

# Shelling Patch Program

## INTRODUCTION:

One of the truly unique things about living in Southwest Florida is the abundance of sea shells that can be found.

In completing this program, girls will:

- ✦ Gain knowledge about the sea shells of Southwest Florida.



## TO ORDER THE PATCH:

Girls must complete eight requirements to earn the patch; this patch can only be earned once.

## DISCOVER:

- ✦ Many people collect sea shells. They are pretty, shiny, and great for art projects. Did you know that animals live in shells? List at least three marine animals that have shells, what it looks like, and its size. You may also create an art project or find out what the interior of a shell looks like.
- ✦ You will find the "best" shells if you go shelling during low tide. Find out about how tides work and what causes low and high tide. How does the moon affect tides?
- ✦ What is proper attire to go shelling? Why is it important to wear sunscreen?
- ✦ Find out what the rules and regulations are in your area for collecting shells. Is it okay in the area you are shelling in to take live shells?
- ✦ What are the three different areas of a beach you will encounter when you are shelling?
- ✦ Make a display of your shell collection, identify as many as you can using a field guide, and keep track of where you found the shells.
- ✦ Research how the beaches in your area came to be. Are they natural or man-made? Where did the sand come from?
- ✦ What else have you found evidence of while you have been exploring for shells? Identify shells, egg cases, crabs, grasses, and sea weed.

## CONNECT:

- ✦ With your troop make a craft of some type with shells you have collected.
- ✦ Meet with different people who work in shelling.
- ✦ Visit a shell museum.

## TAKE ACTION:

- ✦ Learn the effects an oil spill would have on shells, the beach, and other marine mammals.
- ✦ Educate others about live shelling and how it harms the animals and the environment.

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