



Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, Inc.
8 Mountain View Avenue
Albany, NY 12205
(518)489-8110 Fax (518)489-8065
www.girlscoutsneny.org

Halloween Harvest Patch Program

Fall is a favorite time of the year for many people. The leaves are turning gold and crimson and there is the sharp bite of frost in the air. Farms and orchards are collecting the last of nature's harvest. Forest animals are busy gathering food and preparing for the long winter ahead. And with fall, comes the greatly anticipated event for children – Halloween!

Here is an opportunity to try different activities from foods, crafts, nature study, and community service to celebrate the end of summer and the coming of winter. You may do this program more than one year (adding segments); make sure you do different requirements each year. When you have completed the patch program you may purchase patches from the GSNENY Store.

Special thanks to Louise St. Jacques for this program.

Requirements

Activities must be completed from at least 3 different categories.

Daisy - 3 activities
Brownies - 4 activities
Juniors - 5 activities
Cadettes - 6 activities

A. FOOD

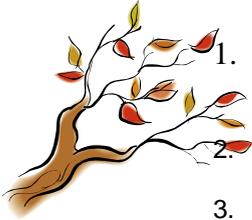
1. Buy or pick apples. Make applesauce, an apple snack, or apple pie to share with the troop.
2. Bake pumpkin seeds to serve at a troop meeting.
3. Make several potato stamps. Using them with non-toxic paint, create designs on newsprint, cardboard, or paper.
4. Discuss the food pyramid/choose my plate. Ask the girls to make a list of foods they eat in each group. Prepare a healthy snack to serve to the troop or people visiting the troop.
5. Cut out pictures of different foods and create posters of the food pyramid/choose my plate. Take these posters to a younger troop and discuss "eating right". Bring or prepare on site a healthy snack to share with the younger children.
6. Learn how to preserve fruit or vegetables by methods such as drying, freezing, or canning. Plan to use them at a meeting later in the year.



B. ARTS

1. Collect pumpkins for table decorations. Paint or cut out faces on the pumpkins.
2. Make a bird feeder for your feathered friends. Feeders can be made from recycled plastic jugs, milk cartons, pine cones, or something of your own design.
3. Try your hand at leaf rubbings. Collect fall leaves and press them between layers of newspaper for a few days. Setting them on a hard surface, place the paper over the top and rub gently with the side of a peeled crayon. Make several different types of leaf rubbings to create a design on one paper.
4. Collect several different kinds of fall seeds and create a mosaic picture, or seed jewelry.
5. Make a wooden bird house to hang at home or the troop meeting place.
6. Make a Kitchen Witch. (Directions and pattern included).

C. SCIENCE



1. Take a fall walk and collect various leaves. Using a tree book, identify the name of the tree they come from. Press and dry the leaves, or seal in wax paper with a hot iron.
2. Make an appointment to visit a farm or orchard and learn about fall harvest procedures.
3. Choose 2 or 3 animals and research how they prepare for the winter.
4. Research and discuss: which trees lose their leaves in winter and which do not, how and why does this happen, what are the differences in these trees. Find the definitions of these words: gymnosperm, angiosperm, hardwoods, softwoods, deciduous, evergreen, broad-leaved trees and needle-leaved trees.
5. Visit the library to find books on the history of Halloween. What is the significance of the event, why do people wear costumes, why are goodies handed out; do other cultures also celebrate Halloween?

D. COMMUNITY

1. Participate in a fall food drive for a needy agency in your community.
2. Plan Halloween caroling at a local nursing home or senior citizen center. Go in costume if possible.
3. Plan and carry out a Halloween party for a younger group of children. This could include a hospital, day care center, Girl Scout troop, or other group in your community.
4. Participate in a "decorating your community event". Find out if your village sponsors store fronts or city park areas to be decorated for Halloween. Choose an area and set up a display with such things as scarecrows, ghosts, pumpkins, etc. If not, perhaps a local restaurant or Town Hall would welcome the holiday decorations.
5. Plan ahead for the coming spring and decide on a public area in your town to plant flowering bulbs. Be sure to obtain permission from the city hall, library, park, or which ever site you choose. Try to select a variety of bulbs that will bloom throughout the spring months.



E. ACTIVITIES



1. Organize a games event; you may wish to invite non Girl Scouts to join. Plan it for outdoors, and include several active (running) games for everyone. Be sure to have refreshments for everyone.
2. Get together and write a scary Halloween story.
3. Make up a Halloween play and present it to your parents or another group of children.
4. Plan a hayride for your troop. (Be sure the appropriate paperwork is completed and the farm is a Council approved site).
5. Organize a Halloween party with a theme. Plan costumes, activities, and refreshments to fit your theme.

Kitchen Witch Directions

Materials needed

- straw broom 10 inches
- black fabric approximately 11" x 16" for body
- orange fabric approximately 6" x 11" for cloak
- black fabric approximately 8" x 16" for hat
- gray yarn 60" for hair
- nylon stocking 3 ½" x 3 ½" for face
- 1" x 2 ½" fabric for bow tie
- poly-fil 1-2 ounces (may use nylon stockings)
- 1 strand red yarn/embroidery floss
- 1 set wiggly eyes/buttons (sew on)
- 3/8" black thread



Instructions

Body (cut two in fabric pattern)

1. sew sides A together, sides B together, sides C together
2. turn work right side out (press seams – optional)
3. stuff with poly-fil
4. match seams together (seams down front & back of witch body)
5. sew straight across bottom of triangle (side D) using hidden slipstitch
6. pull opposite point corners together in overlap fashion and stitch together (not to witch body)
7. slide broom under

Face

1. sew side 1 to side 2, turn right side out
2. stuff with thin layer of poly-fil (1/4")
3. position seam down center of back, tuck in and stitch top end
4. tuck in and stitch bottom end
5. sew eyes on front face side
6. loop stitch nose and wart

Loop stitch: pull needle & thread up from back side of head to a spot that would be the bottom of the nose, about 1/2" below center of eyes. Go back into nylon and make a straight stitch. Go back into nylon and come out 1/2" from first stitch. Separate the two strands of thread, pull enough nylon and poly-fil between the two strands to make a nose. Slip the strands of thread under the needle and pull the needle all the way through the head. Make the thread taut around the nylon and poly-fil. Take another stitch to secure.

7. straight stitch two stitches to form V shaped lips



8. base stitch face to witch body

Hair

1. loop a 60" piece of yarn into 5" lengths
2. tie together at center
3. sew center of hair to top center of witch forehead

Cloak

1. take fabric piece 6" x 11"
2. sew 1/4" seam around all sides
3. taking an 11" side, do a gather stitch to length to 6"
4. sew each end of gathered stitch to 0 mark on pattern

Bow Tie

1. cut one pattern
2. stitch one gathering stitch around center
3. sew to body under the chin

Hat brow (cut two in hat pattern)

1. sew 3/8" periphery of seam allowance
2. fold sewn circle in quarters, snip peak for opening. Measure opening by desired hat position over top of witch body
3. turn right side out
4. slip over top of body



Attach thread to top of body to hang witch.

Some good websites offering Halloween Crafts for Kids:

[Witch Crafts for Kids : Ideas to Make Halloween Witches with Easy Arts and Crafts Instructions, Projects, & Activities for Children, Teens, and Preschoolers](#)

[Kids' Halloween Crafts | Martha Stewart](#)

[Over 200 Free Halloween Crafts Projects at www.allcrafts.net](#)

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HALLOWEEN HARVEST PATCH
Program Evaluation

Leader's name _____ Troop # _____ Troop level _____

Address _____
Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone [H] _____ [W] _____ Service Unit _____

1. Why did you choose this patch program? _____

2. Did the troop enjoy working on the patch? _____

Why? _____

3. How many girls completed the patch program? _____

4. Did the troop practice preserving fruits or vegetables? _____

Which ones? _____

5. Did the troop take a field trip? _____ Where? _____

6. Did the troop do a community activity? _____ If so, what was it? _____

7. Which activity seemed to be the favorite of the girls? _____

8. Which activity was their least favorite? _____

9. What other activities would you or the girls like to see added to this patch? _____

Patches may be purchased from the GSNENY Store.
Evaluation forms may be submitted to Linda Stephen, lstephen@girlscoutsneny.org