



They Persisted Patch Program

by Girl Scout, Abbey Luongo

A special thank you to Girl Scout, Abbey Luongo, who came up with the idea and assisted in the development and design of the *They Persisted* patch program as a Daisy. Abbey way to be a go-getter, innovator, risk-taker, and leader!

Girl Scouts (all levels), please complete the following requirements.

Step 1: Discover

Begin your journey by reading about strong female leaders. Choose one or more books, newspaper articles, or magazines to read and to become educated about strong female leaders who made a difference throughout history. Suggestions:

Daisy / Brownie

- *She Persisted 13 American Women Who Changed the World*, Chelsea Clinton
- *Around America to Win the Vote*, Mara Rockliff
- *Bedtime Stories for Rebel Girls*, Francesca Cavallo and Elena Favilli

Brownie / Junior

- *Stompin' at the Savoy: The Story of Norma Miller*, Alan Govenar
- *A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phyllis Wheatley, Slave Poet*, Kathryn Lasky
- *Malala's Magic Pencil*, Malala Yousafzai

Cadette / Senior / Ambassador

Almost Astronauts 13 Women Who Dared to Dream, Tanya Lee Stone

Note: If you're interested in another strong female leader feel free to read about her instead.

Step 2: Discover (continued)

Work individually or in small groups (no more than four girls) to decide on a prominent female leader to research. This person can be an important historical or present-day figure, but must represent the values/interests discussed in the book or article (social justice, STEM, women's rights, equity, etc.). Consider any number of strong female leaders who have:

- made a difference in mostly male dominated fields
- made a significant contribution to the local community
- made positive policy changes
- faced many challenges and overcome them

Girls decide the industry, time period, and culture of the woman (or women) they would like to learn about.

Step 3: Connect

Research and present biographical information about the person(s) selected.

Suggestions or ideas to get you going:

- Watch an age appropriate movie about a famous woman or women.
- Invite a guest speaker to your troop who is an influential positive female role model.
- Visit the Girl Scout Museum in Waltham. It has vintage uniforms and program kits for rent, and museum volunteers can help with research on famous and influential women throughout Girl Scouts' history.

During your research, be sure to answer these questions about your chosen female leader:

- What did this female leader do that makes her a great example of a leader?
- How did this woman affect the future of women coming after her?
- Does this woman inspire you? If so, how?
- If she was born after 1912, was she a Girl Scout? If so, what can you find out about her Girl Scout experience?
- How did society or this women's community feel about what she was doing?
- How did the person make a positive change in their world?
- What struggles or challenges did they face?
- How were they treated by others?
- How did they persist and not give up?

Step 4: Take Action

Brainstorm ways in which you can build skills for persistence (positive self-talk, asking for support and help from allies, building female friendships and interacting with those friends in a way that builds up self-esteem and authenticity), then:

1. Share what you've learned with your community, or a younger Girl Scout troop by participating in a Take Action project of your choice.
2. Create a system/program/plan for your peers or younger girls to support each other, amplify voices and raise each other up so all girls can persist! For all Take Action projects, be sure to share with others to make the maximum effect. Here are some ideas for a Take Action project, or be inspired to create your own:
 - Start Thankful Thursday group with your friends, families or community where each Thursday you share positive things happening in your lives and/or encouragement to others via social media, emails, letters, notes, phone calls etc.
 - Once a month at your troop meeting or amongst your female friends host a shout out circle. Gather and sit in a circle, one by one each person in the circle share one positive thing about themselves to the group and one positive thing about someone

else in the group. For example, “I worked hard and got a great grade in English and Suzie really listened to me when someone wasn’t nice to me and gave me sound advice on how to deal with it.”

- Living Wax Museum: Girls portray women they have researched and attendees visit with each “woman” to learn more about how they have positively affected the world. Take your living wax museum to a local school, library, or assisted living center to share what you’ve learned.
- Public Mural: Girls paint or color mural in a public place (be sure to get permission from local authorities first), depicting the strong women they learned about. If a permanent option isn’t available use butchers paper to cover a wall to put up a temporary exhibit.
- Art Installation: Host an art show using any median (painting, drawing, sculpture, etc.) girl choose to showcase the strong women they’ve learned about.
- Social Media: Create a positive social network, podcast, or public service announcement and record it at your local cable studio, video or other creative expression.
- Host a reading of one of the books for younger girls listed above to help educate other young women about these inspiring female leaders at a school, library or location of your choice.
- Create and perform a short play about a strong female character that persisted. You can perform the play for other Girl Scouts or somewhere in your community.
- Project of the Girl’s Choice: Choose a project of your choice to showcase what you’ve learned.

Additional Requirement for Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts:

Have a discussion with your troop, family or a group of friends about what it means to be a strong female leader. Make a list of what your group decided makes up a strong women. Now think about you in the future when you’re an adult. Answer these questions:

- How can I become a strong female leader?
- What steps will I need to do to become a strong female leader?
 - Will I need further education, training or experiences to achieve this goal?
- Write a letter to yourself detailing the answers to these questions, how you see yourself becoming a strong female leader, and what changes in the world you will be working towards. Include a section in this letter that looks back to when you were younger. Note how what you’ve learned now would have been helpful when you were younger and how this knowledge may have influenced your early education, your choices and/or future plans.
 - Put this letter in a sealed envelope and open on your 20th birthday.

Congratulations you’ve now completed your They Persisted patch activity. Patches are available for purchase in [GSEMA shops](#).