

**Overview:** “Be prepared” is the Girl Scout motto. Being prepared for a hurricane or tropical storm is important for Long Islanders.

Historically, hurricanes have left an imprint on our shoreline and communities many times. Therefore, it is important to know how to prepare for this kind of weather emergency. By completing this patch program, you will gain a better understanding of Long Island’s hurricane history and how to be better prepared for hurricanes and tropical storms.

**Girl Scout Levels:** 

**Purpose:** This patch program will help Girl Scouts on Long Island understand the potential impact of hurricanes and learn how to be better prepared in the event of a hurricane or tropical storm.

**Requirements:** To earn this patch, Girl Scouts should fulfill the minimum required activities listed below. Patches can be purchased at the GSNC shop or online at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/NASSAU-COUNTY-COUNCIL>

GS Level	Discover Activities	Connect Activities	Take Action Activities
Daisies/Brownies	2	1	1
Juniors	4	1	1
Cadettes	4	2	2
Seniors/Ambassadors	All	All	All

### Activities Section:

#### DISCOVER: What is a hurricane?

- How do meteorologists define a hurricane?
- What is the difference between a hurricane and a typhoon?
- When is hurricane season in New York?
- How is a hurricane categorized? What are the categories?
- What is a hurricane watch? What is a hurricane warning?
- What is a storm surge?

#### CONNECT: Hurricanes impacting Long Island

- Name two major hurricanes that impacted Long Island after 1900.
- What areas did these hurricanes impact most?
- How are hurricanes named?



## TAKE ACTION: Hurricane Preparedness on Long Island

### Make a Plan.

Plan in advance for what you would do in an emergency. Be prepared to assess the situation. Use common sense and use what you have on hand to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Choose activities below for this section.

### Develop a Family Communications Plan.

*Having a communications plan will help you know how to contact one another when disaster strikes.*

- Discuss how you will contact family members if you're not together.
- Review what you will do in different situations.
- Pick one relative or friend out of the area that all your family members will call, text or email in the event of an emergency.
- Be sure each family member knows who the contact person is, their phone number and email address.

### AND/OR

### Create a Plan to Shelter-in-Place.

*In some circumstances, staying put and creating a barrier is the best thing to do.*

*Although sealing an area is a temporary measure, know how to shelter-in-place and seal a room.*

- Describe two different situations where staying put and creating a barrier between you and the outside would be a matter of survival.
- Describe an area in your home that you could seal off.
- Describe the process and materials you would use to seal off the area.
- How would you evaluate the outside situation after you have sealed the room?

### AND/OR

### Create a Plan to Evacuate.

*Knowing when and how to evacuate an area is an important part of being prepared.*

*Having an evacuation plan will help you be safe in an emergency.*

- Describe a situation where evacuation would be your best choice.
- Find out how Nassau County alerts people to evacuate an area.
- Look up the Evacuation Zones and Routes Map distributed through Nassau County's Office of Emergency Management. Pick a town on the south shore of Long Island and decide which evacuation route you would take to leave that area.
- Find out where the closest emergency shelter is to your home?
- Find out what an Emergency Go-Kit should include. Make one for your family.
- Find out what a Pet Go-Kit should include.

### Resources:

- Office of Emergency Management, Nassau County <http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/oem/>
- Ready.gov <http://www.ready.gov/>
- FEMA <http://www.fema.gov/>
- NOAA <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
- NY State Office of Emergency Management <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/oem/event/hurricane-safety.cfm>

