



GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

LOVELY LLAMA

GS NORCAL COUNCIL'S OWN PATCH PROGRAM

BROWNIES, JUNIORS, CADETTES, SENIORS & AMBASSADORS

TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF LLAMAS AS A BREED
AND TO ENCOURAGE INTERACTION WITH THE LLAMAS
AT GS NORCAL'S SKYLARK RANCH.



PURPOSE

The purpose of Lovely Llama Patch Program is to provide the opportunity for girls to increase awareness of the breed and encourage interaction with the Llamas at Skylark Ranch Girl Scout Camp. Through participation in this patch program girls will learn how to handle llamas, and how to be comfortable around them.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Sarah Johanson and Tracey Weiss's Gold Award projects for designing and updating the Lovely Llamas Patch Program, so that all girls can learn about our Llamas at Skylark Ranch and increase their understanding of these unique animals.

PLEASE NOTE

A Council representative must be present if the llamas at Skylark Ranch are being handled. For questions or to Contact the Camp Ranger at (650) 879-1920 or Sari Van Otegham, Senior Director of Outdoor Program at (408) 287-4170 ext. 257

ORDER INFORMATION

To order the Lovely Llama Patch Program, please visit www.girlscoutsnorcal.org and purchase the items online. Please note that shipping and handling will be added to all online orders.

Members of Girl Scouts of Northern California will not be charged for shipping and handling if they use the GS NorCal Council's Own Order Form and have badges shipped to the closest GS NorCal store in their area for members to pick up.

ORDER PATCHES ONLINE AT WWW.GIRLSCOUTSNORCAL.ORG
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PATCH PROGRAMS CONTACT PATCHES@GIRLSCOUTSNORCAL.ORG

LLAMA PATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS

Complete 4 of the following activities including the ones that are starred (*). Use the companion resource binder, the internet or your library to help you complete this program. All levels should share the knowledge they learn with another group

1. Learn where Llamas are raised, where they originated and what other animals are part of their family.
- * 2. Visit a local farm or zoo, wildlife park, or Skylark Ranch to observe the llama and other members of it's family. Watch how the llamas interact with each other and how they act toward unfamiliar people or animals. Then talk or write about what you learned.
3. Discover how llamas are used today.
4. Research how much it costs to care for a llama. Animal care includes food, health care, transportation, pens and shelter. Find out how much a llama costs and if there are any special regulations about having one.
5. Find out what llamas eat. What foods are good or bad to feed them? What effects could the type of food have on a llama?
6. What are some of the behaviors that a llama exhibits? Can you tell when a llama is upset or happy? How about when it is ready to spit? What ear positions let you know their emotions?
7. What is llama wool used for? What are some of the different types of wool that the animals produce? Learn how llamas are sheared and how their wool is stored and cared for. What types of items do you have that are made from wool?
8. Compare sheep and llama wool. How are they different? What is the difference in how the wool is removed and what it is used for.
9. Talk to a veterinarian about the common health problems for llamas and the precautions that can be take to prevent them.

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LLAMA PATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS

Complete at least 6 of the following activities including the ones that are starred (*). Use the companion resource binder, the internet or your library to help you complete this program. All levels should share the knowledge they learn with another group

- * 1. Learn where Llamas are raised, where they originated and what other animals are part of their family.
- * 2. Visit a local farm or zoo, wildlife park, or Skylark Ranch to observe the llama and other members of it's family. Watch how the llamas interact with each other and how they act toward unfamiliar people or animals. Then talk or write about what you learned.
3. Discover how llamas are used today compared to the role that they played in their traditional setting.
4. Research how much it costs to care for a llama. Animal care includes food, health care, transportation, pens and shelter. Find out how much a llama costs and if there are any special regulations about having one.
5. Find out what llamas eat. What foods are good or bad to feed them? What effects could the type of food have on a llama?
6. What are some of the behaviors that a llama exhibits? Can you tell when a llama is upset or happy? How about when it is ready to spit? What ear positions let you know their emotions?
7. What is llama wool used for? What are some of the different types of wool that the animals produce? Learn how llamas are sheared and how their wool is stored and cared for. What types of items do you have that are made from wool?
8. Compare sheep and llama wool. How are they different? What is the difference in how the wool is removed and what it is used for.
9. Learn about the different parts of a llama pack and how to fit it to the llama. Find out how much a llama can carry and try loading a pack.
10. Talk to a veterinarian about the common health problems for llamas and the precautions that can be take to prevent them.

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LLAMA PATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR CADETTES, SENIORS & AMBASSADORS

Complete at least 6 of the following activities including the ones that are starred (*). Use the companion resource binder, the internet or your library to help you complete this program. All levels should share the knowledge they learn with another group

- * 1. Learn where Llamas are raised, where they originated and what other animals are part of their family.
- * 2. Visit a local farm or zoo, wildlife park, or Skylark Ranch to observe the llama and other members of it's family. Watch how the llamas interact with each other and how they act toward unfamiliar people or animals. Then talk or write about what you learned.
3. Discover how llamas are used today compared to the role that they played in their traditional setting.
4. Research how much it costs to care for a llama. Animal care includes food, health care, transportation, pens and shelter. Find out how much a llama costs and if there are any special regulations about having one.
5. Find out what llamas eat. What foods are good or bad to feed them? What effects could the type of food have on a llama?
6. Learn how to halter and walk a llama in an enclosed area and show that you are in command at all times.
7. What are some of the behaviors that a llama exhibits? Can you tell when a llama is upset or happy? How about when it is ready to spit? What ear positions let you know their emotions?
8. What is llama wool used for? What are some of the different types of wool that the animals produce? Learn how llamas are sheared and how their wool is stored and cared for. What types of items do you have that are made from wool?
9. Compare sheep and llama wool. How are they different? What is the difference in how the wool is removed and what it is used for.
10. Learn about the different parts of a llama pack and how to fit it to the llama. Find out how much a llama can carry and try loading a pack.
11. Take the llamas out for a day hike. Set a destination and bring the llamas with you. Pre-plan how to control the llamas during situations that may arise while out hiking on a trail. **Note: A Council Representative must be present to handle the llamas at Skylark Ranch Girl Scout Camp. See pg. 1 for further details.**
12. Talk to a veterinarian about the common health problems for llamas and the precautions that can be take to prevent them.

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LLAMA LORE

Welcome to the fascinating world of llamas! Anyone interested in learning more about llamas, or trying to earn the “Lovely Llama” patch, will see that llamas are delightful animals with unique character. Use this guide in addition to the [Llama Resource Binder](#) (located at the Council office or Skylark Ranch Girl Scout Camp) to fulfill patch program requirements or simply learn more about these animals and the care and attention that they need.

HISTORY

The llama is a member of the camelid family, and is part of the Lama genus. This helps us refer to a particular species. Llamas originally came from Asia and Africa. Approximately 10-12,000 years ago they migrated to South America and have originated from there ever since. The llama is known as one of the oldest domesticated animals in the world. There are four native members of this family that we know of today. The Llama, a domesticated beast located throughout the world; the Alpaca, a llama selectively bred for its fine, colorful wool; the Guanaco, the free ranging and well known herbivore that dwells in the arid land of South America; and the Vicuna, a fine fleeced llama that lives in the central high Andean Mountains.

CHARACTERISTICS

The first view of a herd of llamas can be a completely breathtaking experience. All llamas have a striking aristocratic beauty and graceful posture. They are herd animals, normally with one male to each herd of females. They are friendly toward each other and humans. The wool on all llamas can vary greatly in color and markings. Colors range from white, black, different shades of gray, red, brown, and roan, with marking of solid and spotted patterns.

The llama is a quick learner that can be trained easily with a few repetitions. They have a keen sense of their surroundings and are able to read your body movements. For example, when you are relaxed the llama is more apt to relax and feel comfortable around you. Quick sudden movements can put a llama on edge and cause them to be anxious. Llamas have very good hearing. When on a trail llamas may be able to hear approaching hikers before they are even in sight. The llama is a sure footed and balanced animal that is sturdy on any terrain. Male llamas have fighting teeth that must be removed for safety reasons so not to cause injury to any other llama or human. The fighting teeth are normally removed when the llama reaches two years of age. Like cattle and sheep, llamas are multi-stomached ruminants that chew their cud. The average llama weighs between 280-350 pounds and is fully grown by their fourth year.

SHELTER

The preparations for housing a llama are simple but necessary for proper care of the llama. What constitutes adequate and safe fencing for a llama can vary. On average the fence needs to be 4.5 feet high. Some of the types of fencing available are v-mesh, no-climb, and chain link fence. Barbed wire isn't recommended and can end up hurting the llama. Surrounding the top and bottom of the fences with electric wire can be useful for restraint and for keeping out predators. A three sided shelter is necessary. It can be used as a catch area,

training, grooming, and vaccinations, as well as helping to protect the llama from the elements. Easily reached feeding facilities should be designed so that food and water are always available and kept clean.

CARE AND FEEDING

If you are familiar with caring for any type of domestic livestock, you will find that caring for a llama is relatively easy. A llama has a three compartment stomach. Although it has many of the same functions, it is anatomically different from other livestock such as cattle, sheep, and goats. Llamas need to eat about 2-4% of their body weight in a day. The basic nutrient requirements are proteins, fats, and carbohydrates. Llamas are highly adaptable animals and can live in many different climates. About 91% of their food is dry matter: oat hay, pay hay, brome, timothy, alfalfa hay, and orchard grass. Hay is often fed to llamas because of its high protein content and it can keep for long periods of time. Llamas have a relatively low protein requirement, but it is essential to their diet. Working or nursing llamas need to be fed higher quantities of proteins to keep them healthy and strong. Llamas require less water than most domestic animals but there should be an unlimited fresh clean supply at all times. Grain mixes should not be given to llamas because it will cause bloating and make other foods hard to digest.

HERD MANAGEMENT

To care for a large heard of llamas or different types, it is important to know how to separate them to ensure the safety of the animals. The main herd consists of the females and their young. An adult male can be kept with the group if he will be used for breeding. Expectant mothers should be kept separate. After the baby is born it should be kept in a separate pen with other llamas it's own age so that they can be watched to keep them healthy and safe. Juvenile llamas need to be kept separate also as they can be very aggressive. When a new llama is acquired, make sure that it is introduced to the herd slowly so that the other llamas will not feel threatened and will be more prone to accept the newcomer to the herd.

VALUE AND USES

The uses and value of having a llama has changed greatly over the years. Long ago, the natives of South America used the llama to help them survive in the rough environment. From helping to carry water and supplies, to supplying the wool to make the clothes and baskets necessary to stay warm and survive. Today they are used as pack animals, wool producers, and family pets. Llamas are by far the easiest to care for of any domestic animal and easy to train. During the past 20 years, the value of a llama has increased. Today the cost of a llama can vary greatly, from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars.

Llamas have two coats of fine, downy, soft wool that can make beautiful garments and blankets. There are many ways of removing the wool from a llama. Spring shearing is the most efficient way of removing the wool. Through this method one llama can provide 2-7 pounds of oil free fleece that can be used for weaving. Other methods of wool removal include clipping and brushing, but both of these methods require great amounts of time and yield less wool.

The llama has become known as a wonderful packing companion because of their great agility and calm demeanor. Male llamas between three and four years of age are the prime packers. It takes work to condition a llama and train him to use a pack and follow a lead. There are two main types of packs that can be used, soft and hard frames. The frames consist of two pack bags, called panniers, a breast collar, and a rump strap used to help keep the pack in place. Llamas can carry between 40-50 pounds including their pack saddle and can cover a 10 to 15 mile distance per day depending on how well graded the trails are. When hiking with a llama it is important to stop and take breaks so that the llama can rest and drink from a water supply. Llamas are able to be tied together to form a llama pack string allowing you to lead them all with a single lead rope. When setting up camp for the night it is important that the llamas be “picketed” or tied down within sight of camp and in a cool or damp area.

Llamas make minimal impact on the land and are easy to clean up after. Due to the llama’s hoof structure they may leave many marks on the land. Llamas need only a small area to graze in and because llamas have compact excrement which they leave in a small pile. It makes clean up easy when you are ready to leave.

Hopefully you have enjoyed learning about llamas and about all the wonderful benefits they provide to people! Check out the resources listed below and the [Llama Resource Binder](#) for more detailed information and additional resources for your troops program!

R E S O U R C E S

B O O K S

Dewdney, Anna	Llama Llama, Red Pijama
Guarino, Deborah	Is Your Mama a Llama?
Hurwitz, Johanna	Llama in the Library
Barre, Colleen Stanley	Love a Llama
LaBonte, Gail	The Llama
Arnold, Caroline	Llama

W E B S I T E S

Rangemore Llama Farm	www.llamas.co.nz
Yellow Wood Llamas	www.ywl.com
LlamaWeb	www.llamaweb.com
Llamapedia	www.llamapedia.com

P L A C E S T O S E E L L A M A S I N T H E B A Y A R E A

Happy Hollow Zoo		
San Francisco Zoo – You can even adopt a Llama!		
Skylark Ranch Girl Scout		
Rainbow Ridge Llama Ranch, Petaluma	www.rainbowridgellamaranch.com	707-769-7370
Bonny Doon Alpacas, Santa Cruz	www.bonnydoonalpacas.org	831-426-8649
Waters Edge Alpacas, Fort Bragg	www.watersedgealpacas.com	707-961-6250