This patch may be earned by Scouts by doing at least one activity each from the Discover, Connect, and Take Action sections, based on your grade in school. Kindergarten through 3rd graders must visit one area, 4th & 5th graders must participate in one Ranger-led program, 6th-12th graders must visit twice or stay overnight.

Patches include a large main patch plus a smaller strip (rocker) for attending a Full Moon event, Lake Lucero tour, or a Sunset Stroll and may be purchased from Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest shops in Las Cruces, NM and El Paso, TX.

Visit gsdsw.org for more information.

DISCOVER

• Follow the Playa Trail, Dune Life Nature Trail, Interdune Boardwalk. Go to the top of a dune, and draw a map of everything you can see. Show which way is North, and label the mountains and roads. Show which way the dunes are moving. What happens to the roads and shelters when the dunes shift?

• Find 5 different plants, and draw or photograph them. Identify the names of the plants, and who they are useful to. What do these plants need to thrive?
DISCOVER (Continued)

• Look closely at the crusty earth (Remember: Don’t Bust the Crust!) around the edges of the dunes. What do you notice about it? Why is it like that? Do you find any rocks? Why or why not?

• Create a drawing or painting of an area of the monument. How do you show shapes in a field of white? Why are the dunes in different shapes and textures?

• Look at the areas where people go in the monument. Why is it important to follow the rules on the sign? How should you prepare for a hike in the dunes?

• Look for tracks or other signs of animals. Where would you find animal or insect tracks? Identify who might have made the tracks. How do they live in this environment?

• Do you see any white or light colored animals or insects? Why do you think they are light colored? How can you use that idea when you dress for the outdoors?

CONNECT

• Who are the people working at White Sands National Monument, and what do they do? Interview 3 of them about their jobs.

• Look at the buildings at the entrance to the monument. Compare the details of these to your home or school, and explain the differences. Create a model of one of the buildings.

• Imagine that you have a friend who lives far away, who has never seen sand dunes. Write a letter to your friend describing White Sands National Monument. Tell all the things that are great about it.

• What are the weather safety issues at this monument? Learn to recognize changes in the weather, and how to prepare for them.

• Teach an outdoor skill to a group of younger Scouts at White Sands National Monument.

• Attend one of the Full Moon Events. These are only once a month so remember to check the website or Visitor’s Center for information.

• Attend a Sunset Stroll. Create a drawing or story based on what you learned on the stroll.

• Go on a tour of Lake Lucero. This tour is only offered once a month in January, February, March, April, November, and December. Information is in the Ranger Programs section of the monument website: www.nps.gov

TAKE ACTION

• Use ideas from White Sands to create a desert animal habitat somewhere, such as at home.

• Give a talk to a group of at least 5 other people about why they should visit the monument. Talk for at least 5 minutes. Include a visual component, such as drawings or a PowerPoint.

• Create a 3-5 minute video about the monument and submit it to GSDSW for posting on their YouTube channel. Send your video to Ileana Martinez at imartinez@gsdsw.org.

• Create a display about White Sands, and set it up in public for at least 5 days. This could be at school, at a public library, or at a business—anywhere people can see it. Include information about why your display is there.

• Design and create a safety message about the park that can be displayed for other visitors. Be sure to show that it was done by a Girl Scout!