



Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada
Peace Begins at Home
Patch Program

**The following agencies contributed to the development of the
Peace Begins at Home patch:**

Catherine Cortez Masto, Office of the Attorney General

Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada

Junior League of Reno

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Reno City Attorney's Office

Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada *Peace Begins at Home* Council Patch Program

Note to troop leaders: Remember to acquire parental permission when performing activities around sensitive issues.

ACTIVITIES

Requirements:

Daisy Girl Scouts: Complete 2 Activities

Brownie Girl Scouts: Complete 3 Activities

Junior Girl Scouts: Complete 5 Activities

Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts: Complete 7 Activities

1. Ask your troop leader to invite a speaker to your troop from a local domestic violence program. Ask the speaker to explain and define domestic violence, and the options that are available for someone who is in an abusive situation. OR research different ways you can go about booking a local domestic violence speaker. List at least three different sources that you could contact to book a speaker.
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 how *Peace Begins at Home*. Discuss places where you can display your poster in your neighborhood, and if possible, display the poster.
4. Read a book or watch a movie about domestic violence. Write a short paragraph about the story and share it with your family members, friends, or classmates.
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 will 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 into Shelter

Alliance, who will then donate funds to that program in exchange for the cell phones. See Appendix for website information.

7. Learn about domestic violence laws in your state. Discuss whether you believe the laws are strict enough, and if not, what can be changed. Learn how you can work to change the law.
8. Identify characteristics of a healthy relationship and an unhealthy relationship and make a list of the differences. Then, go over the Power & Control and Equality Wheels (contained in the Appendix) and discuss any characteristics you did not initially identify.
9. Teach what you have learned about domestic violence and *Peace Begins at Home* to family members or troop members.
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. Read an account or story of a domestic violence victim (see the Appendix for a list of helpful websites). Discuss the actions in the story that might signal the beginning of an abusive relationship.
12. Learn what law enforcement agencies handle domestic violence reports in your area. Do they have offices dedicated solely to domestic violence cases? What information do they collect to make a report?
13. 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.
14. Create a visual memorial at your local park (or other place of interest) to raise awareness of domestic violence in your community. Perhaps tie purple ribbons around the trees, ask a local nursery to donate purple flowers that you can plant at the park (be sure to get permission first), and so forth. 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.

Domestic Violence is Not About Anger

Some people think that anger or stress causes domestic violence, or that batterers simply “lose control of their temper.” Domestic violence is defined as **a pattern of intentional coercive behavior used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner**. Therefore, battering is not about a loss of control, but rather about the exertion of power and control. Batterers are no angrier or more stressed than the rest of us—these are just more excuses and justifications for the abusive behavior. Batterers who are stressed or angry at work do not attack their bosses or co-workers. All of us experience stress and anger, but do not use violence to take it out on those around us.

Additionally, when physical abuse is occurring, batterers often only batter parts of the body that are hidden by clothing, or inflict injuries that rarely leave obvious marks, such as pulling hair. If a batterer were truly “out of control” he would not be able to direct or limit where his kicks or punches land.

As you administer the *Peace Begins at Home* Patch Program, please keep in mind that domestic violence is not about anger; rather, it is about a pattern of intentional behaviors used by the batterer to maintain power and control in a relationship.

Disclosure of Information

Physical abuse is the most visible type of domestic violence but is only part of the story. Verbal and sexual abuse are often considered the most permanently damaging, and verbal abuse is the most prevalent form of domestic violence. The battered woman’s fear of serious injury or death for herself or her family, and her fear of being unable to support her family economically continue to trap women in extremely violent and dangerous situations, particularly when children are involved.

It is possible that a youth may disclose information about abuse in her family while completing the *Peace Begins at Home* Patch Program. Girl Scout troop leaders are mandated reporters of child abuse in the state of Nevada. If a child self-discloses any kind of abuse, believe her and take her seriously. If possible, comfort the child and tell her that the abuse taking place in her home is not her fault and she cannot control it. Let her know that while the abuse and violence need to stop, it is not her responsibility to protect her parent and/or sibling(s) from the abuse, and her first concern should be for her own safety. (Please note: witnessing abuse in the home is not considered child abuse; child abuse occurs when the abusive behaviors are directly perpetrated on the child). Let the child know that you will get the information to someone who can help deal with the situation, then report the incident immediately to the GSSN Service Center. If you, your troop leader, or GSSN staff decide to make a report to Child Protective

Services, you must be sure to tell the child that this is what you are going to do. If you don't inform the child that you will be making a report, and the authorities show up at her home, this could cause the child to feel betrayed and severely limit her willingness to seek help in the future.

It is also possible that a troop leader or other adult involved in the *Peace Begins at Home* Patch Program may disclose information about domestic violence taking place in her life. Tell the adult that the abuse is not her fault and that she cannot control it. Tell her that she's not alone, and that there are options available to her to help stop the violence in her home (shelters for battered women can provide safety for her and her children, courts can provide help with an Order for Protection against domestic violence, etc.). Respect the danger of her situation and keep what she says confidential. There is no mandatory reporting law for domestic violence in Nevada (unless the victim is a child or elder). You must respect the battered woman's autonomy and her right to make her own decisions about her situation. Tell the adult victim that she can call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (see Appendix for contact information) to speak with an advocate about her situation and to get referrals for community resources.

Please see the Appendix of this patch program for further resources to help a victim of domestic violence, including websites and phone numbers that will be useful in completion of the patch activities.

APPENDIX

National Domestic Violence Hotline

(800) 799-SAFE/7233

(800) 787-3224 TTY

www.thehotline.org

Domestic Violence Resource Center, Reno, Nevada

<https://domesticviolencecenter.org/>

Nevada Domestic Violence Services

<https://www.nevada211.org/domestic-violence-services/>

Nevada Coalition to End Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence (formerly Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence)

(800) 230-1955

<https://www.ncedsv.org/>

Advocates to End Domestic Violence, Carson City, Nevada

<https://www.aedv.org/>

Domestic Violence Stories/accounts

Break the Silence Against Domestic Violence

<https://breakthesilencedv.org/>

Domestic Shelters.org

<https://www.domesticshelters.org/articles/true-survivor-stories>

Cell Phone Donation

<https://www.alternativesdv.org/donate-cell-phones>



Power and Control Wheel Image courtesy of www.thehotline.org



Equality Power Wheel Image courtesy of mountcope.wordpress.com

