Silver Lining Patch Information

Goal

Silver Lining’s goal is to increase connections through new friendships and increase positive changes for people living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and state supported living centers.

Project Patch

Many residents of long-term care facilities are away from family and friends and often don’t receive many visitors. By taking a little time, you can bring a sense of community and companionship and make life a little happier for residents.

Criteria

☐ Any Girl Scout Troop may participate. Girl Scouts of all ages are welcome.
☐ The troop selects a nursing home, assisted living, or adult day care and makes contact with the activity director.
☐ The Girl Scout Troop, or any Juliette Girl Scout and an adult, makes a one-year commitment to visit at least four (4) times a year
☐ Once you visit four times, you write a short story about what you have learned, and then you earn your patch! (Leaders please request your patches by March 15, 2015).

Tips to get started

Contact the Activity Director at the facility. You may need to contact more than one facility in order to accommodate your group’s dates and time constraints.

To discuss with the Activity Director

Introduce yourself as the troop leader. Tell about your troop—number of girls, ages, interests, other projects they have done etc. Ask the director about the facility. How many residents make their home there? How many residents participate in activities? Do they have favorite activities? Does the facility have any age requirements for volunteering? What time of day is best for volunteering? Ask if the facility has any volunteer activities that they need help with—crafts, sing-a-longs, game night etc. Explain the types of activities your troop would like to do and ask if it is something, their residents would enjoy. Could the Activity Director to provide a facility tour prior to the first visit? Does the facility have the supplies for the
activity, or will your group need to provide them? What is the best way to contact the Activity Director? (email/phone) Is there a preferable time of day to contact them?

Activity Ideas

There are many ways your troop can get involved with the residents of a facility. To help guide your efforts, check with the facility’s activity director to discuss residents needs and ask their guidance in coordinating the activity.

Here are some projects to start your ideas:

- Make and deliver Valentine’s Day cards
- Plan a day of service based on the facility needs provided by the activity director
- Spend one-on-one time with residents
- Help decorate for holidays and special occasions
- Lead a sing-along
- Perform skits
- Play board games or put puzzles together
- Send all residents hand-made birthday and holiday cards
- Plant flowers or butterfly gardens outside residents’ windows
- Start a quilting or knitting group
- Record resident’s histories (audio or written)
- Host a dance
- Read with residents
- Help write letters
- Invite a resident to teach a craft or a song
- Go caroling in the hallways or lobby
- Make “Welcome” cards or signs for new residents
- Make or decorate picture frames for residents to display their favorite pictures
- Plan and perform a puppet show for the residents
- Make seasonal door wreaths for residents’ doors
- Host an art group so residents can draw or paint
- Read aloud stories or poems
- Create or maintain residents’ libraries
- Help with sewing projects
- Perform a show for the residents with actors and sound effects
- Host a Bingo game or help with current ones

Add your own ideas, too!