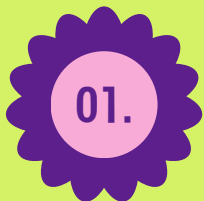


# HORSE & PONY – BROWNIE LEVEL

## GSCSNJ PATCH PROGRAM

Purpose: To introduce Girl Scouts to the wonderful world of horses by learning about horse safety, care, equipment, and the special bond between horses and people. Scouts will explore how to safely interact with horses while discovering what it takes to care for these amazing animals.

To earn this Patch, complete 5 activities. The starred activity is required.



★ Discuss the rules to follow when visiting a barn, stable, or riding arena. Practice how to safely approach a horse by standing near its shoulder and allowing the horse to see and sniff you before interacting.



★ Discover the importance of wearing the proper clothing around horses. Learn why sturdy, closed-toe footwear, long pants, and an approved riding helmet help keep riders safe.



Draw or color a picture of a horse and label at least five body parts, such as the mane, tail, muzzle, nostrils, hooves, flank, or crest. Share your drawing with your troop.



Learn about different breeds and colors of horses. Find pictures in books or online and compare how horses can look different. Design and color your own dream horse with unique markings.



Find out what horses need to stay healthy and happy. Learn what they eat and drink, how much exercise they need, where they live, and how veterinarians help care for horses.



Learn about horse grooming. Discover the tools used to groom a horse and what each tool does. If possible, watch a demonstration or help groom a horse with an experienced adult.

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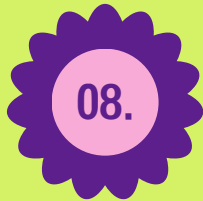
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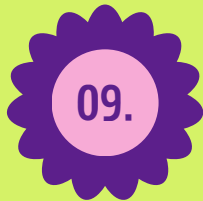
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Explore the equipment used when riding a horse. Learn the names and purpose of items such as a saddle, bridle, reins, stirrups, saddle pad, and lead rope. Compare an English saddle and bridle to a Western saddle and bridle.



Read a book or watch a movie featuring a horse or pony. Create a drawing, poster, or book cover showing your favorite part of the story, then share it with your troop.



If you have the opportunity, visit a stable to learn how to safely lead a horse with a lead rope, properly mount and dismount, and enjoy a supervised ride while wearing the appropriate safety equipment.

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Reflection: Reflect on what you learned about horses and how to care for them safely. What surprised you the most about horses, and what is one new thing you learned about keeping horses healthy, happy, and safe?



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