

GIRLS ON TARGET PATCH PROGRAM

Girls on Target brings home the old saying that girls shoot better than boys!
Shooting sports in America are rooted deep in our history.
Learn about the history of firearms, laws, interesting careers, even how to shoot!

Steps:

1. Safety First!
2. Discover our rich heritage
3. Explore Shooting sports, The Do's and the Do Not's
4. Investigate the latest Technology
5. Aim, Focus, Fire!

Purpose:

When I've earned this patch, I'll have a safe regard for firearms.

Tips Before You Take Aim:

Your leader must submit the proper paperwork to Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio Council to get approval before you can begin this hands on patch!

Step 1: SAFETY FIRST:

As you work through this step, your focus will be very important. Safety can never be ignored around firearms. You will use what you learn here to guide you into step 5.

CHOICES – DO ONE:

1. **Research and read about or discuss with a firearms instructor how a firearm works.** Do some fun research on who invented the gun and why the first ones were not the most accurate. Take a look at some old firearms and learn how they work compared to modern ones. Find out the "Ten Commandments" of shooting and memorize them. What special things must you wear and have when shooting? Find out why you always have to wash your hands after you shoot!

OR-----

2. **Visit and tour a local approved Shooting Range.** Attend a firearm safety class at the range and learn about how they enforce safety while shooting. Talk to them about "reloads", as well as, lead and copper ammunition.

OR-----

3. **Create a collage expressing the necessary safety measure you have to take before shooting.** Make in the shape of a wheel, use a computer or paint it! Be creative in your use of material.

Step 2: DISCOVER OUR RICH HERITAGE:

Did you know the Chinese invented gunpowder! Firearms have made a huge transformation over hundreds of years. Learn how to identify simple styles of guns used today and enrich yourself into the world of the Colonist, the Pioneer, the Cowboy and more!

CHOICES – DO ONE:

1. **Visit the National Rifle Museum, a local Firearm Museum, or even a large Hunting Store.** Talk to a knowledgeable employee about the changes firearms have made over time. Try to set up a tour of their special collections.

OR-----

2. **Research who invented the first usable firearm and how it has been made safer and better.** Why were the first firearm's not the most accurate? When was the first bullet invented- here is a clue: it was way before the firearm was created! What whacky bullet shapes can you find? Make a timeline drawing on how they have evolved and include what they are made of.

OR-----

3. **America was founded out of the American Revolution.** Read about the difference between the British method of firing and the colonists' method. Look at firearms from the 1600s to today. What has it that made them better? How many types of guns are being used today? Take into account the special firearms that only the military and police use.

Step 3: EXPLORE SHOOTING SPORTS, THE DO'S AND THE DO NOT'S

Shooting sports today have a large place in our nation. From hunting, to marksmanship programs and competitions, home defense, and animal population control. Laws vary from state to state and political voices are always being tossed around to try to gain control over use of guns for one reason or another. Discover why this is so controversial.

CHOICES – CHOOSE ONE:

1. Meet with someone in pro-shooting sports and one who is anti-shooting sports. Find out what the great debate on firearms is all about. What laws are people supporting or fighting, in regards to firearms, and why?

OR-----

2. **How many Shooting Sports organizations are in the United States?** Find out what programs these organizations offer for women and children. Are these programs available in your community? Maybe you can even get a college Marksmanship Scholarship. Find out how.

OR-----

3. **There are many famous female shooters throughout our history.** Check out the Olympics. Since 1896, Olympians have been competing in the shooting category. What other category in the Olympics involves shooting? Dig up America's female western heroes and learn what women wore to shoot in back in the western days through today. Create a poster celebrating your favorite woman shooter and put it up at a local gun or police range or gun store.

Step 4: INVESTIAGE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY:

Technology advances in everything, and firearms are no exception. From sling bullets, musket balls, to pointed bullets and from matchlocks, flintlocks, to percussion caps and beyond, learn the exciting changes that have made shooting a safer sport than ever.

CHOICES – CHOOSE ONE:

1. **Do some investigating at a gun store** and discover the latest technology. There is nothing like seeing the real thing. Discover how a laser site works, the value of the guns weight, how to safely handle a firearm and why. What is a bench rest and why do I need to rest when I am shooting! Have a gun tech take one apart and show you its guts and how it should be maintained.

2.

OR-----

3. **SASS (Single Action Shooting) is the cowboy way.** Find out from a SASS member why they love this sport and what makes it so much fun. Try to attend

a local SASS competition. You may want to wear your best cowboy hat! Find out why they love the old technology.

OR-----

4. Instructors, Schools, Police, Military and many more careers involve firearms. What do they do in these careers and how do they prepare for them. What technology do they use the most and why? Also, contact a local Sheriffs office and learn what a CCW is.

Step 5 : AIM, FOCUS, FIRE!

Firing a weapon is a huge responsibility and should never be done outside of a professional setting. Jump into the world of marksmanship and find out why it is so popular.

WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDER, JULIETTE LOWE:

“...Scouts should know how to load and fire a gun or other firearm so as not to be at a loss for means of defense should an emergency arise. It is one of the best means to “be prepared”...small rifle affords excellent training for the hand and eye!”

CHOICES – CHOOSE ONE:

1. Participate in a local “Women on Target” Program. Contact the NRA or like organization for more information.

OR-----

2. Join a local junior rifle or junior trap club and become part of a shooting team!

OR-----

3. Contact a local council approved gun club and earn the GSSGC “Girl On Target” patch. Experience first hand with professionals how to shoot a .22 rifle in one evening.



NOW THAT I HAVE EARNED THIS PATCH I CAN GIVE SERVICE BY:

1. Work with local authorities to organize a local clean up day in ill-legal shooting areas from trash and debris
2. Work with an organization involved with K-9 police dogs that wear Kevlar vest and help bring awareness to the community about their service.

3. Help make people aware of anti-victims programs in your community. Do some online research to discover what types of programs are available in your community.

I AM INSPIRED TO....



FUN FACTS:

The Winchester House

The widow of William Winchester, of Winchester Repeating Arms Company, built a crazy Victorian house in northern California. It is now a tourist attraction. The home has 47 fireplaces and is seven stories high! Visit the mansion or research it online.

Mountain Man Rendezvous

The tradition of the rendezvous was started by General William Ashley's men of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company in 1825. What began as a practical gathering to exchange pelts for supplies and reorganize trapping units evolved into a month long carnival in the middle of the wilderness. Today, it continues as men and women celebrate together and keep our history alive. Check one out in your local area!

Famous Women Shooters:

Annie Oakley- First superstar of America
Calamity Jane
Fabulous Topperweins- husband and wife team
Margaret Thompson Murdock, Olympian
Kim Rhodes, Del Monte, Ca- Olympian

Smallest and Largest Pistols:

The smallest pistol in the world is only two inches long. The largest is a black powder pistol shooting a 70 caliber bullet. The largest revolver in the world is The **Pfeifer Zeliska .600 Nitro Express Zeliska revolver**. So some online research and find out more. What is the difference between a revolver, rifle, pistol, muzzleloader, and shotgun! Bet you can't figure out how many different types of each one there are! Too many to count!

Animals and gunfire:

Did you know they make Kevlar vests for K-9s? Do some research online to find out more about how K-9's participate in dangerous jobs. How these animals are protected from gun fire while working.

Journeys this program relates to are:
It's your world-Change it!
It's your story-Tell it!