



Soles4Souls Girl Scout Patch Program

Soles4Souls Girl Scout Patch Program aims to raise awareness of the 300 million children in the world without shoes.

Girl Scout Daisies:

Discover:

- There are approximately 300 million children in the world without shoes.

Connect:

- As a group, discuss how being without shoes would impact one day of your life.

Take Action:

- Each girl donates one pair of their shoes.

Girl Scout Brownies:

Discover:

- Facts: 300 million shoes in the United States are thrown away into landfills and there are approximately 300 million children in the world without shoes.

Connect:

- Have girls draw what effects they think 300 million pairs of shoes in a landfill would have on the environment.

Take Action:

- Hold a family shoe drive to collect at least 10 pairs of shoes per girl.

Girl Scout Juniors:

Discover:

- Facts: 300 million children in the world without shoes, 300 million pairs are thrown away in US landfills, 1.52 billion pairs of unworn shoes sit in American's closets, Soles4Souls gives away a pair of shoes every 9 seconds and Soles4Souls has distributed over 6 million shoes in over 125 countries.

Connect:

- Ask each girl to write down how many pairs of shoes they think they currently have in their closet at home. Have girls count shoes at home and compare the numbers and share at the next troop meeting. What are the effects of 300 million shoes in landfills on the environment?

Take Action:

- Hold a friends and family shoe drive to collect 25 pairs of shoes per girl.

Girl Scout Cadette, Senior, Ambassador:

Discover:

- Learn the history of Soles4Souls as well as the countries served. Refer to the attached sheet.

Connect:

- Present what you have learned about Soles4Souls to another troop, the service unit or any other group.

Take Action:

- Hold a community or school shoe drive to generate 50 pairs for each girl.



Soles4Souls History

Soles4Souls started with founder, Wayne Elsey, sitting on his couch watching CNN reports about the Asian Tsunami on December 26, 2004. Wayne had been in the footwear industry since he was 13. He had owned several companies and was currently the President of Kodiak, a Canadian boot manufacturer. As Wayne is watching the reports, he sees a single shoe float ashore. Thinking of what he could do, Wayne spent the night sleepless. He woke up the next morning determined to help. Calling his friends in the footwear industry and the community, Wayne hoped to collect 5,000 pairs. In the end, he was able to send over 250,000 pairs.

Wayne returned to work running a multi-million dollar company when Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast. The need was great and in our own back yard. Wayne got the core group of folks back together in an effort to raise and distribute thousands of pairs. In the end, we distributed over 1 million pairs back in the gulf coast area.

After the successful efforts with Katrina, Wayne began looking at statistics on the need for shoes, not just after a disaster but every-day lives. He discovered there are over 300 million children in the world without shoes. Also, there are over 1.52 billion pairs in American's closets that are no longer worn. The decision was made to form a 501(c)(3) with the aim to Change the world, One pair at a time.

Fast forward to today, Soles4Souls distributes a pair of shoes every 9 seconds which equates to slightly over 6 million pairs of shoes in the past 5 years. We have been to 125 countries with over half the distributions taking place in the United States.

