



## UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES

The values and behaviors of any one group are only different, not superior, to those of any other group of people. Remember, this is a sensitive issue, and discussions on this subject can be uncomfortable. When you're a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) you do great things. You believe in taking action and righting wrongs.



In this patch program, you'll Discover words you may not be familiar with; you'll Connect with different cultures and races; and Take Action to not just be a bystander.

To earn the patch: Daisies/Brownies must do two activities from each section. Juniors must do one activity from each section plus one additional activity. Cadette/Seniors/Ambassadors must do one activity from each section plus two additional activities of your choice.

### Discover

- Look up the definitions of racism, diversity, pluralism, inclusion, and xenophobia. Create a chart with words that are synonyms.
- What's institutional racism? What is societal racism? Is there a difference?
- Create a "Word Cloud" using words that describe race.
- Discover the history of another culture or race and share what you have learned.
- Research current issues and discover how/if racism has changed through the decade and century.
- The Most Beautiful Orange: (Materials: oranges (fruit), markers, stickers, towel/cloth, bowl/plate) Delegate an orange for each girl or family member. Give the girls markers or stickers to decorate their oranges. Tell the girls you'll be having a contest to choose the most beautiful orange. When the oranges are decorated, place them in a bowl and send them to the judges. Tell the girls that the judges couldn't decide on a winner, so have the girls describe their individual orange and then have them peel their oranges. Once the girls peel their oranges, explain that what matters isn't on the outside; inside, we're all the same with the same feelings and needs.

### Connect

- Choose a famous female civil rights leader and read about her. What do you have in common with her?
- Visit Detroit's Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History virtually (or in person, if it's safe to do so). Listen to musical performances, scholars speaking, or conversations that drive change.
- Talk to a person from outside of your troop about a different race or culture and ask them how they celebrate holidays. What traditions are important to them? What are their feelings? What would they want you to know about their race?
- Research another culture or race to find out differences, or visit an ethnic or multicultural grocery store/bakery and sample foods you've never tried.
- Make a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion collage.
- Explore inclusion and diversity by playing the Tight Hands Game with a group. Hold hands with each other and stand in a circle. Designate a few people as "outsiders." The outsiders must try to get into the circle through spaces between people, while everyone else tries to keep them out—no pushing or shoving allowed. When the outsiders get into the circle, choose someone new to be an "outsider" until everyone has had a chance. Discuss how it feels to be an outsider.

## Take Action

- Go through each of the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law and assign yourself an action item on ways to promote diversity and inclusion. Talk about what inclusion means. Focus on the last line of the Law and talk about what it really means to be a sister to fellow Girl Scouts.
- Create a poster to show support of another culture or race and display it in your window or share with others in another way. Try not to use caricatures or stereotypical images that could be hurtful.
- Create a puppet show showing cultural acceptance.
- Write a letter to your elected representatives urging them to support anti-racist policies.
- Make a short video of the importance of understanding different races than your own. Share your video with your family, friends, or troop.
- Stand up for someone who's being bullied or profiled. Be their friend and get to know them and their feelings.
- Attend a peaceful protest or rally in your community.

## Some Resources

The National Museum of African American History and Culture's "Talking About Race" resources for parents and caregivers

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race/audiences/parent-caregiver>

The Conscious Kid

<https://www.theconsciouskid.org>

Embrace Race

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/teaching-and-talking-to-kids>

Tips for civic engagement and taking action through the G.I.R.L Agenda

<https://www.girlscouts.org/girlagenda>

Additional tips from Raising Awesome Girls on how to talk to her when she encounters violence on the news and social media

<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/raising-girls/happy-and-healthy/happy/extreme-violence-and-children-parenting-advice.html>

Talking to Kids About Racism in the Media

<https://youtu.be/jHMrJUz7t6Y>

## More to Explore

Good Neighbor Badge

Celebrating Community Badge

Finding Common Ground Badge

Public Policy Badge

# Together.

girl scouts   
of southeastern  
michigan

