



Adopt A Grandparent Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee

Project AGE is an adopt-a-grandparent program for Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee. The project concept of adopting an elderly person as a grandparent is not new, but the first of its kind to give Girl Scouts the opportunity to visit and meet older people in nursing homes. Girl will also receive a patch for their efforts. This program can be used as a learning tool for girls to better understand the elderly. It offers unlimited opportunities for girls and provides opportunities to serve, build friendships, communicate with adults, share talents and skills and develop a sense of responsibility.

The adoptive grandparents benefit also from this program. They will get to share many of their past experiences with the girls as well as possible friendships. Girls can certainly learn from older people, discover their heritage, and learn about the values of earlier generations. Project AGE is a great way to maintain a bridge between the generational gaps.

Here are a few facts concerning nursing home patients:

- There are over 28,000 patients in Tennessee nursing homes – more than ever before.
- 50% of the patients have no immediate family.
- Over 70% are female, and more than 55% are 80 years older.
- On the average a person stays in a nursing home about one year.

Patches may be purchased at the Nashville Girl Scout Shop.

ADOPTIVE GRANDPARENT ENRICHMENT PATCH REQUIREMENTS:

To earn the AGE patch, girls must complete all of the following activities:

- A. Obtain signed permission slip from parent or guardian.
- B. Attend an orientation meeting at the nursing home of your troop's choice.
- C. Visit your adoptive grandparent at least six times during the school year. Plan something special for your adoptive grandparent on two of your visits. This could include a birthday treat, a Christmas surprise, or possible a visit to a local park or other favorite place.
- D. List the dates you visited your grandparent. Place a star beside your two special visits. On the back of this sheet, explain what you did on your special visits and what activities you liked the most. Tell what activities you think your adoptive grandparent enjoyed the most.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.

GIRL SCOUT INTERVIEW

It is most helpful if an individual girl's interests are matched to the interests of the prospective adoptee. Before adopting a grandparent, make copies of this questionnaire and let the girls answer the questions. Take the results to the nursing home social worker when selecting your adoptive grandparent.

Have you ever been around the elderly? (Circle one)

Yes No

Do you have any grandparents? (Circle one)

Yes No

Would you enjoy having an adopted grandparent to visit? (Circle one)

Yes No

What would you like to share or do with your adopted grandparent?

- A. Reading
- B. Story telling
- C. Crafts you make together
- D. Singing
- E. Talking
- F. Other (please list) _____