

Blind Aware Patch

The Disability Awareness Patch must be completed first.

- ✚ Brownie Girl Scouts must complete six (6) activities including #12, which is required.
- ✚ Junior Girl Scouts must complete eight (8) activities including #12, which is required.



Purpose: To increase girls' knowledge and understanding of people who are blind or experience visual impairment.

1. Talk to an optometrist or other expert about the different types of vision impairment and their causes. Learn about possibilities for correcting this visual impairment and ways to prevent it.
2. Explore assistive technologies used in the workplace and at home for people who are blind or visually impaired. Your local library or the internet may have resources available for you to research this topic. You may also call the Braille Institute of San Diego at (858) 452-1111.
3. Take a field trip to a local library and explore the different ways people with vision impairment can use these facilities. Possibilities might include Braille books and signs, or books on CD.
4. Discuss different adaptations your troop could make to include a girl with vision impairment. How would you arrange your space or conduct meetings and activities to ensure she would be included? How would you travel together? How would you support her? What would you do if people made fun of her?
5. Consider signing up your troop as a Ready Troop (a troop that has increased knowledge and understanding of disabilities and people who experience them.) Registration forms are available online at www.girlscoutssdi.org/forms/readytroop and in all council resource centers. Ready Troop segments may be purchased in council stores and worn on the official uniform.
6. Invite a person who is blind or visually impaired to speak at a troop meeting about her lifestyle and any assistive technology she uses.
7. Learn about the Braille alphabet. Write a note to a friend, or a sister Girl Scout in Braille. The Braille Institute of San Diego at (858) 452-1111 can give you information as to where you can find resources for this activity.
8. Learn about different types of mobility for people with vision impairments. Explore cane mobility and the use of dog guides. Talk with someone who is familiar with the use of a dog guide program. You may contact Canine Companions for Independence at (760) 901-4300 for more information.
9. Explore the different resources available to people who are blind or visually impaired at a public service center. Explore public resources such as kneeling buses and Braille on elevators and telephones. Find other such resources in your community.
10. Read and discuss as a group a book about a person who is/was blind in order to learn about their lifestyle. Examples might include: *Knots on a Counting Rope* by Bill Martin and John Archambault (grades K-4); *Follow my Leader* by James Garfield (grades 1-6); *Seeing Lessons: The Story of Abigail Carter* by Spring Hermann (grades 4-7); *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: The Diary of Bess Brennan* by Barry Denenberg (grades 4-9), in addition to any books on Helen Keller or Louis Braille.
11. Create and complete a service project that will assist people with visual impairments in your community. For suggestions you may call the Braille Institute of San Diego at (858) 452-1111.
- *12. Create a visual or audio piece of work to demonstrate what you have learned about vision impairment. This might be a picture, a collage, a skit, a song or an essay. Discuss your creation and what you learned with a friend, a family member, or with your Girl Scout troop/group. Next, share the information with people your age outside of your troop, family and friends. You may present your visual or audio piece to another troop/group or perhaps display it in a public place such as your school library.