

Winter Survival

Winter is here and it's time to get prepared!

Winter weather can be severe, last several days, and impact your day-to-day life. The best way to be safe in the winter is to be prepared. This patch will guide you through creating a winter emergency action plan for you and your family.

For the adults: Though these topics are not new to Girls Scouts, please keep in mind that some of the topics and issues included in this patch program may be sensitive for some girls. Keeping in tune with the emotional and cognitive levels of the girls and maintaining flexibility in activities is key.

How to earn the Winter Survival patch the Girl Scout way:

Steps:

1. **Discover**—Learn about winter safety topics.
2. **Connect**—Create a winter emergency action plan and kit.
3. **Take Action**—Share your winter emergency action plan with others.

Materials Needed:

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

- Resources: online websites such as safekids.org and redcross.org or resources at your local library
- Supplies for your winter survival kit

Step 1

Learn about winter safety topics.

With an adult, head online and research:

- What the difference is between a winter weather alert, winter storm outlook, winter weather advisory, winter storm watch, or winter storm warning?
- What should you do in a winter storm?
- What supplies do you need?
- What do you do after a storm?

Step 2

Make a winter emergency action plan and kit.

Activity 1: Make a plan.

Planning is the first step to a calmer and more assured disaster response. Making a disaster plan focused on winter weather and emergencies will help you feel prepared. The entire family should take an active role in creating the family disaster plan.

- Work with your troop or family to make a disaster plan focused on winter weather and emergencies.
- Discuss the steps needed to create a disaster plan and prepare to put these steps into action. Use a checklist to learn what is important in creating a disaster plan. You can find checklists online from organizations and government agencies, including the Red Cross.
- Adapt this winter emergency action plan for you and your family's needs.

Step 2—CONTINUED

Activity 2: Build a kit.

What you have on hand when a winter storm hits makes a big difference. Emergency kits are important when you may not have access to regular sources of supplies. You can find lists for a disaster supply kit online from organizations and government agencies.

- What should be in an emergency kit and when will it be used? What is the difference between a “ready to stay” kit and a “ready to go” kit?
- Research what items you would include in an emergency kit for different seasons and different emergencies.

Step 3

Share your winter emergency action plan with others.

Once your winter emergency action plan is created and you have prepared to put it in action, share it with others! Let family members who are not in your household know about your plan and help them create their own.



All done? CONGRATULATIONS!

You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Winter Survival 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.