



Sewing Fun!

Feather. Blanket. Straight. Cross. Satin. Zig-zag. Chain. Running. Back. Whip. Slip. Knotting.

These are not yoga poses! These are stitches that you can learn as you become a sewing master!

Sewing is an essential skill that is practical and fun! Lose a button? No need to ask mom for help! You can fix it yourself! Want to create a personalized gift for someone? Sew it!

Make your own bedroom accessories, stuffed animals, pencil cases, tote bags, blankets, pillows, doll clothes, design your own fashion. Dream it! Sew it!

How to earn the Summer Reading patch the Girl Scout way:

Steps:

1. **Discover**—Gather the materials you need and practice a few stitches.
2. **Connect**—Complete your first sewing project.
3. **Take Action**—Put your new skill to use!

Materials Needed:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need a few things:

- basic sewing supplies (See Step 1 for list or purchase an embroidery kit)
- fabric: scraps or embroidery cloth
- sewing resources: You can either go online with an adult, ask a professional, or visit your public library
- a box or basket to use as your sewing kit
- a quilting hoop
- buttons

STEP

1 Discover the basics of sewing.

Before you start a project, it's important to have all the tools you may need on hand. An easy way to gather everything is to create a sewing kit. Here are some items that you might want to have before you begin:

- needles
- thread
- embroidery floss
- needle threader
- scissors
- seam ripper
- pins

Optional:

- measuring tools
- marking tools
- painter's tape/colored tape (This is great for learning to sew straight lines!)

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Use your resources wisely to learn about hand sewing—you can find books about different kinds of stitches at your local library, or with the help of an adult, go online! There are websites and videos that can show you how to do easy, intermediate, and complicated stitches. Try out some stitches—See how many you can do!

- Daisies—can you complete 4 different kinds of stitches?
- Brownies—can you complete 6 different kinds of stitches?
- Juniors—can you complete 8 different kinds of stitches?
- Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors—can you complete 10 different kinds of stitches?

STEP 2 Complete your first sewing project.

For the first challenge, you'll need a quilter's hoop, a piece of fabric, buttons, embroidery floss, and your sewing kit. Create a button art project (look online for more inspiration). Sewing buttons onto a taut piece of fabric is a great way to learn how to sew buttons and you'll be making a great art piece for your room or for a special gift! (You can leave it in the quilter's hoop or put it in a special frame).

Or, visit a craft store and purchase an embroidery or cross-stitching kit. Many of these kits will come with all the supplies you need to complete your project. It's a great way for those who don't have a lot of supplies to begin.

DIY: SPRING BUTTON FLOWERS



STEP 3 Use your sewing skills!

Mend three items. Someone lost a button? Break out that sewing kit. Want to mend a hole in your pants? Do you have a stuffed animal that needs repairing? Try a slip stitch!

Or, upcycle an outfit! It's amazing how altering a garment can make it new and exciting again. Boring old t-shirt? With a few tips and tucks, you have a snazzy, one of a kind piece of designer fashion. Pants getting a little short around the ankles? Turn them into shorts! Add a patch or embroider a pattern onto the pockets! Everyone will be asking where you got it!

All done?

CONGRATULATIONS! You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Sewing patch.



After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at **800-248-3355** to purchase your patch. A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash or tunic.