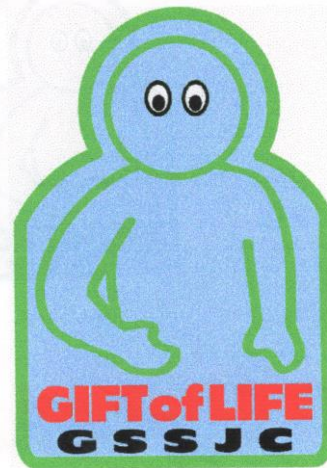


## Gift of Life

GSSJC Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Program Patch

*Developed by Girl Scout health professionals Chitra Chandrashakur & Susan Shirley in partnership with Judy Zavala, LifeGift*



**Objective:** Girls learn about their amazing bodies and discuss with members of their family organ donation. Girls may earn this patch throughout their Girl Scout career.

### Girl Scouts of all ages complete:

- Requirements #1 – 5 to earn the patch with the eyes.
- Two (2) additional requirements to earn the heart.
- Three (3) additional requirements to earn the Organ Donation green pin.

1. Identify at least 5 organs and/or tissues of the body. Explain each organ's function and location. Which of these organs are used in a transplant?
2. Read a book about organ donation and answer some general questions:  
What was special about the book you read? Describe an organ donor.  
Share your thoughts with others about what you learned about organ donation from this book. Ideas: read it aloud to a group of age appropriate children, make a poster for your school or local library, portray the book through a short skit for parents, poem/story/song for troop or local paper.
3. What does your troop and/or family know about organ donation? As a troop or family, take the Transplant I.Q. Quiz (included with these requirements). How much did you know? What was the most important new fact you learned? What topic would you like to learn more about? Share the quiz with your friends.
4. What can YOU, members of your troop and/or your family do to become potential organ donors?
5. People have always been interested in replacing parts of the human body. Early reports of human transplants date from the third century in China through the 19<sup>th</sup> century reports of skin grafts and blood transfusions. When and where was the first organ transplant performed? Find out the history of this procedure. How have women been involved?
6. One of GSSJC's organ and tissue donation partners is *LifeGift*. Search for them, or a similar organization, on the Internet. Contact the group selected to learn more about what they do. Find out if you can attend a volunteer meeting OR event OR arrange for a member of the organization's speaker's bureau to attend a Girl Scout function. Invite your family, troop, school class or other group to the meeting or share what you learned with them.
7. Learn the steps for an organ transplant. List the steps and share them with your family, troop, school class or other group.
8. Where is organ transplant surgery done in your area? Discover how a doctor or other medical staff helps a patient become a donor candidate. Invite a guest speaker to your meeting, or make an appointment to visit a hospital and an intensive care unit or emergency room, if the circumstances allow.
9. Develop a resource list of agencies that assist others with organ and tissue donations. List the organ and tissue used by each agency. Share with family, friends and community.
10. Locate in your local paper, magazines or on the web two true-life stories about lives being saved by transplants.

11. Find out what your blood type is. Learn what blood types are the most common, and which ones are in the most demand for transfusions.
12. From what you've learned by completing this patch, write a short speech, or design a poster or commercial explaining to your friends and family who can be an organ donor and why they should consider it OR Organize a donor awareness program. Present it at a local Girl Scout, community, school or faith community event OR organize a blood drive OR pursue your own idea on this subject.
13. From what you've learned, complete a service project following the guidelines in *Safetywise*. Ideas: collect used glasses for Lion's Eye Bank, distribute Organ Donation cards at local events, Organ & Tissue Donation Awareness Week (third week in April) activities.

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### Resources

- LifeGift: 713-523-4438 or 800-633-6562, [www.LifeGift.org](http://www.LifeGift.org), 2510 Westridge, Houston 77054. Organ Donation Week is the third week of April.
- UNOS: [www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org) Mission is to advance organ availability and transplantation by uniting and supporting its communities for the benefit of patients through education, technology and policy development.

## Test Your Transplant IQ

### Questions:

1. You have to put your name on a national list/registry to become an organ donor
2. If you carry a donor card or have a sticker on your driver's license, doctors may not try to save your life if you are in an accident.
3. All major religions support organ donation.
4. Hospitals pay families for allowing them to remove organs or tissues for transplantation.
5. A person can get well from brain death because they are still breathing.
6. Only rich or important people can get a transplant
7. You are more likely to need an organ transplant than to become an organ donor.
8. The donor's family must pay none of the costs for organ donation.
9. The most important thing you can do is make a personal decision about organ donation and then discuss it with your family and friends.

### Answers:

1. FALSE. There is no official national list for organ donors like there is for transplant patients. Some states have a registry, but Texas does not. To be a donor, make a personal decision and discuss it with your family. A signed donor card is a helpful identification tool.
2. FALSE. Doctors, nurses, paramedics and other health professionals are there to help save lives. Every attempt is made to save a patient's life. Donation is not considered until brain death is certain.
3. TRUE. All major religions support organ donation as a way to help others.
4. FALSE. Organ donation is a gift of life. Buying and selling organs is a felony in the U.S. The recipient pays the organ donation center an acquisition fee to help cover the cost of the medical procedures: no cost for the donation is charged to the donor family.
5. FALSE. When no more blood flows to the brain, cells are permanently dead. There is no chance of them returning to life. The ventilator, or breathing machine, is doing the breathing, not the patient.
6. FALSE. To qualify for a transplant and be placed on the national waiting list, a patient must have some way to pay for medical care. Medicare and many insurance companies cover many transplants to make them available to people from all economic backgrounds. Once on the waiting list the decision is based on medical facts only.
7. TRUE. Less than 1% of all deaths in the US are from head injuries that result in brain death and only ½ of these cases are suitable for organ donation. That is why there is such a shortage of organs for transplantation and why it is so important for families to say "yes" to donations.
8. TRUE. The organ donation center pays all of the costs related to the donation. The family is only responsible for the costs of the life-saving efforts made before death is declared.
9. TRUE. A personal decision and family discussion are the most important things you can do.