



## Service Dogs Patch

### For: All Girl Scout Levels

**Objective:** Girl Scouts will discover the role of service dogs in people with disabilities

**Guidelines:** \* Girl Scout must complete 6 activities, including the all the starred (\*) activities and at least one from each section.

Order patch: <http://www.advantageemblem.com/fun-patches/S-2123-service-dogs.asp>

### Discover:

\* Research a service dog organization and answer the following questions:

1. What is some of the etiquette needed when meeting a working service dog or a puppy in training?
2. What are the biggest obstacles facing service dog training facilities?
3. What breeds of dogs are most frequently selected to become service dogs? Why are those particular breeds chosen?
4. What important factors are considered when matching a disability with a service dog?
5. How long does it take to train a service dog?
6. What is the average life of a service dog? How old are they when they begin working as a service dog?
7. What happens to the dog when they are at the end of their "working life"?

\*Research the difference between a service dog and a therapy dog. Share with your troop what you learned.

Visit [www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org) and view the puppy cam.

Visit [www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org) and read graduate stories (link on Home page) and/or watch some of the videos (under News & Media) about service dogs.

### Connect:

Sponsor a patch day to teach other Girl Scouts about service dogs.

Invite a representative from the service dog organization you researched for the above questions to a troop meeting to learn more about the organization they represent. (Can be video conference or in person.) Find out how many service dogs they have in place, how long is the waiting list, how to apply for a service dog, what types of assistance dogs are trained, and what are the responsibilities of the person receiving a service dog.

Do an internet search and find three unusual places where a service dog is allowed, and a regular pet is not. Share these places with your troop.

Read a book about a service dog. Your local library should have a variety of books on this subject. Draw a picture of what you learned, create a skit, play or puppet show to share with a younger Girl Scout troop/group.

Make a poster or power point presentation to help tell people about rules of etiquette regarding service dogs. Share the poster or power point presentation with your class, another Girl Scout Troop or other group.

## Take Action:

Visit a facility that trains service dogs or a local puppy raiser.

Research how your troop can help a service dog organization then implement a plan to reach your goal. Such as, sponsor a collection drive of supplies needed at a training facility and mail or deliver items.

Donate a book about service dogs to your local library. Coordinate with the children's librarian a time to read the book during story-time, prepare an activity for the children and leave the book as your gift to the library.

Make a public service announcement video and post on social media.

Research how to get involved in puppy raising with Canine Companions for Independence. Encourage a member of your family to participate.

Suggested Organizations: (Not an inclusive list)

[www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org) - Canine Companions for Independence

[www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org)

[www.assistancedogsinternational.org](http://www.assistancedogsinternational.org)

[www.4pawsforability.org](http://www.4pawsforability.org)

Suggested Books: (Not an inclusive list)

Numeroff, Laura. Raising a Hero, 2016

Curtis, Patricia. Graff: The Story of a Guide Dog. New York: Loderstar/Dutton, 1984.

Siegel, Mary-Ellen. More than a Friend- Dogs with a purpose. New York: Walker & Co., 1984

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