

Beach and Bay the Gulf Coast Way
Patch Requirements for Cadettes,
Seniors, and Ambassadors



To earn this patch, you will need to complete at least two activities from each of the four patch sections, and one additional starred activity. The starred activities are activities that have been taken from a younger grade level that you will need to take 'one step farther'. This will be shown by a star at the beginning of the 'next step' sentence. Have Fun and Good Luck!

* * *

Sea and Shore:

When you go to the beach, take a look at the sand. What are the different textures, composites, etc. of the sand? Try and build something, like a sandcastle, at the areas with different sand composites. Also, how would weather affect the sand's complexion? What else will affect this?

Go to a local or state beach with a visitor's center, or the National Seashore. In the Visitor's center, participate in the activities they have there. Then take a walk on the beach there. How is this beach different from public beaches? What things do you notice here more than on regular beaches?

- * Go to a beach near you and take a walk. What things do your senses tell you? *Do two of your senses combine to tell you something? (Ex. Tastes like something smells)
- * Take a walk on the beach and look for different shells. *What do different shells do? Did they have owners? Etc. For example, what kind of shells were homes for hermit crabs, or regular crabs? What about sand dollars?

Water Works:

On the beach, look at the water. How clear is it? What would affect how clear the water is? What is the scientific name for how clear the water is? (_ _ _ _ _)

Everyone has seen seaweed from the outside, but have you ever looked on the inside? Look through seaweed in the water near the waters' edge and completely away from the water. What different organisms live in the different locations?

Get your feet wet! Go out into the water, and walk slowly trying not to splash. What animals live at different depths? Why do some animals live deeper than others?

* Science Time! Gather a group of different substances, like PVC pipe, wood, or metal. What will salt water do to these different substances? *Why? **

[** This can be an at home experiment, or an on-the-beach observation.]

Safety Stuffs:

Everybody knows what a hurricane is, right? So, think of all the common facts about hurricanes, what are some of the uncommon facts? Now make one. Get one water bottle, food coloring, water, cooking oil, a small rock, and sparkly stuff. Fill the water bottle 2/3 of the way with water, 1/3 of the way with oil. Put in the sparkles a rock. Twist the cap on tight*, and swirl around to make a "hurricane in a bottle". Was the rock picked up?

* Riptide. . . What is it? What does it do? What affects riptide? When would riptide be stronger or weaker? For a safe demonstration of riptide, fill a large container- like a sink, bathtub, or fish tank- with water. Put your arm in strait up and down. Now move your arm back and forth a few times, then stop moving your arm. Does it seem like your arm is trying to be pulled more than one

way at the same time? This is basically what riptide does. *Why is it dangerous?

- * Go to an outdoors-equipment store. What are all the different flotation devices they have? Which floats are designed specifically for safety? *How are they different from toy floats?

Clean to be Green:

Get together in your troop, and make a skit about why we need to keep beaches clean. Present to your troop *or* Brownie or Junior troop.

Pass it on. When you're at school, or just about anywhere, pass on the message to keep beaches clean, and why it is important.

- * Think about it. You see trash on the beach all the time. You know it's bad, but why? Make a poster or sculpture with some pieces of trash to tell why it is important to keep the beaches clean.
*What can be affected by trash on the beach?

- * Make some SWAPS. These are Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere. They are made to share with others, but make sure you keep one. Make some 'Go Green' SWAPS. *Then, present and explain your SWAPS to a Brownie or Junior troop. Make sure you make enough so that you can give one to each girl.

This patch program was created by Mary Hediger as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award project.

"Beach and Bay the Gulf Coast Way" patches can be purchased from any of the five GSGST service centers for \$2.00 each. Call 1-800-929-5229 for more information.