



Donate Life Organ & Tissue Donation Awareness Patch Program



Did you know that there are 115,000 men, women, and children waiting for lifesaving organ transplants? Even the largest football stadium in the United States couldn't fit the number of patients on the national transplant waiting list.

In collaboration with Donor Network West and Donate Life, we're proud to present the **Donate Life Patch Program** – a unique opportunity for Girl Scouts to explore how we can make a big difference in the life of transplant patients through organ and tissue donation. Just one organ donor can save as many as eight lives! By the end of this program, Girl Scouts will gain knowledge about organ donation and feel ready to inspire their friends, families, and communities to donate life.

This patch program is available for Daisies through Ambassadors and can be completed as an individual Girl Scout or as a troop.

Let's get started!

A Note for Parents and Troop Leaders

We know that discussing organ donation with younger girls may sound intimidating. Many of us are hesitant to talk about serious illness and death, especially with children. However, this patch program highlights the essential messages of life and generosity. The goal is for girls to finish the program with a sense of how important it is to spread the word about organ and tissue donation and the need for more registered donors.

It is likely that the subject matter will bring up additional questions from the girls. Keep in mind that information should be brief, simple, and given at a level that is appropriate for the girl's age. Below are some helpful resources that will help girls complete the patch program and can guide further discussions with your Girl Scouts.

- **Explaining Donation and Transplantation to Children**
<http://donatelifecalifornia.org/education/educator-resources>

- **American Association of Tissue Banks**
<https://www.aatb.org>

- **Glossary of Terms for Organ Donation and Transplantation**
<https://donatelifecalifornia.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Glossary-of-Terms.pdf>

- **Organ and Tissue Donation Facts**
<https://www.donornetworkwest.org/organ-and-tissue-donation-facts>

- **Common Myths about Organ and Tissue Donation**
<https://www.donornetworkwest.org/common-myths>

- **The Interactive Body: Organs and Tissues for Transplant**
<http://www.organtransplants.org/understanding/interactivebody/index.html>

- **Organ Transplants: What Every Kid Needs to Know**
<https://www.unos.org/wp-content/uploads/unos/WEKNTK.pdf>



Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts

Choose and complete at least three activities



1. **With the help of an adult, use a dictionary, encyclopedia, or the internet to learn what an organ is.** Once you find out, write it down here and then share it with your troop or a friend.

2. **Look up these organs and write down what they do:**

Lungs:

Heart:

Kidneys:

Liver:

What is an Organ Transplant?

Sometimes our organs don't work properly. This can be because of an illness or just something the person was born with. When this happens, doctors will decide if they can replace the organ with a healthy one from someone else. This is called an organ transplant!

3. Imagine that you or a loved one needs a transplant. **Think about the different emotions you would feel and talk about it with your troop members or other friends.**
4. **Make a list of ways that you can help someone after they have had an organ transplant or other big surgery.**

Junior Girl Scouts

Choose and complete at least four activities:



1. **Look up these organs and write down what they do:**

Lungs:

Heart:

Kidneys:

Liver:

Intestine:

Pancreas:

2. **Learn five facts about organ donation** and share them with your troop or family members.

3. **Learn the real life story of a transplant recipient.** Pick a story on Donate Life America's website (<https://www.donatelife.net>). Stories can be found on the *Stories of Hope* page and video stories can be found on the *Things You Can Do* page, both are in the *How You Can Help* section. Or, ask your local Organ Procurement Organization, Donor Network West, to connect you with a local organ transplant recipient. Contact info@dnwest.org to meet someone in person and hear their story. Share this story at your troop meeting.

4. **Write a short story about someone who receives an organ, eye, or tissue donation.**

5. **Make a poster promoting organ donation.**

6. **Find out what type of doctor does organ transplants.** What is their specialty? Once you know the answer, write it down here and share it with your troop or family members.

Cadette Girl Scouts

Choose and complete at least four activities.



1. **Learn five facts about organ donation** and share them with your troop or family members.
2. **Learn the real life story of a transplant recipient.** Pick a story on Donate Life America's website (<https://www.donatelife.net>). Stories can be found on the *Stories of Hope* page and video stories can be found on the *Things You Can Do* page, both are in the *How You Can Help* section. Or, ask your local Organ Procurement Organization, Donor Network West, to connect you with a local organ transplant recipient. Contact info@dnwest.org to meet someone in person and hear their story. Share this story at your troop meeting.
3. **Ask 15 adult family members or friends to consider becoming an organ, eye and tissue donor** and register their decision at www.DonorNetworkWest.org.
4. **Invite a transplant recipient to speak at your troop meeting.** Contact info@dnwest.org to get connected with a local transplant recipient.
5. **Research three common myths about organ donation.** Write them down here, and then share why these myths are untrue with your troop or family members.

6. **Find out how people on the organ transplant waiting list get matched with potential donors.** What are three things they look for in a good match?

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Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts

Choose and complete at least four activities.



1. **Learn the real life story of a transplant recipient.** Pick a story on Donate Life America's website (<https://www.donatelife.net>). Stories can be found on the *Stories of Hope* page and video stories can be found on the *Things You Can Do* page, both are in the *How You Can Help* section. Or, ask your local Organ Procurement Organization, Donor Network West, to connect you with a local organ transplant recipient. Contact info@dnwest.org to meet someone in person and hear their story. Share this story at your troop meeting.
2. **Ask 15 adult family members or friends to consider becoming an organ, eye and tissue donor** and register their decision at www.DonorNetworkWest.org.
3. **Invite a transplant recipient to speak at your troop meeting.** Contact info@dnwest.org to get connected with a local transplant recipient.
4. **Volunteer at a local event to promote organ, eye and tissue donation.** You can find local opportunities at <https://www.donornetworkwest.org/volunteers>.
5. National Donate Life Month is celebrated every year in April. **Create posters, flyers, or other resources that promote organ donation and share them in your community during this month.**
6. Careers in the organ and tissue donation field are one of the most challenging, rewarding, and rapidly changing areas of medicine. **Research the careers below and provide a brief description for each.** Which one would you find most interesting?

Transplant Surgeon:

Pharmacologist:

Lab Technician:

Nutritionist:

Immunologist:

Congratulations!

You made it! You are here at the end of the Donate Life Patch Program and we hope that you have gained lots of knowledge about organ donation and feel inspired to let others know how they can make a huge difference in the lives of others by becoming a donor.

Now that you've completed all the steps, grab your parent or guardian and [click here to fill out a brief survey](#) and share information about your experience with us. You can take your completed survey to the GSSN Shop to collect your official Donate Life Patch. Located outside of the Reno/Sparks area? Contact the shop at girlscouts@gssn.org or 775-322-0642 to request your patch.

Thanks to a generous donation from Prominence Health Plan the first 200 girls to complete the program will receive their patch for free!



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