

## Love is Ageless Patch Program

The purpose of this patch program is to bridge the gap between different generations. It is designed to pair a Girl Scout with a Senior Friend for sharing talents, knowledge, and friendship. This patch can be completed as a troop or as an individual – some girls may be shy or uncomfortable and may prefer to complete the program in a group setting or in pairs. Girls can find Senior Friends at retirement facilities, senior associations, or within their own families. It is recommended that girls do not pair up with someone whom they see on a regular basis, like a grandmother who lives in the same home with the girl. A new relationship should be formed and developed. This is a wonderful opportunity to begin a friendship that can last a lifetime.



### **DISCOVER:**

- ❖ Get to know your new Senior Friend. Spend some time discussing your family backgrounds, heritage, religious preferences, histories, customs, awards, accomplishments, and interesting facts about yourselves and your families. Be sure to listen to your Senior Friend as well as talk about your own life.
- ❖ Ask your Senior Friend about the popular fashion when she was young. Ask her to describe the hairstyles, clothing trends, footwear, hat styles, and other fads that were popular when she was a teenager. Describe the fashions that are in style now.
- ❖ Talk to your Senior Friend about how technology has changed since she was a girl and share with her the ways you hope it will change in the future. Tell her about some of the ways you use technology every day.
- ❖ Share with your Senior Friend about Girl Scouting. Tell her about the activities you take part in with your troop and as an individual – and be sure to include the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Ask her if she was a Girl Scout. If she was, find out about how Girl Scouting was different then. If she wasn't a Girl Scout, ask her about what kinds of things she did for fun.
- ❖ Learn about careers from your Senior Friend. Ask her about her first job, her career training and her challenges in the working world. Tell her about the future careers you're interested in and why.
- ❖ Show your Senior Friend an outline of a typical school day for you and your friends. List the different classes you are required to take and describe them. Tell her about the elective classes, sports, clubs and activities that are available to students at your school. Ask her to describe a typical school day and course load when she was a student.
- ❖ Ask your Senior Friend to describe the different places she has lived or visited and to show you any pictures or souvenirs she may have from those places. Tell her about the places where you have lived or visited and places where you would like to visit.

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**Girl Scouts**

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## CONNECT:

- ❖ Choose a holiday that is special to your Senior Friend and share it with her. Talk to her about what part of the holiday she enjoys the most and observe some of its customs together. Maybe you can help her decorate or prepare for the holiday.
- ❖ Spend some time listening to music that your Senior Friend enjoys now or that she listened to as a girl. Some classic music has been transferred to CD and many old records can be found at libraries or online. Share a recording of the music you like to listen to. Be aware that an older person may not wish to listen to a whole rap album – be sensitive to this.
- ❖ Make a card for your Senior Friend for her birthday, a holiday, or just a day to say she's special and send it to her in the mail.
- ❖ Make a healthy treat for your Senior Friend and share it with her. If possible, make something together from one of her favorite recipes or from a recipe that you create together.
- ❖ Work with your Senior Friend to create a collage to show what you are like and the things you enjoy now and what your Senior Friend enjoyed when she was younger.
- ❖ Make up an activity of your own that will enhance your new relationship with your Senior Friend.

## TAKE ACTION:

- ❖ Complete a service project in your Senior Friend's neighborhood or community. Help with yard work, pick up trash, or complete another task that may otherwise be a challenge to your Friend.
- ❖ Teach a younger troop about the challenges faced by the elderly population in our community. Help them explore ways to be considerate and helpful towards elderly individuals in their communities.
- ❖ Research the resources and services available to elderly individuals in your community. Create a resource book that can be given to your Senior Friend or to a retirement community.
- ❖ Come up with and complete your own service project to assist your Senior Friend or other elderly individuals in your community.

If you enjoyed working on this patch, you may also be interested in the following badges:

- Caring & Sharing Try-It
- Listening to the Past Try-It
- Across Generations badge
- My Heritage badge
- Generations Hand in Hand IP
- Women Through Time IP

