



A Susie Forest – A Patch Program

This patch program has been developed in honor of Susie Stephens. Susie was born in April of 1965. Susie was a Girl Scout in our Council. She participated in many activities including a trip to Japan with her troop. Her experience in Girl Scouting led her down many interesting paths in life. Susie's life was cut short in March of 2002 when she was killed crossing a street in a crosswalk.

The "Susie Forest" patch represents the movement her mother Nancy MacKerrow has started to plant trees in Spokane in honor of Susie. Nancy's goal – to have a whole forest of Susie Trees. Girl Scouts Eastern Washington & Northern Idaho was honored to have two trees planted as a result of this program.

To earn the **Susie Forest Patch**, the All Levels activity and Age level specific activity must be completed from each category. You may substitute any of the Other activities for an Age Level activity.

Courage

The following excerpt is from one of the many journals Susie kept during her life.

I was looking for adventure when I quit my job in late 1998. I bought a round-the-world ticket and loaded up the bike. On New Year's Eve, a few days before leaving the U.S., I wrote a resolution on the first page of my travel journal: "Courage." I thought of my resolution when convincing myself to climb my first three pitch rock climb, board a six-seater prop plane, rappel over a waterfall and pitch my tent alone in the remote outback.

All levels: What does the word courage mean to you? Discuss as a group, journal or creatively portray the meaning of this word in the art composition of your choice.

Completed _____

Daisy: Talk about why things scare us. Understand it is okay to be scared.

Completed _____

Brownie: Think about something that scares you and find two things you can do to make it less scary.

Completed _____

Junior: Identify one thing you would like to try at this time and do it!

Completed _____

11-17: Although Susie's life was short in time, she accomplished many things most people would never have the chance to try. Name 3 things you would like to try in life that take courage and identify the steps necessary to make those things happen.

Completed _____

Literacy

Susie had a love for the written word. This love kept her reading about her interests and writing about her experiences and travels. Her life has been preserved in the many journals she kept documenting her travels, struggles, and relationships.

All levels: If you don't have a library card go to the library and get one. Learn how to use the catalog system. Find a book that interests you and check it out.
Completed _____

Daisy: Design a poster about your favorite book.
Completed _____

Brownie: Spend 15 minutes a week for a month (outside of school) reading.
Completed _____

Junior: Learn about a specific tree. Use what you learned to write a poem about that tree. Utilize the poetic composition of your choice.
Completed _____

OR

Keep a journal for 1 month.
Completed _____

11-17: Go to a local day care or child care center and read to the children once a week for 4 weeks.
Completed _____

OR

Keep a journal for 1 month.
Completed _____

Other: 1. Participate in your local library's summer reading program.
2. Read 1 book off the GSUSA book club list.
http://www.gogirlsonly.org/spotlight/book_club/default.asp
Completed _____ #1 or #2

Environment and Transportation

Susie was actively involved in making the world she lived in a better place. She believed in keeping her environment and the environment of others, man and nature, clean and taken care of. Susie utilized alternate forms of transportation whenever possible such as ride sharing, bicycling, and walking. She was active in recycling and developing programs for other to do so also.

All Levels: Participate in Green It and Clean It
Completed _____

Daisy: Help someone in your area with their yard work.
Completed _____

Brownie: Learn the basic rules of pedestrian safety.
Completed _____

OR

Participate in a Service project with a focus on recycling.
Completed _____

Junior: Design a pamphlet or bookmark on street trees for the Parks Department to use as an educational resource. Submit proposals to the Girl Scout Council prior to sending to the Parks Department for approval.
Completed _____

11-17: Write a letter and submit it to your local paper for the Letters to the Editor section about one of the following topics:

- a. Helmet Safety
- b. Positive Impact of Trees on the Environment
- c. Volunteering in your Community
- d. Pedestrian Safety

Completed _____

OR

Attend riding classes which focus on bicycle safety and road sharing. Contact your local Parks and Recreation Department for community resources available.

Completed _____

Other: 1. Work with your neighborhood council to find a city right of way and someone who is interested in planting a tree on that right of way and caring for it. Assist in the planting of the tree. The Parks Department has guidelines for this activity and there is often a monetary donation involved. Neighborhood councils may be able to assist with the donation.
Completed _____