



## Community Action Rewards Everyone

“I will do my best to ... make the world a better place”

Community service is an integral part of the Girl Scout program. The Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts **C.A.R.E. Patch Program** goes a step further in combining community service with education to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities. While working on C.A.R.E., girls will “discover” by identifying problems, “connect” by sharing ideas, and seeking out community resources, and “take action” by using their skills and knowledge to solve problems. The C.A.R.E. patch may be earned by girls in troops or individually registered girls who complete the requirements below. Patches can be purchased at any council service center for \$1.75/patch after the completed documentation form is submitted to Judi Bullock via US Mail to: GSCWM, 40 Harkness Ave., East Longmeadow, MA 01028; e-mail to [jbullock@gscwm.org](mailto:jbullock@gscwm.org); or fax to: 413-525-5901. The C.A.R.E. patch requires service beyond council-sponsored and Girl Scout Journey-initiated service projects.

### \*\*\*\* REQUIREMENTS FOR THE C.A.R.E. PATCH \*\*\*\*

#### Identify needs in the community

Girls should identify relevant and interesting problems/needs in their community. Introduce some of the following terms to generate ideas: environment, economy, housing, hunger, health and safety, culture and diversity, elderly, historical, transportation, recreation. Civic and religious organizations, city councils, and other local groups can help identify projects that are needed in the community and may even partner with the girls.

#### Investigate the problems

Discuss the problem’s cause (what is creating it) and effect (what impact it has). When did the problem start and how have people addressed it in the past? Girls should research and educate themselves as to what attempts have already been made to meet the need, as well as identify and research possible new solutions.

#### Design project(s) to meet the need

This can be as simple as ‘piggy backing’ on an existing community project, or designing a totally new approach to meet the community need. Girls should take into account community resources which are available (i.e., people, funding). Girls should be both realistic and creative in their project design. More than one project may be needed to make the service meaningful.

#### Carry out the project(s)

Adult supervision (i.e., helping girls identify community resources) will be necessary, but girls should carry out the project themselves. Projects should challenge girls to step outside their comfort zone and learn new skills while carrying out the project. Girls should document their activities and the hours of service given.

#### Evaluate the project and the effect on the community

This should include the impact on the community of the actual work done, as well as the anticipated long-range effects. Encourage the girls to reflect on how the project affected them personally.

#### Develop a long-range plan

What arrangements have been made to continue the project long-term? If the girls cannot be involved moving forward, what plans have been put in place to ensure the project’s continuation?

-  (K-Grade 1): Five (5) hours
-  (Grades 2-3): Ten (10) hours
-  (Grades 4-5): Fifteen (15) hours
-  (Grades 6-8): Twenty (20) hours
-  (Grades 9-10): Twenty-five (25) hours
-  (Grades 11-12): Thirty (30) hours

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts  
**C.A.R.E. Patch Program**  
**Documentation/Evaluation Form**

Troop Number: \_\_\_\_\_ or Individually Registered Girl: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Level (check):  Daisy  Brownie  Junior  Cadette  Senior  Ambassador

Number of girls completing the C.A.R.E. Patch Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's/Individual Girl's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (street/city/state/zip): \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

What community need did you/your group address?

Briefly describe your/your group's service project and how it addressed the community need:

Briefly describe your/your group's reflection on the service project:

Number of hours spent on the project:

Planning \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluating \_\_\_\_\_

Implementing \_\_\_\_\_

Reflecting \_\_\_\_\_