

# Observe! Patch Program

## ABOUT *OBSERVE!*

The *Observe!* Patch's main goal is to develop civically engaged voices of girls and young women that lead to local and global action in the places they care about. The girls and young women will participate in a community-based patch program, learn about cities, and develop skills that will amplify their voices as they engage in place-based, creative action. Developed by the Center for the Living City, this patch program builds upon a successful pilot project completed with the Girl Scouts of Utah Troop 496 during spring 2016 in Salt Lake City.

Urgent challenges facing communities, including the impacts of climate change, rapid urbanization, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, food deserts, and other deficiencies are opportunities for creative responses from the change-makers of the future. Inspired by the broad impacts of women like Jane Jacobs, Wangari Maathai, Malala Yousafzai, girls and young women have new role models and new narratives to help them navigate through inequalities and push for creative expression. This patch program will provide skills and tools that both inform action and support their developing voices and leadership skills.

The elements of creative action might include, but are not limited to: those which may cause concern or joy; inform a sense of history; address problems of housing, mobility, food justice; access to education and sanitation; or a host of other problems witnessed through their observational skills. The girls are invited to propose ways to preserve, celebrate, heal or transform an area they discover.

### Discover

Women boldly shape our communities and are influential for emerging young leaders. Learn from your communities through the power of observation to discover the nuances of everyday life.

### Connect

Connect with your environment and the people in your communities! Share observations and gain new perspectives by connecting with other young women and girls around the world.

### Take Action

Inspire and connect with members of your community. Lead a Jane Jacobs Walk to initiate conversations and spark creative action to preserve, celebrate, heal, or transform an area you care about.

# Observe! Patch Program



## Girl Scout Older Girl Program

The *Observe!* patch program is a Girl Scout Older Girl Patch Program. *Observe!* is best suited for Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors but the program can be adapted to fit Daisies and Brownies needs.

## Time Frame

The *Observe!* patch program can be completed in **5 to 10 hours**. *Observe!* is flexible however and can be completed at your troop's own pace. Please feel free to adapt the *Observe!* program to fit the needs of your community whether it be rural, urban, suburban, or small town.

## Ordering Patches

Once Girl Scouts have completed the activities listed below, submit the Patch Completion Form at the end of this packet and we will mail you your patches for free. Girl Scouts must complete:

- patch requirements
- email or mail photos, drawings, videos, or sound bites from walks
- completed photo release forms

All materials can be emailed to [info@centerforthelivingcity.org](mailto:info@centerforthelivingcity.org) with "Observe! Patch" in the subject line or can be mailed to our Rocky Mountain Office at

**Center for the Living City**  
**705 Tenth Avenue**  
**Salt Lake City, UT 84103**

"We cannot tire or give up. We owe it to the present and future generations of all species to rise up and walk!"  
- Wangari Maathai



# Observe! Patch Overview

## Discover

**Part 1** Learn about champions and changemakers that are making observations and change in their communities

**Part 2** Navigate and experience your neighborhood in a new way, identify landmarks and what makes your neighborhood unique

**Part 3** Go on an exploratory walk and take photos, videos, drawings, and recordings of your neighborhood and community

## Connect

**Part 1** Share your observations of your neighborhood and community with your troop

**Part 2** Brainstorm ways to celebrate, preserve, or transform the places that you care about

**Part 3** Either share your observations on social media or create a collage of your dream city

## Take Action

**Part 1** Once you have an idea of what you want to change or celebrate in your community, plan a Jane Jacobs Walk

**Part 2** Lead a Jane Jacobs Walk and have a walking conversation about ways to better your community with community members

**Part 3** Respond! Explore meaningful ways to create change in your community and make your ideas into a reality

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"The world becomes more rewarding when you let yourself look beyond what you're searching for."

- Candy Chang

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For Resources see the *Observe!* Resource Guide

# Discover

... your community  
through new lenses. What we  
see shapes our perceptions  
and actions.

## Materials Needed:

**Part 1** Access to Youtube, \*City Builder Book Club Reading Guide, paper and coloring utensils, [Genius of Common Sense](#) by Glenna Lang (recommended but not required)

**Part 2** Map of neighborhood or community, knowledge about local amenities, transportation, and landmarks, [Urban Naturalist Guide](#) or \*Five Senses Observation Guide

**Part 3** Urban Naturalist Guide or Five Senses Observation Guide, writing utensils, journal, smart phone or camera

\* [Materials found in Resource Guide](#)

## Part 1

### INFORMING OURSELVES

**1  
hour**

**Objectives:** *Explore the roles of female community leaders and champions, such as Jane Jacobs, and their impact around the world. Introduce systems thinking about cities and communities. Learn how to strengthen your senses and experience your community in a new way.*

Jane Jacobs was a keen observer in her community. Jane's observations allowed her to identify the working components and challenges of cities that enabled them to thrive or decline. Cities are constantly changing; observation helps us to understand our community better and identify what makes it special and unique. Acknowledging all the components of our cities and communities allows us to celebrate, heal, repair, or transform them.

#### Complete ONE of the following options:

**1.** Watch one or more videos on the [Observe! Patch Program youtube channel](#) to learn about Jane Jacobs and other visionaries that have observed their communities and created meaningful change. Use questions in the City Builder Book Club Guide to help guide discussion and prompt the girls to think of how they could make a change in their communities.

**2.** Give a brief oral overview of who Jane Jacobs is and explain how through using our five senses, we can observe things in our community and learn about the world we live in. Have the girls create a mental map of their community, home, or school by memory and encourage them to keep their five senses in mind while they draw their map. Mental maps allow youth to develop spatial thinking skills and also reflect on what makes their community special.

[Ex. 1 Mental Map](#) [Ex. 2 Mental Map](#)

**3.** Become more familiar with Jane Jacobs and her work by reading *Genius of Common Sense* or the City Builder Book Club Reading Guide. You can assign each girl one or two chapters to read and then present their summary to the rest of the troop or read the City Builder Book Club Reading Guide in small groups.

## DISCUSS

There are many strong and influential women like Jane Jacobs in communities around the world. Who are some inspiring women in your community? This may be someone in your neighborhood, city, region, or country. What did they do that helped shape and make an impact in their communities? What role did the power of observation play in their work? How have they influenced you?

“Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

- Jane Jacobs

## Part 2

## COMMUNITY MAP

20  
min

**Objectives:** Practice small-scale trip planning as a group. Learn how to travel and navigate your city or neighborhood in a new way.

Organize an informal exploratory walk with your troop in your local community, such as a downtown or a nearby neighborhood. Make it exciting by taking public transportation, biking, or walking to get there. Use one of the following guides to help document your observations.

### Urban Naturalist Guide

This guide provides instruction for observing community characteristics similar to those Jane Jacobs critiqued in the communities where she lived and visited. In order to use this guide, you will need to use your “Genius of Common Sense” and select a neighborhood to study. This neighborhood could be one where you live or one you can easily access to observe for a few days.

### Five Senses Guide to Observation (Found in the *Observe!* Resource Guide)

Practice using your five senses to better understand all the systems that make up your community.



## Part 3

# EXPLORATORY WALK

1  
hour

**Objectives:** *Observe your community! See and perceive your community through a new lens. Discover the people and places that make your community unique. Investigate the possibilities for creative responses.*

Take a walk with your group. During your walk, use all your senses and your chosen observation guide to discover the different nuances of your downtown or selected neighborhood. Make some observations about different things that catch your eye. Be present! Really observe your surroundings. Take a journal, your electronic devices or a camera with you. Make sure you take notes about what you see, smell, and hear during your walk, keeping the things you learned from Jane Jacobs and her observation of city life in mind. Take pictures or make drawings of the things you notice. Connect with your environment and the people who live in it!

## Questions to think about as you explore and OBSERVE

- What are the sounds you hear?
- What do you smell?
- What and who do you see?
- Do you have memories of this place?
- What feelings do you have and why?
- Do you feel joy? Concern? Sadness? Inspiration?
- Could you navigate this area if you were in a wheelchair?
- Do you feel connected to nature in this area?  
Why or why not?
- How can you interact with this space?
- What makes a space a place?
- How has this place changed over time?
- What is the history of this place?

“One child,  
one teacher, one book,  
one pen can change  
the world.”

- Malala Yousafzai



photo: by mike peel ([www.mikepeel.net](http://www.mikepeel.net)), CC BY-SA 4.0 via wikimedia commons



# Connect

Collaborate and connect  
with other passionate  
people to make a  
difference.

**Total Time:**  
**2 hours**

## Materials Needed:

**Part 1** Writing Utensils, paper or journals, completed Urban Naturalist Guide or Five Senses Observation Guide, pictures taken during exploration walk

**Part 2** Paper, writing utensils, sticky notes, colored pencils or markers

**Part 3** Access to the internet, poster board, paper, markers or colored pencils

### Part 1

## SHARE

20  
min

**Objectives:** Use your communication skillset. Share and express your ideas by communicating verbally, in writing, and through other communication tools such as video clips, pictures, social media, and through conversations and interviews.

After your walk, finish documenting your observations with your chosen observation guide. Then, share your findings with your group. Compare and contrast your observations and talk about the things that influenced you the most. Share your drawings, photos, or journals, and discuss the highlights from your exploration.

### Part 2

## BRAINSTORM

40  
min

**Objectives:** There are no bad ideas in brainstorming. Practice sharing all ideas no matter how out there they might seem.

Keeping in mind everything you have discussed and shared as a group, brainstorm together and write down ideas for things you would like to celebrate, change, preserve, or transform in your neighborhood or community based on the observations you made on your walk. Think about:

**What were some observations that were surprising? What were common themes that came up amongst the group? From your observations, what are some things you'd like to preserve in your community? What are some things you wish to change? Why?**



## Part 3 VISIONING

1  
hour

**Objectives:** Practice teamwork and collaboration skills. *Tip: use the power of the internet to present and share ideas to a wider audience.*

**Collaborate with your group and do one of the following:**

1. Send your photos, videos clips, or sound bites that you captured on your walks to **info@centerforthe livingcity.org** so we can share your observations with the world on the *Observe!* Patch Program Instagram page **@observe\_patch** or use your own Instagram account to share your observations using the hashtag **#observepatch**
2. With your group, create a collage, vision board, or idea web, using your own photos and drawings as well as pictures from magazines or the internet. Stemming from these observations, how does this visioning exercise help you to see the many layers of your community? For example, the relationships among community members, the environment, and the businesses that are in your community. Discuss your community's strengths and challenges. What is your favorite thing in your community? How could you celebrate or create more of the things you love? How could you heal and transform the things you are concerned about in your community?

**Tip:** To expand on this section, check out our *YouthCity Speak Modules* [Exploring Our Connections to Nature](#) and [Your Home Your Community Your Impact](#) to further explore our connections with our communities and how to engage in meaningful change.



janejacobspatch  
Al Jannat Mall Saddar Rwp

janejacobspatch Pakistan photowalk

hibba 7/13/16  
this picture displays how on the roads of Pakistan there are street shops everywhere and they have different things ranging from jewelry to technology. this is where many people can buy things for less because of the bargained price.



sardar1806, khan.asma92 and hooriya.h like this

SEPTEMBER 5, 2016

Add a comment...

...

**Total Time:**  
**2 1/2 hours -**  
**infinity**

# Take Action

Create and be the change  
in your community.

## Materials Needed:

**Part 1** A map of your community or access to Google Maps via computer, paper, and writing utensils, \*How to Write a Press Release (optional)

**Part 2** Camera or smartphone

**Part 3** Whatever resources are needed to complete your desired goal. This is your chance to be creative and think about all the options

\* *Materials found in Resource Guide*

## Part 1

### JANE JACOBS WALK

1  
hour

**Objectives:** Connect with members of your community. Plan and organize a Jane Jacobs Walk. Have a conversation with your community about the challenges and opportunities in your community.

Plan to lead a Jane Jacobs Walk in your neighborhood. Jane Jacobs Walks are free walking conversations that provide the opportunity for people to connect with their community and environment. Based on your observations from your exploratory walk, decide why and where you would like to plan a walk in your community.

Be creative! Visit [janejacobswalk.org](http://janejacobswalk.org) for inspiration and keep in mind:

**What will inspire your walk? What is the outcome you hope for? Why would people want to join you for your walk?**

Go to [janejacobswalk.org](http://janejacobswalk.org) to register your Jane Jacobs Walk and upload information to be posted on the website. The following steps will help plan and implement your walk:

1. Make a list and identify at least **5 observation** stopping points for possible change, preservation, or improvements in the area you are walking in.
2. Map the route for your walk and the stopping points for discussion about these observations. You can use Google Maps to create the map. Watch this video for a tutorial: <https://youtu.be/Z5N6sgBs2Wc>
3. Decide which group members will lead each discussion point. Remember, this isn't a 'tour' but a walking conversation. Have fun with it!
4. Invite at least **5 people** to join your Jane Jacobs Walk! **Invite local leaders, business owners, or community members to have meaningful conversations with you about the future of your community!**

To add an extra level of challenge to Part 1, create a press release. Use the [How to Write A Press Release](#) document found in the *Observe!* Resource Guide



## Part 2 LEAD

1 1/2  
hours

**Objectives:** Use your voice and have meaningful conversations with your community. Become comfortable leading groups of people. Have conversations about how to celebrate, transform, and heal your community.

- ☞ Lead your Jane Jacobs Walk! Lead the conversation with interesting insights and stories about your neighborhood and encourage people to share their own stories, opinions, and observations.
- ☞ Listen and learn from the members of your community and gain understanding and appreciation about the history and possibilities your neighborhood possesses.
- ☞ Share your ideas about the possibilities for preservation, healing, and transformation that you discovered together on your walk.
- ☞ Have someone take pictures to document and share your walk. You can continue to send your observations to [info@centerforthelivingcity](mailto:info@centerforthelivingcity) to see your stories shared on the [@observe\\_patch](#) Instagram page and the future online Story Map. Also, continue to use the hashtag [#observepatch](#) on Instagram to share your stories, experiences, and actions.

## Part 3 RESPOND

Time:  
Varies

**Objectives:** Identify your talents and resources to decide what is the best way you can take action supporting the issues you care about. Practice presenting your ideas in a way that will encourage others to care about their community and take action themselves. Learn about the ways you can claim your voice and use it effectively.

Consider turning your ideas into meaningful responses and inspire others in your community to do the same by addressing the issues that created conversation and instilled concern in your walk. How can you strengthen and improve what is already in your community through your observations? What are the best options for sharing your specific ideas and concerns that you identified from your observations? Some possibilities are:

- Create an art project in your community
- Contact a community leader to bring about the change you want to see
- Write a blog post and share it with other girl scouts and guides
- Make a petition for change
- Hold a meeting with a community council member or city official
- Attend a public city council meeting to voice your concerns
- Write a letter to the mayor, community leader, business, or newspaper

### Get your Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award!

There is no limit to what you can do for your community. Did your observations create a spark in you to make change? This patch program is a great pathway to finding a meaningful Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award project. Go farther and create an urban intervention that will help your community using your “genius of common sense” where you design and implement a project that stems from your observations.

For questions, concerns, or feedback please email [info@centerforthelivingcity.org](mailto:info@centerforthelivingcity.org)



# Observe! Patch Completion & Order Form

When you have completed the activities to earn the patch, please fill out this form and send it to Center for the Living City via email or mail. Our patches are free of charge.

Please send this form, any photos, videos, or comments you'd like to share, and the photo release forms for each individual. Please submit one patch order form for the entire troop.

Email: [info@centerfortheivingcity.org](mailto:info@centerfortheivingcity.org) with "Observe! Patch" in the subject line or send to our Rocky Mountain Office at

Center for the Living City  
705 Tenth Avenue  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103



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Print Leader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Program Completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of patches earned: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop #: \_\_\_\_\_

Council Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn from the Observe! Patch Program? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Media Release Form

Fill out and submit a media release for each individual pictured.

## Media Release Form

CENTER FOR  
THE LIVING CITY

I am the parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (minor child) and do hereby authorize, the producer, Center for the Living City /Jane Jacobs Walk of 705 Tenth Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84103, to photograph, video tape, film, audio record her/his likeness or voice, or use provided photographs of minor, and do grant the producer and parties designated by the producer the irrevocable right to use her/his name, and/or audio and video image for such purposes and in any manner as deemed necessary. I will defend, indemnify and hold harmless Center for the Living City, its directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives, successors and assigns against any and all claims, suits or other proceedings arising out of or in connection with the Identity, Materials or Recording, including, but not limited to, claims of copyright or other intellectual property infringement, defamation or misrepresentation. I have read this release and understand and agree to its terms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troop Leader's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troop #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Media Release Form

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THE LIVING CITY

I am the parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (minor child) and do hereby authorize, the producer, Center for the Living City /Jane Jacobs Walk of 705 Tenth Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84103, to photograph, video tape, film, audio record her/his likeness or voice, or use provided photographs of minor, and do grant the producer and parties designated by the producer the irrevocable right to use her/his name, and/or audio and video image for such purposes and in any manner as deemed necessary. I will defend, indemnify and hold harmless Center for the Living City, its directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives, successors and assigns against any and all claims, suits or other proceedings arising out of or in connection with the Identity, Materials or Recording, including, but not limited to, claims of copyright or other intellectual property infringement, defamation or misrepresentation. I have read this release and understand and agree to its terms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troop Leader's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troop #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date