

The *"Paint with Us"* Patch Program



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The *“Paint with Us”* Patch Program

An Overview

The “Paint With Us” Patch Program is the brainchild of Maureen Van Herpe, a Society of Decorative Painters member since 1994 and a member of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for nearly forty years. Maureen’s visionary program, which she has already implemented successfully in her home state, brings these two organizations together at the local level with the objective of fostering the artistic abilities of Girl Scouts while promoting a better understanding of decorative painting and SDP. Because community service is at the very heart of scouting and an important component of SDP chapter membership as well, the “Paint With Us” Patch Program is also envisioned as a way for these organizations to create decorative artwork together and, in turn, realize ways in which their art can contribute to the growth and wellbeing of their communities.

The interaction of the Girl Scouts of the USA and the Society of Decorative Painters is key to the program’s success. By bringing local Girl Scout troops together with area SDP chapters, the program benefits from the best that both organizations have to offer: the unique abilities and unlimited potential of their own members. Working within the framework outlined in these pages, scout leaders and SDP volunteers will work one-on-one to develop programs that join the unique talents of SDP members with the needs and interests of participating troops.

The “Paint With Us” Patch Program is a win/win proposition for two respected organizations and a potential civic windfall for communities of all sizes and demographics across the USA. But its success depends upon the participation of talented individuals from both organizations. We’ve developed this guide as a resource for those of you who wish to learn more; it’s our hope that, once you’ve looked it over, you yourself will be one of those talented members who help to ensure the program’s success by accepting our invitation—Paint With Us.

Open Letter to Girl Scout Troop Leaders

The “Paint With Us” Patch Program is a collaborative program pairing Girl Scouts troops with nearby chapters of the Society of Decorative Painters, the largest and best-respected organization of decorative painters in the world. The objective of this patch program is to foster the artistic abilities of Girl Scouts under the guidance of SDP volunteers. Participating Girl Scouts, in turn, will be instructed in decorative painting techniques, in the rich heritage of decorative painting and of SDP itself, and in the many ways in which decorative painting can be used as a public service tool.

What is decorative painting? SDP defines it as “a diverse art form that utilizes a variety of techniques and media to decorate functional and nonfunctional surfaces.” Media used in decorative painting can include oil painting, acrylic painting, watercolors, colored pencil, and more; and the choice of surfaces used is limited only by the painter’s imagination. The “Paint With Us” Patch Program is a fun and engaging way for participants to investigate these different approaches and to explore their own imaginative potential in the process.

Since its inception in 1972, the Society of Decorative Painters has been promoting decorative painting in all of its forms. Although the Society’s leadership is headquartered in Wichita, Kan., it’s the SDP’s regional chapters that are the lifeblood of the organization, just as the Girl Scouts is sustained by its myriad local troops. The “Paint With Us” Patch Program allows troop leaders and SDP volunteers from the same area to work together directly, developing activities that draw on the unique talents of the artists and addressing the interests of the members of your troop. For instance, an SDP artist who has recently illustrated a children’s book about onions might work with a Girl Scout leader who herself has experience in farming. Together the two might decide to incorporate that subject matter into an activity in which onions are portrayed in different media. How are the onions the same? How are they different? In which media did the scouts feel that it was easiest to paint an onion? Which was hardest? Why?

Summaries of the eleven patch activities are provided in a later section of this guide. As you look them over, note that the guidelines have been developed with “roominess” in mind—that is to say, we hope to encourage both SDP volunteers and Girl Scout troop leaders to steer the activities toward their own strengths and interests. What we ultimately envision is a patch program in which Girl Scouts learn about the history of decorative painting, SDP volunteers work side-by-side with members of the troop to create original artworks, ideas are exchanged about the way such activities might be used to benefit the community, and, in the end, participants use what they’ve learned for their council’s or community’s betterment.

Decorative painting is an entire world that many of us have never taken the time to explore, and you’ll be doing your scouts a favor by piquing their interest in it early in their lives. But it’s never too late to discover the decorative arts, and who knows? Maybe you’ll awaken the decorative painter hiding in yourself too!

More pertinent and important information is contained in “Quick Facts for All Participants” on page 4. Please read this page before continuing.

The “Paint with Us” Patch Program

Open Letter to SDP Members

The “Paint With Us” Patch Program is a collaborative effort pairing volunteers from Society of Decorative Painters chapters with participants from Girl Scouts troops in or near their area. The objective of the program is to offer participating Girl Scouts the chance to earn a “Paint With Us” patch by completing activities related to the decorative arts, its history, and SDP. SDP volunteers are encouraged to work directly with Girl Scout troop leaders to develop these activities, and emphasis is placed on showcasing each volunteer’s special talents as an artist. The written guidelines for activities, which can be customized to meet the needs of the troop leader and SDP volunteer, appear elsewhere in this guide.

Founded in 1912, the Girl Scouts of the USA is an organization of approximately three million young women and one million adults whose program emphasizes such virtues as honesty, fairness, courage, and compassion. On their uniforms, Girl Scouts wear insignia that recount their accomplishments; *patches*, such as the “Paint With Us” patch, are supplementary insignia developed to honor participation. To earn a “Paint With Us” patch, a Girl Scout must complete six activities. Two of the six are “starred,” meaning that they *must* be included among the six; these mandatory activities are *The History of the Society of Decorative Painters* and *SDP Chapters in your City or Region*. The remaining four activities may be chosen by the participant.

Far more important than the patch, though, is the chance that the “Paint With Us” Patch Program provides for Girl Scouts of all ages to become acquainted with decorative painting, its history, and SDP. It’s hoped that the program will awaken the creative impulse in its participants and introduce them to the means by which to express it: acrylics, oils, watercolor, colored pencil, and so on. Our hope is that the “Paint With Us” message will be taken for its literal meaning, too—that SDP volunteers and Girl Scouts will create artwork side-by-side.

As an SDP chapter member, you already understand the many ways in which decorative art can improve the community in which it is created; such ongoing SDP programs as the Treasure Box Program and Paint for Freedom underline SDP’s commitment to making positive changes in the towns and cities across the globe in which our members live and paint. What better service could you perform for your Society than to pass this lesson along to a new generation? Because ultimately that’s the most important goal of the “Paint With Us” Patch Program, and, as a group already committed to fairness, courage, and compassion, the Girl Scouts of the USA are the perfect audience for it. We hope that you can find the time to share your talent and knowledge. Lend a hand!

More pertinent and important information is contained in “Quick Facts for All Participants” on page 4. Please read this page before continuing.

Quick Facts for All Participants

Here are some quick facts to remember about the program. Members of both the Society of Decorative Painters and the Girl Scouts of the USA should read them carefully.

- ∨ As with most Girl Scout programs for which a patch is given, a “Paint With Us” patch is awarded for completion of six out of eleven activities developed for the program. Two activities—both of them dealing with SDP and its history—are “starred,” meaning that they *must* be included among the six; the other four may be chosen by the participant.

- ∨ This program is appropriate to Girl Scouts of all ages. In some cases, Senior Scouts (ninth- and tenth-graders) and Ambassadors (eleventh-graders and twelfth-graders) might be allowed to assist in the development of the patch activities; SDP volunteers should check with troop leaders for guidance in this matter.

- ∨ It is the responsibility of the SDP volunteer to coordinate all activities with the troop leader in a timely manner.

- ∨ Participants from either organization must be a member in good standing.

- ∨ While the cost of materials should be kept to a minimum, those unfamiliar with decorative painting may be pleasantly surprised at the many ways in which it can be both inexpensive and fun.

- ∨ Be aware that there are many more Girl Scout troops in the United States than there are SDP chapters; it’s possible that a single participating SDP chapter might be working with as many as six Girl Scout troops. On the other hand, some areas are home to two or more SDP chapters, and in such cases troops could work with any chapter available.

- ∨ Troop leaders must remember to obtain all necessary permissions from their governing council before proceeding with the program. Such permissions are the sole responsibility of the Girl Scouts of the USA representative.

- ∨ Summaries of each of the eleven patch activities appear in this guide, and each is followed by suggestions for supplies and sources of further information. Do remember to refer to these.

- ∨ Never use brand names when listing needed supplies, including paint, brushes, and mediums. A list of supplies might call for *pink*, for instance, but not *DecoArt Americana Poodleskirt Pink*.

- ∨ While it’s not uncommon for food to be used in the decorative arts (an artist might create dyes using certain vegetables, for instance, or use a gourd as a surface on which to paint), never use foodstuffs of any kind in any of the patch activities; there is always the possibility of allergies.

Sample Letter to Girl Scout Council

Outline The “Paint With Us” Patch Program

Our objective

The “Paint With Us” Patch Program is envisioned as a collaboration between individual troops of the Girls Scouts of the United States of America and individual chapters of the Society of Decorative Painters. The objective of the program is to introduce Girl Scouts to decorative painting, enhance their understanding and appreciation of the art form, teach them about the rich heritage of both decorative painting and the Society of Decorative Painters, explore the techniques and media used, lead them to resources for further study, and provide them with the opportunity to create decorative artworks of their own. All of these activities will be undertaken in the presence of SDP volunteers, whose expertise and knowledge will provide valuable first-hand experience as well as side-by-side guidance to the troop. In the end, we hope to lead the scouts into an exchange of ideas with SDP volunteers about the ways in which decorative painting can be used as a tool in the betterment of communities, and urge them to make such contributions themselves.

SDP defines *decorative painting* as “a diverse art form that utilizes a variety of techniques and media to decorate functional and nonfunctional surfaces.” Media used in decorative painting can include oil painting, acrylic painting, watercolors, colored pencil, and more; and the choice of surfaces used is limited only by the painter’s imagination. The “Paint With Us” Patch Program is a fun and engaging way for participants to investigate artistic technique, historical fact, and their own creative potential.

About the Society of Decorative Painters

Launched in 1972 as the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters, the Society of Decorative Painters is the world’s leading organization of decorative painters. As of 2008, SDP boasts more than 22,000 members and 250 affiliated chapters, with members residing in more than forty countries and in each of the fifty United States. SDP is the publisher of the industry’s leading magazine, *The Decorative Painter*, and host of the industry’s foremost annual conference.

Contacts

For more information about the “Paint With Us” Patch Program, please contact:

(GSUSA contact)

(phone/email)

(SDP chapter contact)

(phone/email)

The *"Paint with Us"* Patch Program

Mission Statements

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America

Girl scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

The Society of Decorative Painters

To stimulate worldwide interest in and appreciation for decorative painting; to recognize the diversity of and excellence in the art form; and to serve as the educational resource center for all aspects of decorative painting.

Activities: The History of the Society of Decorative Painters

1) The History of the Society of Decorative Painters*

Note that this starred activity is mandatory.

Topics for study

How and when was SDP created?

Women founded both SDP and the Girl Scouts of the USA. Who were they?

The letters MDA follow the name of SDP's founder in some cases. What do they mean?

What is the structure of the Society?

How does the structure of the Society compare to that of the Girl Scouts?

What is the mission statement of SDP?

Where are the Society's chapters located?

Supplies

SDP volunteer provides: information on the founding and history of SDP, copies of *The Decorative Painter*, the SDP mission statement, a global wall map and pushpins.

References

The Decorative Painter (available copies)

Leaders' Manual

Information

The National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters Inc., now known as the Society of Decorative Painters, held its first organizational meeting on October 22, 1972, at the home of its first president, Priscilla Hauser MDA, in Tulsa, Okla. Although only twenty-two interested decorative painters attended that first meeting, SDP is now home to more than 22,000 members. Its members can be found in all fifty states and in more than forty countries.

SDP members come from all walks of life. They are men and women, young and old. Some are professionals who work in an office all day, while others hold the job of homemaker. Some SDP members are new to painting, while others host their own television shows on which they teach decorative painting to everyone.

Some SDP members are *business members*. These men and women may not even be painters themselves; their interest in decorative painting is a professional one. Business members may be artists who can be hired to paint your portrait or the owners of factories in which paintbrushes are made.

The “*Paint with Us*” Patch Program

The Society of Decorative Painters is headquartered in Wichita, Kan., where the SDP staff has its offices and where the SDP Board of Directors meets to decide on Society policy on a national level. But the SDP has over 250 chapters, too. SDP chapters are like the Girl Scouts’ troops—they’re smaller groups of decorative painters who make up the larger, national organization. SDP chapters may have as few as four members or as many as four hundred.

Every year SDP hosts a Conference where members from throughout the United States and around the world meet to take classes on painting, view new painting merchandise, visit with their painting friends, and elect a new board of directors.

SDP’s magazine, *The Decorative Painter*, is produced in Wichita, too. *The Decorative Painter* is published four times a year, and it features the best painting projects submitted to it by SDP members, along with instructions for painting them yourselves.

On the first page of *The Decorative Painter*, the Society’s mission statement appears:

To stimulate worldwide interest in and appreciation for decorative painting; to recognize the diversity of and excellence in the art form; and to serve as the educational resource center for all aspects of decorative painting.

The Society strives to meet its mission through its magazine, its annual conferences, and its many committees, where members volunteer to address issues that arise in the decorative painting community.

Activities: SDP Chapters in Your City or Region

2) SDP Chapters in Your City or Region*

Note that this starred activity is mandatory.

Topics for study

How many SDP members are there?

How many SDP chapters are there?

Which are the three SDP chapters closest to your home?

In this activity, participants may use reference books or the Internet to identify SDP chapters in their area. They may be encouraged to talk to SDP members or to phone the chapters coordinator at the Wichita, Kan. SDP Headquarters.

Encourage participants to draw comparisons between the membership of Girl Scouts and SDP, and between the concepts of "SDP chapter" and "Girl Scouts troop."

Supplies

SDP volunteer provides: information on SDP chapters, especially those in the region.

Troop leader provides: permission slips for a library trip if needed.

References

The Decorative Painter (available copies)

www.decorativepainters.org

Activities: Making Color

3) Making Color

Topics for study

How are colors mixed to make new colors?
Why is a color wheel ordered in the way it is?
How are watercolors made?
Why do some colors have unusual names?

In this activity, participants may use reference books or the Internet learn about colors, mixes, and paint manufacturing. (Note that color wheels and video of paint making are now available online.)

Choose an unusual color name, such as Burnt Sienna, and learn how it came to be named that way.

Experiment with color by making layers of colored sand in a clear container or holding colored cellophane over participants’ eyes.

Supplies

SDP volunteer provides: crayons, watercolors, chalk, colored sand, food coloring, plastic gloves, plastic containers or boards, hand cream (to prevent stained hands).

References

The Decorative Painter (available copies)

www.ehow.com

www.colorwheel.com

The Decorative Painting Color Match Sourcebook by Bobbie Percy

Watercolour Colour Mixing Guides by John Barber

Activities: Methods and Materials of Decorative Painting

3) Methods and Materials of Decorative Painting

Topics for study

What methods and materials are used by a decorative painter?

What is the difference between different media?

How does the artist decide which one to use?

In this activity, discuss the primary media used in decorative painting and the differences between them. Talk about how different paints yield different results and why.

Media should include oil paints, acrylic paints, colored pencils, pastels, finger paints, pen and ink, chalk. Discuss the meaning of "mixed media," and talk about brush shapes, sizes, and uses.

Supplies

SDP volunteer provides: medium of her choice for painting demonstration.

References

The Decorative Painter (available copies)

Activities: Try Finger Painting

5) Try Finger Painting

Note that this activity is designed for younger scouts (Daisy and Brownie).

Topics for study

Make a card for someone.
See the differences on paper, fabric, or wood.
Create animals from thumbprints.

In this activity, discuss the primary media used in decorative painting and the differences between them. Talk about how different paints yield different results and why.

Media should include oil paints, acrylic paints, colored pencils, pastels, finger paints, pen and ink, chalk. Discuss the meaning of "mixed media," and talk about brush shapes, sizes, and uses.

Supplies

SDP volunteer provides: hand cream to prevent stained hands, hand wipes, finger paints, card stock paper, paper bags.
Troop leader provides: reference books.

References

The Great Thumbprint Drawing Book by Ed Emberly

Activities: Try Finger Painting

5) Try Finger Painting

Note that this activity is designed for younger scouts (Daisy and Brownie).

Topics for study

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See the differences on paper, fabric, or wood.
Create animals from thumbprints.

In this activity, discuss the primary media used in decorative painting and the differences between them. Talk about how different paints yield different results and why.

Media should include oil paints, acrylic paints, colored pencils, pastels, finger paints, pen and ink, chalk. Discuss the meaning of “mixed media,” and talk about brush shapes, sizes, and uses.

Supplies

SDP volunteer provides: hand cream to prevent stained hands, hand wipes, finger paints, card stock paper, paper bags.
Troop leader provides: reference books.

References

The Great Thumbprint Drawing Book by Ed Emberly

Activities: Work with Watercolors

6) Work with Watercolors

Topics for study

Make a card for someone.

Use a coloring book.

Make a drawing of your own using watercolor pencils.

Try painting a landscape or outdoor scene (*older girls only*).

In this activity the SDP volunteer can explain how to paint watercolor backgrounds and discuss the use of different brushes.

Supplies

SDP volunteer provides: construction paper, watercolor paper, water, paper towels, margarine tub with lid for palette.

References

The Decorative Painter (available copies)

Activities: Create a Style of Painting

7) Create a Style of Painting

Topics for study

What is a style of painting?
What are expressionism and abstraction?
What is a still life?

In this activity the SDP volunteer will help participants to paint on recycled materials, such as cereal boxes, or canvas or other fabrics. Scouts can use wood to make a treasure box or stenciling to make a border for a letter. They can make and paint a mobile, a pin that they can wear, or a simple game, such as tic tac toe.

Supplies

SDP volunteer provides: all materials depending on the activity settled on.

References

The Decorative Painter (available copies)
Pack of Fun magazine
Designs downloaded from the Internet

Activities: Do Some Stamping

8) Do Some Stamping

Topics for study

What designs can be used for rubber stamps?

What kind of ink or paint is used?

In this activity the SDP volunteer will help participants to make rubber stamps using sponges, elastics, soap, and erasers.

The children might also look in a catalog for a favorite painting, and then write and send a card to the artist.

Supplies

SDP volunteer provides: cards with addresses, catalogs from the New England Traditions Convention.

References

New England Traditions Convention catalogs
www.art-rubberstamps.com

Activities: Troop Mural

9) Troop Mural

Topics for study

In this activity the SDP volunteer will oversee the creation of a mural or troop banner by the entire troop. For this they might use an old sheet or paper, applying stencils and using other methods they've learned to this point. A theme will be decided on before painting begins. When completed and dry, the mural or banner could be sent to a hospital, library, or SDP chapter.

Supplies

*SDP volunteer provides: needed paints, including fabric paints if the surface is cloth.
The troop leader provides: information on a troop banner and the materials needed to make it.*

References

Leaders' Manual

Activities: Learn to Paint Using an SDP Design

10) Learn to Paint Using an SDP Design

Topics for study

How is decorative painting done?

What are patterns and why are they found in painting magazines? How are they used?

Besides paint, what else is put on a canvas when painting? What’s a medium?

In this activity the SDP volunteer will oversee choose a design (“pattern”) for the troop to try their hand at painting. It is recommended that the troop leader and SDP volunteer meet well beforehand to discuss what pattern will be used, whether permissions will be needed, and who the artist is. Check the JAC (Junior Artists Club) program on the SDP website for ideas and suitable material. Plan in advance for the possible display of the paintings—at the library, for instance, or at an art show to which other troops have been invited. Invite the artist or send pictures.

Have a second meeting prior to painting with the troop in attendance. Discuss terminology with them, explaining the use of mediums, for example, or how and why a painter sideloads paint on a brush.

Supplies

SDP volunteer provides: the design and necessary materials.

References

Decorative Painting Workshop

www.decorativepainters.org

Activities: Home Furnishings

11) Home Furnishings

Topics for study

In this activity the SDP volunteer will demonstrate a practical application of decorative painting by reclaiming a discarded or unwanted item as a decorative piece for the home. Suitable surfaces might include old clocks, shelves, or even shirts.

This activity provides a good opportunity for the SDP volunteer to demonstrate the prepping of a surface.

Supplies

Troop leader provides: an item to decorate.

References

www.bhg.com/decorating/makeovers

The *"Paint with Us"* Patch Program

About the Program Developer

Maureen Van Herpe has been a registered member of the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island for almost forty years. She joined the Society of Decorative Painters in 1994. Maureen opened her own business in Greenville, R.I., in 1992.

Maureen has lived in Glocester, R.I., for thirty-one years with her husband, Bob. She has three children—two grown daughters, Elizabeth and Ashley, with whom she has often scouted, and her son Michael.

You may write to Maureen at wooditemsandmore@yahoo.com.