

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

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Girl Scouts enjoy a deep connection to the natural world. Gardening teaches us to be careful and responsible and allows us to appreciate the beauty of colorful things that we have worked hard to grow. This month's patch focuses on enjoying and protecting nature.

### Flower Power!



Girl Scouts enjoys a deep connection to the natural world. From flower and food gardens at home, to adventurous hikes in the outdoors, Girl Scouts learn to be protectors and admirers of nature. The Juliette Gordon Low Southern Magnolia tree grows in Savannah, in honor of Juliette for founding the Girl Scouts. A seedling from the Juliette Gordon Low Southern Magnolia was planted at the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, Florida, in the hope that more organizations around the world will garden in honor of Girl Scouting. As companion plantings, chocolate mint was chosen for its low-growing and sprawling fragrant foliage that brings to mind thoughts of Thin Mint cookies. This garden also includes daisies in a nod to Juliette's childhood nickname.

From their beginning as Daisies, Girl Scouts blossom into leaders of courage, confidence, and character. This month's badge program will have you sowing seeds, exploring nature, and learning about what you can do to protect the environment.

**Discover – Girls will discover themselves and the world around them.**  
Complete three discover activities.

- 🌿 Go on a walk-in nature. Some options are a local park or on a trail in the woods. Use your phone or a camera to take pictures of some different flowers or other plants. When you get home, use the internet to identify the plants you took a picture of.
- 🌿 Visit a botanical garden or arboretum. These are very interesting to visit because the different plants are labeled.
- 🌿 Learn about plant taxonomy- that's the system by which plants are given their scientific names. [Biology4Kids.com: Scientific Studies: Taxonomy](https://www.biology4kids.com/scientific-studies/taxonomy) Learn the scientific names of some plants that live in your neighborhood.
- 🌿 Make a miniature fairy garden  
[How to Make a Miniature Fairy Garden in a Container | HGTV](https://www.hgtv.com/ideas/miniature-fairy-garden-in-a-container)
- 🌿 Plant a flower bulb or a seed and help it grow.
- 🌿 Learn about the parts of a flower and their function.  
[Parts of a Flower and their Functions - Biology| Mocomi Kids](https://www.mocomi.com/parts-of-a-flower-and-their-functions)
- 🌿 Try to list as many plants that are used for food as you can. What food plants are grown around where you live?
- 🌿 Learn about different careers that work with plants. What does a botanist do? How about a florist? How many other jobs can you find where people work with plants?
- 🌿 Learn how to press flowers. Then keep them in an album or even frame them!  
[5 Ways to Press Flowers - wikiHow](https://www.wikihow.com/Press-Flowers)

**Connect – Girls care about, inspire, and team with others.**  
They care about the effect that human influence can have on the environment and seek to learn more about how the natural world is important to human survival and what they can do to protect it. Complete three connect activities.

- 🌿 Talk with a professional who works in an environment career. This can be a park ranger, a Division of Natural Resources officer, an environmental scientist, or even a member of a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting nature. What are some other careers that involve nature?
- 🌿 Help an elderly neighbor tend their flower garden or food garden.
- 🌿 Volunteer to do some light landscaping for a local charity, nonprofit or church. Plant a few flowers or even a small flowering tree.
- 🌿 Create a bouquet of flowers for someone that you care about. Make sure that you are allowed to pick the flowers from wherever you pick them!
- 🌿 Learn about the symbolic meanings of different flowers. Most flowers are symbolic of a different sentiment or emotion. [Meanings of Flowers | About Flowers \(safnow.org\)](https://www.safnow.org/meanings-of-flowers)

🌿 Using what you learned about flower meanings, to a florist or a local grocery store that sells bouquets, and based on the flowers that are in the bouquets, and determine if the different arrangements of flowers have a special meaning.

🌿 Some flowers eventually turn into fruits – apples are a good example. Find out about a flower that eventually turns into a fruit, and use the fruit to make a healthy snack for your family, friends or at the troop meeting.

🌿 Some flowers and herbs have been used for medicine for thousands of years. Learn about some different flowers/herbs that some people believe off a medical benefit.

### Take Action – Girls act to make the world a better place.

Learn what you can do to protect the planet and ensure flowers and foods are around for everyone to enjoy. Complete three take action activities.

🌿 Plants are essentials to human life, and bees are essentially to plant life. Learn about the pollination process and how honeybees help plants reproduce.

🌿 Find out what is threatening the world honeybee population and take action to help honeybees survive and thrive. In Your Own Backyard – Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?

🌿 Learn about citizen science and how everyday people can help collect information data for scientists. Sign your troop up for Bumblebee Watch or find another citizen science project to help with that involves plants. Bumble Bee Watch

🌿 Learn about how pollution threatens flowering plants. Make a presentation like a poster or YouTube video to help others understand the problem. Get creative!

🌿 Go on a litter walk in a local park or other public area. Pick up as much litter as possible. It is much easier for other people to enjoy nature when there isn't trash all over the place.

🌿 Volunteer at a local community garden and help grow produce to help feed the hungry.

🌿 Choose a flower that you like and give a talk to your troop, class, or family about the history of that flower, its symbolism, what climate it grows, etc.

🌿 Learn about climate change and what effect it can have on plant and animal life.