

## A Year in the Life of Juliette June Patch Program



Juliette Gordon Low loved animals. She had many different pets including dogs, exotic birds, Georgia mockingbirds, and horses. Her most beloved pets were a horse named Fire and a dog named Scout. There is a bench with a bronze statue of her and Scout at her Birthplace in Savannah. This patch program encourages girls to learn how they can be an advocate for animals and can continue Juliette's vision of being a 'Friend to Animals.'

### Friend to Animals!



Juliette Gordon Low loved animals. She had many different pets including dogs, exotic birds, Georgia mockingbirds, and horses. Her most beloved pets were a horse named Fire and a dog named Scout. There is a bench with a bronze statue of her and Scout at her birthplace in Savannah. She was always adopting and taking care of strays or pets of others she felt were not getting the attention they deserved. She always encouraged the good treatment of animals even including "A Girl Scout is a Friend to Animals" as the 7th part of the first Girl Scout Law in 1912.

This patch program encourages girls to learn about how they can make a difference in the lives of animals in their homes, their communities, and their backyards. By learning about how they can be an advocate for animals, girls can continue Juliette's vision of being a "Friend to Animals."

The activities are grouped by age level, with specific activities being required (these are noted by a \*). To complete the patch program, complete the number of activities required for each grade level. Girls are allowed to choose an activity in a different age group if it is appropriate for them.

## Daisy and Brownie Activities

Complete the \* activity and at least 2 additional activities

◆ \*Contact your local Humane Society to get a list of items that they need. Collect the items needed and arrange a trip to the facility to deliver the items. Talk with the volunteers/staff at the facility to learn how your donation will make a difference. If you don't have a local Humane Society, you can work with a different community organization that helps protect animals.

◆ Make arrangements to spend time reading to animals at the shelter. By reading with animals, you are developing your reading skills and helping animals learn social skills that will help them be adopted. Share your experience with other students in your class to encourage them to take time to read to shelter animals too.

◆ Pets need to go to the doctor just like people do. Visit a veterinarian's office or ask a veterinarian to come and speak to your troop. Ask questions about what types of care pets need to stay healthy. Learn about spay/neutering, routine vaccinations, preventable diseases, and what type of care pets need on a regular basis.

◆ Learn how to behave safely around animals. You should always ask an adult before going near any animal that is not your own pet. Learn about how to meet a new dog, what to do if a stray animal approaches you, and how to play safely with pets. Make a poster about what you learned to share with others.

◆ Learn about wildlife in your area. What types of animals are native to your surroundings? Find out how people impact their habitat and what you can do to make a difference. Visit any local Fish and Wildlife center to learn more about the animals that are around us or invite a naturalist from the state or local wildlife center to visit your troop meeting.

◆ Talk with your family about how you help care for your family's pets. Make a chart for one week of all the things you are doing to take care of your pet (feeding, bathing, walking, etc.) Talk with your family about what you learned about taking care of pets.

◆ If you don't have a family pet, learn about what types of pets you could have when you are older. Learn what types of care your pet would need daily and keep a journal for a week of how you would care for your pet each day.

◆ There are many kinds of animals that people wish they had as pets (wild animals and exotic pets). Learn about why there are some animals that should not be kept as pets, and what happens when the wrong type of animal is kept as a pet. Share what you learned with others.

## Junior and Cadette Activities

Complete the \* activity and at least 3 additional activities

◆ \*Contact your local Humane Society to get a list of items that they need. Collect the items needed and arrange a trip to the facility to deliver the items. Talk with the volunteers/staff at the facility to learn how your donation will make a difference. If you don't have a local Humane Society, you can work with a different community organization that helps protect animals.

◆ Animal shelters take care of 8 to 10 million lost, abandoned, and surrendered pets each year. They try to find homes for as many as they can but there are never enough homes for all of the

animals in the shelters. Visit a local shelter to learn about the importance of spaying and neutering animals. Find out how quickly animals can have litters, and how quickly this can become a serious problem. Ask what you can do to encourage people to adopt a pet rather than buying one.

◆ With your family's permission, learn how you can volunteer to be a foster family for a pet from the shelter. Foster families often care for pregnant or nursing animals and help shelter pets learn to socialize to help them be adopted. Encourage others to become involved in your local shelter's foster program.

◆ Learn about service animals. What types of service can animals provide (police dogs, dogs for people who are blind/deaf/health impaired, etc.?) How are they trained, what types of animals make good service animals, and how to people in need receive their animal? Talk to local businesses about the rules of service animal accessibility. Talk to someone who has a service animal (or do research on the internet) to learn how people should and should not approach a service animal. Share what you learn with others.

◆ Lost animals are a problem for shelters, community animal control officers and to the owners who are missing their pet. Find out what your community requires for animal identification (dog registration and tags, animal registry, etc.) Talk with a local vet to find out what other types of animal identification methods are more reliable (microchips, tattoos, etc.). Learn about ways owners can prevent lost pets. Make a poster, present a skit, or make a video to share what you learned with others.

◆ Girl Scouting has always had badges that have encouraged girls to care about animals. In the first Girl Scout handbook- How Girls Can Help Their Country- there were badges that girls could earn about horsemanship and being a naturalist. Find an old Girl Scout handbook and choose a badge with an animal theme that you would be interested in earning. Do at least one activity from the badge you chose. Is the activity still relevant today? How are things different now than they were when the badge requirements were written? How could you rewrite the activity to be meaningful to how we care for animals today?

◆ Talk with a volunteer or staff member at a local shelter or veterinary office. Learn about what their responsibilities are. Ask about any kind of training that they had to take to be qualified for their position. What do they feel is the most rewarding part of their position and what are their biggest challenges? Share with your troop what you learned and why you would or would not want to do the work they do.

◆ Visit a pet store to learn about what products they offer for pet owners. Do they have a type of pet food they recommend over another? Why? Ask about the toys and enclosures they sell for pets. Why is it important for pets to have toys and a safe space? Where do they get the pets that they are selling from? Do they offer programs with the local shelters to help people adopt animals that need a home? Find out about what makes their business successful and what they see as trends in the pet industry.

## Senior and Ambassador Activities

Complete the \* activity and at least 3 additional activities

◆ \*Contact your local Humane Society to get a list of items that they need. Collect the items needed and arrange a trip to the facility to deliver the items. Talk with the volunteers and staff at the facility to learn how your donation will make a difference. If you don't have a local Humane Society work with another community organization (animal shelter, veterinarian office, animal rescue program, etc.) whose mission is to care of animals.

◆ \*Volunteer at a local animal shelter, nature center or veterinary office for at least a month. Share what you learned about caring for animals with others in your community. Let others know about the need for volunteers and encourage others to volunteer also. Find a way to recognize the volunteers you worked with to let them know they are appreciated for all they do.

◆ Learn about careers that involve working for or with animals. Choose at least two careers that you would be interested in and find out what types of training and education is required for each position. Learn about the salary, job duties, hours you would work (would you be on call), is the job seasonal (naturalist at an environmental center) and other specifics to the position you are interested in. Look into what schools offer the training you would need and what the cost would be for your education.

◆ Take a pet training class with your pet or visit a pet training class to learn about what skills pets can learn. Why is it important for pets to be properly trained? There is a saying – “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” Ask about when is it a good time to train your pets. If an older pet is adopted from a shelter, is it possible to retrain it? What skills does a good trainer need to have to help train both the pet and its owner? Share what you learn about pet training with others.

◆ Use activities in this patch program, badge activities or other activities to host an event for younger girls to learn about the importance of caring for animals. Make sure to keep the activities hands on and enlist others to help you run the activities. Provide girls with resources they can take home to share what they have learned during your program.

◆ Work with your local shelter, veterinarian, or Humane Society to find out what people should have for supplies before taking a pet home (food, toys, pet pads, etc.). Create ‘goodie bags’ that can be donated to people who are adopting a pet to provide them with items they can use to welcome home their pet. Have a ‘wish list’ donation boxes placed at local businesses, churches, schools, community centers, etc., to collect the items that are needed. Make sure to be clear about how this will benefit the shelter and animals in need of homes.

◆ Write an article for your school or local newspaper about the need for animal adoption in your community. Share facts that you have learned along with your personal feelings for why it is important for others to take action. Make sure to include ideas of how people can help.

◆ Learn about programs offered through your state and local fish and wildlife organizations. Participate in a program that will help you learn about wild animal conservation, the need for wildlife management and what you can do to protect the environment for wildlife. Make a list

of other programs being offered for younger girls and share that with other Girl Scouts in your community.

• There are many preventable diseases that affect animals, like rabies. Find out how to volunteer at a local rabies clinic and help promote the clinic by creating posters and fliers that can be distributed around your community. If your community doesn't have a yearly rabies clinic, reach out to a local veterinarian to help make one happen.

• Livestock are the animals that help provide us with food (milk, meats, eggs, cheese, etc.). Visit a farm to learn about how they care for their livestock. What types of food do they need to provide their animals? What kinds of medical care do the animals need? What kind of diseases do they have to be aware of? Learn about all the work that goes into farming and what would life be like if we didn't have farmers to provide us with the food we need.

• In our country, animals have rights and protections. Learn about what laws and protections are specific to your state. Choose another country and find out what their laws and protections are for animals. How do their laws compare to our laws? How does their society view animal protection? What more can we do to educate others in the need for global animal protection laws? Learn about global animal protection organizations to see what actions they are taking to make a difference for animals around the world.