

Blind/Visually Impaired Ribbon

Girl Scouts for All Appreciation Series Patch Program Ribbon 1

Purpose: To increase knowledge and understanding of people who experience blindness or visual impairment.

- Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies must complete two activities.
- Girl Scout Juniors must complete three activities.
- Girl Scout Cadettes must complete four activities.
- Girl Scout Seniors & Ambassadors must complete five activities

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 visually impaired. Your local library or the internet may have resources available for you to research this topic, including the Braille Institute at <http://www.brailleinstitute.org>.

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. Invite a person who is visually impaired to speak at a troop meeting about her lifestyle and any assistive technology she uses.

6. Learn about the Braille alphabet. Write a note to a friend, or a sister Girl Scout in Braille. The Internet has several sources for the alphabet, including a lesson on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqQ3gdE7ks0>.

7. 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. Contact the Austin Dog Alliance at <http://www.austindogalliance.org> for more information.

8. Explore the different resources available to people who are 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.

9. Read and discuss as a group a book about a person who is/was visually impaired 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.

10. Create and complete a service project that will assist people with visual impairments in your community. Central Texas is home to the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 1100 West 45th St., Austin, TX 78756, (512) 454-8631. In addition, the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Division for Blind Services program assists adults and children who are visually impaired. To find the nearest office call the DARS Inquiries Line at 1-800-628-5115 or check the website at <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dbis/offices/OfficeLocator.aspx?div=4>

**Service projects may also be created to benefit the TSBVI GS Troop, please contact the GSFA Committee at gsfa@gsctx.org for more information.*

**The Girl Scouts for All Appreciation Series Patch Program must be completed first.*

**Created in friendship with resources from Girl Scouts San Diego.*