



Four Little Girls Patch Program

This patch program was created in memory of the Four Little Girls.

This patch program was created by Taylor G. Player as part of her Gold Award Project in memory of the Four Little Girls. These girls were killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in 1963, during the civil rights movement in Birmingham, AL. This event was a pivotal moment and made an impact on the community and the entire nation.

YouTube:

Earn the Four Little Girls patch by watching videos on YouTube at youtube.com/@girlscoutsnca. See which steps can be completed through YouTube below.

Requirements:

- Daisies - Complete 2 steps (including 1 starred item)
- Brownies - Complete 4 steps (including 1 starred item)
- Juniors - Complete 5 steps (including 2 starred items)
- Cadettes - Complete 5 steps (including 2 starred items)
- Seniors/Ambassadors - Complete 6 steps (including 3 starred items)

Steps:

- Discussion: Why are the Four Little Girls important in our history? **(YouTube)**
- Visit any historical African American Church ** **(YouTube)**
- Visit any Civil Rights Museum **
- What are the names of the Four Little Girls? ** **(YouTube)**
- Visit Kelly Ingram Park to see the “Four Spirits” status of the Four Little Girls. **(YouTube)**
- Write a poem or song about the Four Little Girls to perform.
- Activity: The Four Little Girls were ages 11-14. What childhood games were played during the civil rights era? Play a game they might have played, like marbles, checkers, hopscotch, or jump roping.
- Discussion: How have the Four Little Girls impacted race relations among our youth and communities today? **
- Read a book about the Four Little Girls or a civil rights related book, such as *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis.
- Invite a speaker from the civil rights era to speak to your group. ** **(YouTube)**
- Research and gather 2 important facts about each girl.
- Watch the Four Little Girls documentary by Spike Lee (appropriate for older Girl Scouts).
- Who was Doug Jones and why was he important then and now? **(YouTube)**
- Read the following poems: “Ballad of Birmingham” by Dudley Randall and “Birmingham Sunday” by Langston Hughes. ** **(YouTube)**

To order patches, email retail1@girlscoutsnca.org.

Ballad of Birmingham

by Dudley Randall

*(On the bombing of a church in Birmingham,
Alabama, 1963)*

“Mother dear, may I go downtown
Instead of out to play,
And march the streets of Birmingham
In a Freedom March today?”

“No, baby, no, you may not go,
For the dogs are fierce and wild,
And clubs and hoses, guns and jails
Aren’t good for a little child.”

“But, mother, I won’t be alone.
Other children will go with me,
And march the streets of Birmingham
To make our country free.”

“No, baby, no, you may not go,
For I fear those guns will fire.
But you may go to church instead
And sing in the children’s choir.”

She has combed and brushed her night-dark hair,
And bathed rose petal sweet,
And drawn white gloves on her small brown hands,
And white shoes on her feet.

The mother smiled to know her child
Was in the sacred place,
But that smile was the last smile
To come upon her face.

For when she heard the explosion,
Her eyes grew wet and wild.
She raced through the streets of Birmingham
Calling for her child.

She clawed through bits of glass and brick,
Then lifted out a shoe.
“O, here’s the shoe my baby wore,
But, baby, where are you?”

*Dudley Randall, “Ballad of Birmingham” from Cities
Burning. Copyright © 1968 by Dudley Randall.
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Randall.*

Birmingham Sunday

by Langston Hughes

(September 15, 1963)

Four little girls
Who went to Sunday School that day
And never came back home at all
But left instead
Their blood upon the wall
With splattered flesh
And bloodied Sunday dresses
Torn to shreds by dynamite
That China made aeons ago-
Did not know
That what China made
Before China was ever Red at all
Would redden with their blood
This Birmingham-on-Sunday wall.
Four tiny girls
Who left their blood upon that wall,
In little graves today await
The dynamite that might ignite
The fuse of centuries of Dragon Kings
Whose tomorrow sings a hymn
The missionaries never taught Chinese
in Christian Sunday School
To implement the Golden Rule.
Four little girls
Might be awakened someday soon
By songs upon the breeze
As yet unfelt among magnolia trees