

Snuggles & Cuddles



PURPOSE

Girls participating in this council's own service project will earn a program patch. Available to all Girl Scout levels, the requirements include collecting or making blankets and then donating them to a local animal shelter.

LEGACY

While living in shelters, it has been found that kittens and cats, & puppies and dogs, are happier when they can **Snuggle** with a nice, clean blanket in their cage & **Cuddle** with volunteers when they have comfort items, such as dog beds and toys. The animals become relaxed and feel more secure when they have these comfort items.

With the thousands of animals residing in shelters within our council at any given time, the need for comfort items can be overwhelming. To maintain a clean shelter, comfort items must be removed for washing every day and replaced with fresh ones.

It is recommended that you connect with your local animal shelter to determine which Service Project option you should choose.

GIRL SCOUT LEVELS / REQUIREMENTS

To earn the **Snuggles & Cuddles** patch, girls need to complete the following:.

- Daisy Girl Scouts: 1 activity from Discover, 1 activity from Connect, 1 Service Project
- Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts: 2 activities from Discover, 2 activities from Connect, 1 Service Project
- Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts: 3 activities from Discover, 3 activities from Connect, 1 Service Project
- Take Action- Optional

LEADER'S TOOL KIT

- Use the internet, library, and/or local yellow pages to discover what animal shelters are located in your area.
- For girls, consider review of the [Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for All Girl Scouts](http://www.girlscouts.org/en/help/help/internet-safety-pledge.html) at <http://www.girlscouts.org/en/help/help/internet-safety-pledge.html>

ACTIVITIES

Discover

- ACTIVITY #1: LEARN ABOUT ANIMAL SHELTERS
 - Identify an animal shelter located in your community.
 - Learn more about the animal shelter and what they do.
 - How many animals do they care for each day?
 - What types of animals are cared for there?
 - Who helps care for the animals?
- ACTIVITY #2: SUPPLIES
 - Learn about the supplies that the animal shelter needs.
 - What supplies are needed to keep the animals healthy?
 - What supplies are needed to provide comfort to animals?
 - How does the animal shelter obtain their supplies?
- ACTIVITY #3: EXPLORE THEIR SERVICES
 - Learn about the services a local animal shelter provides.
 - Do they offer free or discounted microchipping or spay/neutering? Why do they offer this service?
 - Do they offer animal training classes to new adopted families?
 - Do they have an animal foster program?
- ACTIVITY #4: DETERMINE COMFORT NEEDS FOR ANIMALS
 - How does your local animal shelter provide comfort to animals?
 - Why are comfort items important to animals in the shelter?
 - Is there specific comfort items they need donated?

Connect

- ACTIVITY #5: BECOME A VETERINARIAN
 - Veterinarians help care for the many animals in shelters. Learn what a veterinarian does.
 - What education would you need to become a veterinarian?
 - What does the day-to-day schedule look like for a veterinarian?
 - How does a veterinarian care for animals in animal shelters?
- ACTIVITY #6: LEARN ABOUT ADOPTION
 - Many animals are waiting for their forever home in your local animal shelter. Learn about the process to adopt an animal from the shelter.
 - Do you need to apply to adopt an animal?
 - How long does the adoption process take?
 - Does it cost money to adopt an animal?
- ACTIVITY #7: VISIT AN ANIMAL SHELTER
 - Take a tour of your local animal shelter to see how they support animals and the community. (Note- Consider doing this after you complete your service project, when you drop off your donation items).
 - Why are animal shelters important?

Service Project

Share what you've discovered while doing one of the service projects below. It is recommended that you call any animal shelter or rescue agency in the Southeast Florida council to inform them of your project, prior to beginning. The shelter or rescue agency will ensure your intended project follows their specific guidelines.

- SERVICE PROJECT (*Snuggles*) OPTION #1: BLANKETS FOR THE ANIMALS.
 - Make no-sew blankets for the animals.
 - Blankets provide comfort to animals in shelters.
 - Blankets for cats, puppies, and dogs should be the finished size of 36" x 36" OR 36" x 20".
 - A smaller size of 20" x 20" can be used for kittens.
 - Instructions:
 1. Cut the material that you've collected, to the size 38" x 38". You will need two pieces- one for the top of the blanket, and one for the bottom.
 2. Place the two pieces of material on top of one another.
 3. Cut a 5 inch square in each of the corners
 4. Cut 1 inch fringe on all four sides of the blanket. Cut through both layers of the fabric about 5 inches from the edge.
 5. When all the fringes are cut and lined up, start tying balloon knots from the left to the right. Make sure that these are tight and secure knots so they do not unravel.
 6. Continue this step all around the blanket. Once this is complete, you have finished a snuggly blanket for an animal!
 7. Here is a step by step guide for additional reference:
<https://www.instructables.com/id/No-Sew-Fleece-Blanket-1/>
 - Things to keep in mind:
 - **Snuggles** will be washed every day. So please tie the blankets securely so they don't unravel.
 - Remember – these items are not pillows. Please do not fill with fiberfill, batting or any other type of stuffing as they won't wash and dry well and it might harm the animals.
 - Donate your blankets to your local animal shelter.

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- SERVICE PROJECT (*Cuddles*) OPTION #2: ORGANIZE A SUPPLY DRIVE.

- Organize a supply drive
 - Blankets are just one comfort item for animals in shelters. Connect with a local animal shelter to determine what additional items animals need to feel comfortable. Many animal shelters have a wish list of items including pet beds and toys.
 - With this information, organize a supply drive with your family or troop. Here are some steps to help you get started
 1. Connect with your local animal shelter to determine any comfort supplies you can collect during your supply drive.
 2. Make posters and flyers to share with your community. It is important to include the animal shelters information on the flyer, what supplies you are collecting, how they can donate or when you are collecting the supplies, and when the supply drive is occurring.
 - a. Your school or neighborhood may be a great place to start promoting your animal supply drive.
 - b. A great additional note on your flyer is ensuring the community understands the benefit these supplies provide to your local animal shelter. Consider including pictures of pets at the shelter, or a personal story from a volunteer at the shelter.
 3. Contact local businesses and organizations to see if they are able to support your drive. They may have an oversupply of pet food they can donate, or they may have volunteers interested in making dog toys to donate.
 4. Once you have your animal comfort supplies, donate it to your local shelter.
- Things to keep in mind:
 - Consider keeping a list of everyone who contributed supplies towards your drive. After you donate the items, it is a nice gesture to send a thank you note to those who donated. Be sure to include how much you were able to donate and how it impacted the shelter!
 - Make sure you give your community time to contribute to your drive. A one-month period provides enough time for friends, family, and community members to make pet items, or go to the store to purchase them.

Take Action {Optional}

- BECOME A VOLUNTEER.
 - Spend some time with animals waiting for their forever home. Volunteer by lending a helping hand at your local animal shelter. Volunteers usually help with walking dogs, supporting adoption events, cleaning toys, distributing treats, etc.
- SUPPORT AN ADOPTION EVENT
 - Many animal shelters host adoption events in their community. Support an adoption event by handing out adoption brochures, helping animals feel comfortable in a new space, etc.
- SHARE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.
 - Connect with the animal shelter to discuss ways the community can help the animals. Ideas include making a poster to display at a local community event, posting flyers for specific pet adoptions, or, with your parent's permission, post an adoption story on social media.
- YOUR CHOICE.
 - Any other activity that you can construct that would teach others about the animal shelter in your community.