. Remember: A take action 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

Use this patch program to customize activities from the Daisy Journey *Between Earth and Sky*. See specific ideas from Sample Sessions below and/or feel free to create your own connections to customize your girls' journey.

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 Activity Checkpoints*). **Connect this to Sample Session 1 "Travel Near, Travel Far" activity.**

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. **Connect this to Sample Session 7 "Snack Time: Celebrating Local Foods" Activity.**

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. **Connect this to Sample Session 2 "A Walk In Nature to Find Colors" activity.**
- 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 Activity Checkpoints*. **Connect this to Sample Session 7 "My Favorite Outdoor Place" Activity.**
4. Complete the Take Action Activity. Girls design and implement a take action project related to winter. Girls could brainstorm ideas of things that are needed in their community (for example, hats and coats donated for children). Remember: A Take Action 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. **Connect this to Sample Session 8 & 9 "Clover Project."**

BROWNIE REQUIREMENTS

Use this patch program to customize activities from the Brownie Journey *Wonders of Water*. See specific ideas from Sample Sessions below and/or feel free to create your own connections to customize your girls' journey.

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 Activity Check Points*.)
 - * Learn how to dress like an onion (in layers) by doing one of the following:
 - Have a relay race with clothes
 - Make a collage or poster
 - 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 (checkout local council programs that focus on animals in your area - to find all our council offerings, go online to www.girlscoutsgwm.org). **Connect to Sample Session 5 "Water and Animals" activity.**
 - 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. Make sure to take it down before bear season in the spring.

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!). **Connect to Sample Session 3 "Building Awareness of Water in the World" activity.**
 - 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 Activity Checkpoints*. **Connect to Sample Session 1 "Favorite Water Activities" and Sample Session 2 "From Hot to Cold, and Vapor to Solid" activities.**
4. Complete the Take Action activity. Girls design and implement a take action project related to winter. Girls could brainstorm ideas of things that are needed in their community (for example, girls could make no-sew scarves to donate). Remember: A Take Action 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. **Connect to Sample Session 7 & 8 "Save Project."**

JUNIOR REQUIREMENTS

Use this patch program to customize activities from the Junior Journey *Get Moving*. See specific ideas from Sample Sessions below and/or feel free to create your own connections to customize your girls' journey.

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 Activity Checkpoints*.)
 - * 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. **Connect with Sample Session 4 "Keeping Warm" activity.**
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, traveled in snowy weather and kept their homes warm 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. **Connect with Sample Session 1 "Energy is Everywhere" Activity.**
- Learn about Snowflake Bentley, who dedicated his life to photographing snowflakes to show that no two snowflakes are alike. You can visit the Snowflake Bentley museum in Jericho, Vermont, or read about him in the book **Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin**

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.
- Investigate how animals use energy according to their needs in the winter. Take a nature walk to find signs of animals in the winter. **Connect to Sample Session 3 "Observing Animals in their Natural Setting" activity.**
- 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 Disney on Ice (check www.girlscoutsgwm.org for specials tickets for Girl Scouts). Talk about ways the performance and/or story might change without the winter setting.

Girls Develop Critical Thinking:

- What are some ways that you can help make your meeting place more energy efficient in the winter time? Share your ideas with the building owners. **Connect to Sample Session 4 "Brrr, That's Cold" and "Now What Can You Do?" activities.**

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 Activity Checkpoints*. **Connect to Sample Session 11 "Human Perpetual Motion activity."**

4. Complete the Take Action Activity. Girls design and implement a take action project related to winter. Girls could brainstorm ideas of things that are needed in their community (for example - girls could learn to knit to make mittens to donate). Remember: A take action 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. **Connect to Sample Sessions 8, 9, & 10 "Innovate Project."**

CADETTE REQUIREMENTS

Use this patch program to customize activities from the Cadette Journey *Breathe*. See specific ideas from Sample Sessions below and/or feel free to create your own connections to customize your girls' journey. At the Cadette age level, girls should be making more choices about how they want to customize their journey. Make your choice in activities Girl Led to make sure they are involved in the planning of how they will connect Operation Snowflake activities to their journey.

Cadettes can also earn their LIA badge by working with a group of Brownie Girl Scouts on their *Wonders of Water* Journey. Activities from the Brownie section of Operation Snowflake can be used to connect to the necessary activities outlined on page 20-21 of the *Breathe* Journey Leader's Guide.

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.
- Go outside and listen for the sounds of nature in the winter. **Connects to Sample Session 1 "Imagining the Sounds of Earth" activity.**

Girls Seek Challenges in the World:

- Learn about wind chill factor. What is it and how can it affect outdoor activities in the winter? **Connect to Sample Session 3 "AIRY Science" activities.**
- Read a book with a winter theme. Several are included in the Resources on Page 10.
- Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. For more information go to: www.birdsource.org. **Connect to Sample Session 5 "Animal Sense" activity.**

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.
- Collect some freshly fallen snow in a clean jar and let it melt. What did you find in the jar besides water? What does this show about the air quality in your area? **Connect to Session 2 "What's really in the Air?" activity.**
- Create a song, poem or catch phrase with a winter theme. **Connect to Sample Session 6 "The Power of Pithiness" activity.**

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, or take part in helping to plan a winter camporee. 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 Activity Checkpoints*.
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. **Connect to Sample Sessions 6 & 7 "ALERT project" activities.**

SENIOR REQUIREMENTS

Use this patch program to customize activities from the Senior Journey *Sow What?* At the Senior age level, girls should be making more choices about how they want to customize their journey, therefore we have not included sample session suggestions. Make the choice in activities girl-led to make sure the girls are involved in the planning of how they will connect Operation Snowflake activities to their journey.

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 and if possible, observe or try one:
 - Ice harvesting
 - Sugaring off
 - Ice fishing
- 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 Activity Checkpoints*.

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

Use this patch program to customize activities from the Ambassador Journey *Justice*. At the Ambassador age level, girls should be making more choices about how they want to customize their journey, therefore we have not included sample session suggestions. Make the choice in activities are girl-led to make sure the girls are involved in the planning of how they will connect Operation Snowflake activities to their journey.

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 outdoors. 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 Activity Checkpoints*.
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

Composer

Vivaldi

Prokofiev

Tchaikovsky

Windham Hill Assorted artists

George Winston

Rimsky-Korsakov

Title

The Four Seasons (Winter-Concerto #4,F m)

Alexander Nevsky (The Battle on Ice)

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.

Symphony #1 (Winter Daydreams)

Winter Solstices

December

The Snow Maiden (especially Snowflakes Are Falling)

BOOKS

Author

Virginia Lee Burton

Jean George

Berta Hader

Jack London

W. A. Bentley and W. J. Humphreys

John Houston

Ezra Jack Keats

Carolyn Kennedy

William Kurelek

P. Mendez

Greene, Hertzberg &Vaughan

Normee Ekoomiak

Title

Katy and the Big Snow

Julie of the Wolves

The Big Snow

To Build a Fire

White Fang

Call of the Wild

Snow Crystals - nonfiction

Akavak: An Eskimo Journey

Long Claws: An Arctic Adventure

The Snowy Day

Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting

A Prairie Boy's Winter

The Black Snowman

Putting Food By

Arctic Memories

Suggested Level

Brownies

Juniors

Brownies

Older Girls

Juniors

Older Girls

Junior

Junior

Daisy

Daisy/Brownie

Daisy/Brownie

Junior

POETRY

Author

Robert Frost

J. Prelutsky

John G. Whittier

Dylan Thomas

E.E. Cummings

Shel Silverstein

Title

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

It's Snowing, It's Snowing

Snow-Bound

A Winter's Tale

All Ignorance Toboggans Into Know

Come Skating

STORIES

Author

Toni De Gerez

Hans Christian Andersen

Samuel Marshak

Mary Calhoun

Astrid Lindgren

Jane Yolen

Title

Louhi, Witch from North Farm

The Snow Queen

The Month Brothers: A Slavik Tale

Cross-Country Cat

The Tomten

The Tomten and the Fox

Owl Moon

Suggested Level

Brownie

Brownie

Junior

Brownie

Brownie

Brownie

Daisy/Brownie

VIDEO RESOURCES

The Nutcracker

The Snowman

The Snowchild (F. Littledale)

OTHER

EMS Expert Advice or Instructional Videos such as Cold Weather Layering on their website at <http://www.ems.com/shop/index.jsp?categoryId=3759253>

N.H. Fish and Game Department brochures such as Safety on Ice www.wildlife.state.nh.us

VT Fish and Game Department www.vtfishandwildlife.com

NH Children in Nature Network www.nhchildreninnature.org

Operation Snowflake Evaluation

*Troop Age Level(s): *Daisy* *Brownie* *Junior* *Cadette* *Senior* *Ambassador* _____

*Please write the number of girls per level

Troop Leader: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Day Phone #: _____

Night Phone: _____

Cell: _____

1. Which activities did your troop enjoy the most?
2. In what way(s) did the girls give service in relation to this patch?
3. Did you change or adapt any activities? In what way?
4. How did the Journey suggestions help you connect this to your age-level Journey?
5. Would you suggest any changes?
6. Comments:

OPERATION SNOWFLAKE PATCH ORDER FORM

Please return your Operation Snowflake patch order form AND evaluation forms together!

Troop Age Level(s): Daisy ___ Brownie ___ Junior ___ Cadette ___ Senior ___ Ambassador ___

Troop Leader: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Day Phone #: _____ Night Phone: _____ Cell: _____

_____ # of patches @ **\$2.00 each:** \$ _____

_____ # of snowflakes @ **\$1.00 each:** \$ _____

*Shipping/handling: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

VISA and MasterCard are also accepted.

Please charge my (circle one): **VISA** or **MasterCard**

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____ / _____ CVC _____

Signature: _____

(A signature is required on all Credit Card orders)

*For shipping and handling rates, please go to <https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/en/our-council/shop.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact Customer Care at 603-627-4158 or 1-888-474-9686. You may also email Customer Care at customercare@girlscoutsgwm.org.

Please mail this order form **AND** your evaluation to:

**The Mountain Top Shop
Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains
1 Commerce Drive
Bedford, NH 03110**