



# Honoring Our Veterans

With nearly 22 million veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces living among us, it's likely that at least one of these American heroes is a family member of your family or a close friend. Though these men and women deserve our recognition and thanks every day, November 11 is Veterans Day, the official day that we recognize our veterans and their service to our country.

For many years Girl Scouts have shown appreciation for our military men and women with **Operation: Sweet Appreciation**, which is a part of the Girl Scouts' annual product sales of cookies, nuts, and candy. In addition, Girl Scouts also send sweet treats to local food pantries, shelters, hospitals, and other organizations through the Gift of Caring program. These are some of the ways that Girl Scouts show their appreciation to our veterans. There are many other ways show appreciation to our veterans who are on active duty, have retired, and even those who have died.

How to earn the Honoring Our Veterans patch the Girl Scout way:

## Steps:

1. **Discover**—Learn about the different branches of the military and what it means to be a veteran.
2. **Connect**—The United States takes pride in their military and honors their veterans, so learning about their important traditions like flag ceremonies and songs can help you better understand their time in the service.
3. **Take Action**—Honor a veteran by decorating their grave site or sending a card.

## Materials Needed:

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

- resources (With an adult, you can either go online or visit a library or bookstore.)

## STEP

# 1 Discover the different branches of military and veterans.

- List the five branches of the military. Learn at least two facts about each branch.
- What is a veteran? Learn about a veteran's organization in your area and what they do.

## STEP

# 2 Learn about the United States military flag ceremony and military song.

- What is proper flag ceremony etiquette? Local American Legions and VFW's are good resources. If possible, participate in a flag ceremony at a troop meeting, at an event, or in your community.
- Each branch of the military has a song. Find the music and lyrics for one and sing it!

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## STEP 3

### How can you honor a veteran?

- Work with your local VFW or American Legion to lay a wreath on Veterans' grave sites at Christmas, or place a flag for Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, or Independence Day.
- Send a card or letter over the holiday season to an organization that serves veterans.

#### All done?

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Honoring Our Veterans 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.

*\*Patch shown may be substituted with similar patch, based on availability.*