



# December

## Monthly Patch Program Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

### Emily Dickinson

*"I dwell in possibility."*

Emily Dickinson is now known as one of America's greatest poets. The first volume of her poetry was published in 1890, four years after her death. Emily's poetry is now widely read among people of all ages and interests.



**Complete 3-Daisy, 4-Brownie, 5-Junior, 6-Cadette, and 7-Senior/Ambassador steps to earn your patch.**

All monthly patches are custom designed patches. Once we get the final number of patches after the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, we place an order. Patches take about a month to create and then we mail them to you.

*Order patch on-line by January 15<sup>th</sup> at [www.getyourgirlpower.org](http://www.getyourgirlpower.org)*



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### Discover

1. Who was Emily Dickinson? Where did she grow up? What was her life like? Research Emily Dickinson on the web with permission from an adult or check out books from the library.
2. Emily grew up in Amherst, Massachusetts in the 1800s. Discover what life was like for women living in this time period.
3. Emily's poetry did not grow famous until after her death, or posthumous. Read some of Emily's poetry. What is her writing style like? What does she portray in her writing?
4. Discover other poets alive in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Who were they? Were they men or women? What did they write about?

### Connect

5. During school, teachers noticed Emily's poems and letters stood out for her skilled observation and description of plants and flowers. With your troop, visit an outdoor space with lots of plants and flowers. This could be a park or a garden, for example. Take turns identifying, observing, and describing the different types of plants and flowers around you. Share with your troop afterward.
6. One of Emily's most popular works is titled *Hope is the thing with feathers*, reminding us all "hope" is something that lives inside all of us. Read this poem aloud and discuss with your troop. What stands out to you? What does the poem mean to you? Why do you think the title is *Hope is the thing with feathers*? What does "hope" mean to you?

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7. When Emily was a teen, her cousin and close friend both died from typhus, leaving her traumatized and melancholic. Typhus is an infectious disease caused by bacteria spread to humans by fleas or lice. A typhus epidemic broke out on the east coast in the early to mid-1800s and claimed the lives of nearly one million. Discover more about typhus with your troop and discuss pandemics and epidemics. How does the COVID-19 pandemic compare to the typhus epidemic?

### Take Action

8. After looking at the works of Emily Dickinson, think of a topic and write your own poem. Give the poem to someone to make them smile and brighten their day.
9. During Emily's lifetime, she was known more widely as a gardener than a poet. Plan and plant a garden. Will you choose flowers, herbs, veggies, or fruits? Begin by planting seeds inside of small planters or empty egg cartons. Once they begin to grow in maturity, transplant them to larger pots. When spring blossoms, plant your seedlings outdoors. This will create a beautiful new scene for your family, neighbors, and/or community. If you plant food, share with friends, family, and neighbors.
10. Discover a modern-day poet, like Rupi Kaur or Marilyn Singer, and read her work. Take turns sharing your favorite poem to your troop. How did it make you feel? What about the poem did you enjoy? What was the poem about? Write a letter or email to the poet explaining why you like her poetry.

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