

Welcome to GSHPA Backyard Astronomer Program. Girl Scouts will experience space in ways they have never before realized. Girls start out learning about light pollution, then explore the amazing world of starry skies, and finish with space exploration as they learn how it feels to live and work as an astronaut and blast off into the sky on a space shuttle. With hands on creative activities this program brings the hugeness of space down to earth.



This program is appropriate for all age levels.

To complete the GSHPA Backyard Astronomer Patch Program you must complete the starred (★) items below. Once completed, the patch can be purchased by calling 800-692-7816 ext. 1029; faxing the order form to 717-234-5097; or e-mailing the order to shop@gshpa.org.

Backyard Astronomer Requirements

- ★ **Participate in the Great World Wide Star Count (GWWSC)**
Follow the link below, download the activity guide and complete the 5 steps to the GWWSC.
http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/starcount/downloads.html
- ★ **Visit a Planetarium or Observatory**
- ★ **Visit an Astronomy club or astronomical society.**
Link below provides clubs, museum, planetariums and observatories contact information within our council. (*You may visit any planetarium, observatory, or astronomy club which is convenient for your troop*).
<http://www.astronomyclubs.com/1/190/40/2/club.aspx>
- ★ **Space Day**
Learn all about space as you do these fun hands on activities. Click on the link below for the age appropriate requirements and activities.
[Space Day Activities](#)
- ★ **Space Shuttle lift off**
The space shuttle was designed to be used over 100 times. Explore the working parts of a space shuttle, how and from where a shuttle is launched, and where in space the shuttle is going with great hands on activities that will have you and your family space junkies when completed.
[Space Shuttle Lift Off Activities](#)

★ **Space Shuttle Missions**

Watch as NASA's Space Shuttle Programs comes to an end. Only 4 remaining launches! But don't worry... NASA has archived all flights. If you happen to miss one of the last launches you can choose any of the 30 launches from the past 30 years to view. Click on the link below to see all launches, get the launch schedule and see how and where to watch the launch or download launches to share.

Upcoming Launches

March 18 – Discovery

May 14 – Atlantis

July 29 – Endeavor

Sept. 16 - Discovery

<http://www.nasa.gov/missions/highlights/schedule.html>

★ **Patch Design**

★ Design a patch for the very last space shuttle mission. The below link contains the 15 top designs created by employees of the NASA Space Shuttle program. Which patch would your troop choose as the winning patch for the last launch? Now create your own space shuttle program patch. Why did you design it the way you did?

<http://www.collectspace.com/images/sscp/sscp03a.html>