



Dear Parent,

Your daughter's troop will be participating in the *Zink the Zebra* patch program. This patch program has been designed to give teens a sense of awareness of and appreciation for individual differences; foster compassion and respect for others; practice the life skills of positive interaction, and an opportunity for community service. This program is a collaboration between the *Zink the Zebra* Foundation and Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council.

The following information is provided to parents/guardians before the program takes place. Since attendance is optional for all or part of the activities, parents are requested to give their approval or disapproval for their daughter's participation in each activity.

The activities are based on the book "*Zink the Zebra*" written by Kelly Weil about a zebra with spots instead of stripes. The story of Zink is used as a basis for understanding how it feels to be different. Cancer is also used as a vehicle through which these lessons are taught. While cancer does not discriminate as to who contracts it, few young people understand it. Kelly Weil was an 11 year old girl who died of cancer. While Kelly was sick, many of her friends wouldn't play with her because she looked different due to the medical treatments she had. The book helps teens realize that we're more alike than different and being different doesn't mean you don't need friends. The activities are designed so that Girl Scout leaders, in partnership with the girls, can help them grow into compassionate, respectful, kind girls and women of the future.

Activities for the Cadette and Senior Girl Scout levels include:

- Talk about things that make people alike and different
- Talk about what it is like to be different
- Have the girls share what they know about people who are or were sick with cancer or other illnesses
- Give the girls a very basic understanding of cancer, stressing that many people are survivors
- Share a snack that represents how wonderful differences can be
- Watch the play video, *Zink: the Myth, the Legend, the Zebra*
- Play the Myth vs. Fact Game
- Participate in a service project (optional)
- Educate others about being kind, compassionate and respectful

GIRL SCOUTS OF VIRGINIA SKYLINE COUNCIL
PARENTAL PERMISSION FOR PARTICIPATION IN A SENSITIVE ISSUE ACTIVITY

Please return to _____ by _____

I, the parent/guardian of (full name) _____ give permission for her to participate in *Zink the Zebra* activities. I have read the above description of the activity planned. I understand that my daughter will be exposed to issues and discussions that could be considered to be of a sensitive or controversial nature.

I have discussed the above activity with my daughter and am confident that she has the maturity and ability to participate in this activity.

I understand, and have shared with her, that her attendance is optional for all or part of the activity. However, it is my or my daughter's responsibility to communicate to the leaders of this activity our needs in advance of the date the activity is to be conducted.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____