

## INCHWORM OF SERVICE PATCH PROGRAM INFORMATION

Service is the basic pledge of the Girl Scout Promise. To encourage girls and the adults who guide them to fulfill that commitment, the Program Service Task Force is continuing the Inchworm of Service Patch Program which was adapted in 1977 with the permission of Bergen County, where the program was originally developed.

Definition and Explanation of Inchworm of Service: Service that is given as a part of a Girl Scout troop, patrol, or interest group. They are projects or activities, which benefit other Girl Scouts, a group or individual in the community, or another organization.

The Inchworm Patch Program is not meant to be recognition for all types of service that a girl may give. *Service that she gives as an individual or as a part of a school, community, or a church group or as a member of another organization may not be counted toward her Inchworm Patch. Service to one's own family or paid service may not be counted toward inchworm.*

Inchworm service must not conflict with the policies or standards of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. or the Delaware-Raritan Girl Scout Council. It is particularly important that girls do not solicit money for activities such as walk-a-thons, bowl-a-thons, and bike-a-thons and that girls do not participate in direct fund-raising for any other organization. Girl should be limited to projects that do not involve the direct solicitations of money. Please refer to "Safety Wise".

In other ways, girls should be encouraged to give other types of service to worthwhile organizations and projects. Girls may choose to bake, serve refreshments, make posters, serve as hostesses or guides, make tray favors, make prizes, visit nursing homes or baby-sit for example.

Guides for earning Inchworm: This patch program is designed to be a three-year, once-a-level award. A girl may complete her required hours and receive the Inchworm Patch and Rocker in less than three years. However, she cannot earn the patch and rockers more than once in each program level.

If a girl earns her Inchworm during her second year as a Junior, for example, she may not earn another Inchworm for that level. Those extra hours are considered part of her commitment to Girl Scouting and, therefore, should be recorded on her permanent record.

The only time hours may be carried to the next level is if a girl does not complete the required number of hours during a program level, but she must then earn the higher total of hours. An example would be a third grader who has 12 hours at the end of third year Brownies. She carries those 12 hours into Juniors, but she must earn 13 more hours for a total of 25 during her three years as a Junior. When she has reached 25 hours, she is then entitled to the Inchworm Patch and the Junior Rocker.

Inchworm is recognition of a girl's participation in the service given by her Girl Scout troop, patrol, or interest group, but some girls may finish before others because they have been more active in the service project activities, which have been offered. Only those who have completed the required number of hours should be awarded the patch and/or rocker. To help girls earn enough hours, it is suggested that one or two ongoing service projects of the arts and crafts type can be included each year in troop program so that girls may work on them at various times. The Hand-in-Hand puppets or hospital tray favors are two suggestions for this type of ongoing project.

Program and Recognition Structure: The program consists of a patch and four program level rockers. To be eligible to wear the patch and rocker a girl must earn "inches" as follows:

Brownie	-	Must serve 15 Inches (hours) to wear the Patch & Brownie Rocker
Junior	-	Must serve 25 Inches (hours) to wear the Patch & Junior Rocker
Cadette	-	Must serve 35 Inches (hours) to wear the Patch & Cadette Rocker
Senior	-	Must serve 35 Inches (hours) to wear the Patch & Senior Rocker

When a girl completes the required number of hours, she is awarded the patch and the appropriate program level rocker. She is given the patch and rocker only the first time she earns Inchworm. At every level after that, she receives the appropriate rocker only. She wears only one patch, but she may earn the right to wear as many as all four program level rockers, if she starts as a Brownie Girl Scout.

At no time, may a girl go back to a level she has already passed to earn the rocker for that level. For example, a Junior may not earn a Brownie Rocker even though she has earned enough service inches during her three years as a Junior to equal both the Brownie and Junior requirements of 40 hours combined. She receives only the Junior Rocker.

Each girl may make an Inchworm from construction paper or poster board to record her inches as she progresses. She may then color in an inch for each hour of service she gives. Another idea is to have each girl make a worm head from a cotton ball or pom-pom to represent her first inch. Wiggly eyes and chenille stem antennae will make it more appealing. After that a cotton ball or pom-pom segment may be glued on for each inch earned. A sample inchworm is included.

The Leader's Responsibilities: As with any other program, the adult supervising the girls has some obligation to see that the program is a successful learning experience for the girls. For Inchworm, the leader is expected to:

1. Explain the guidelines on this information sheet to the girls.
2. Keep accurate and complete records of the hours given by each girl and to see that her inchworm service is recorded on her Individual Girl Record and passed onto her next leader.
3. See that service given conforms to the policies and standards of both Girl Scouts of the USA and the Delaware-Raritan Girl Scout Council.
4. Explain the procedure for approval to the girls.
5. Keep a worksheet of troop Inchworm Service to be passed on with the troop copy of the Inchworm Application.
6. Complete an Inchworm Application in triplicate. (may be photocopied.)
7. Submit all three copies to your Service Unit Director for review by the Service Team. After review by the Service Team the Service Unit Director signs all three copies. The Service Team retains one copy and return two copies to the Troop Leader. The Troop Leader retains one copy and presents the signed third copy at the Service Center at the time she purchases her patches.
8. Patches and Rockers are available in the Girl Scout Shop at the Service Center. When purchasing patches and/or rockers at the shop, present your signed third copy to the shop salesclerk, who will then turn it over to the Membership Team for your area. If ordering patches by mail remember to enclose the third signed copy with your order, along with your payment plus shipping and handling.

## INCHWORM OF SERVICE APPLICATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete both sides of form in triplicate or make two copies of original.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Zip

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Service Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of girls who have earned Inchworm      \_\_\_\_\_ # of adults\* who have earned Inchworm  
 \_\_\_\_\_ # of hours they have served collectively      \_\_\_\_\_ # of Inchworm Patches being ordered  
 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Inchworm Rockers being ordered Level: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Registered adults who have worked with the girls on these service projects for the required of number of hours may also be awarded the patch and rocker.

\*\* If the troop worked from 3-5 p.m. for example, you would write two hours.

List and describe all service projects worked on by those receiving Inchworm at this time. Be sure to tell what the girls actually did, not just the location or event. Star the most successful service project.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE PROJECT	WHO BENEFITTED FROM IT	HOURS SPENT**	DATE

