

Preserving Our Past – A Girl Scout History Junior Badge

Complete six activities, including number 10 (which is required).



1. Learn about Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low. What can you find out about her relationships with her family and friends and about her hobbies, interests and pets (books are available for check out** or visit www.girlscouts.org under Who We Are then History)? Try an activity that she would have enjoyed, such as: sculpting in clay, china painting, oil painting, dramatics, drawing/making paper dolls or writing stories.
2. Research the birthplace of Girl Scouting in the U.S.A.: Savannah, Georgia. Visit it in person, interview someone who has been there with photos and materials to share, or research it on the internet. The Juliette Gordon Low National Center (the “Birthplace” and her childhood home), the First Headquarters (owned and operated by the Girl Scout Council of Savannah), and the Andrew Low House (Juliette Low’s home in Savannah as an adult, owned and operated by the Colonial Dames) are all sites of interest in Savannah - as are Christ Episcopal Church (Juliette Low’s family church and site of her baptism, confirmation, wedding, and funeral) and Laurel Grove Cemetery (where Juliette Low is buried).
3. Watch the movie “The Golden Eaglet” ** How has Girl Scouting changed since its early days? How has it stayed the same?
4. Use old Girl Scout handbooks/badge books to compare badges and activities of the past with those of today. Try some activities suggested in old handbooks**, you may even want to try to earn a badge from the past.
5. Girl Scout uniforms have changed over the years. Find pictures to compare, or look at some old uniforms. You might like to have a fashion show with vintage uniforms**, or make some Girl Scout paper dolls in uniform.
6. Visit a Girl Scout memorabilia swap meet, show or sale. Or, arrange for someone who has vintage Girl Scout articles to share her Girl Scout collection with you. Which of your Girl Scout possessions would you want to keep for others to see in the future?
7. Visit the GSUSA virtual museum on the internet at www.girlscouts.org. Tour all the “rooms” and read about the items on display. Or visit the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee’s historic display at the Nashville office, or a local display of vintage Girl Scout items. (To schedule a tour at the Nashville office, call 615-383-0490/800-395-5318 or email info@gsmidtn.org).
8. Learn how to care for and preserve historic Girl Scout materials - papers, photos, uniforms, books, etc. How are these materials stored and filed? What special precautions must be taken when handling or using them?
9. Interview someone who was a Girl Scout at least 25 years ago. Record her memories. Make a video or audio recording of the interview, if possible. You could make a copy and donate it to our archives. Here are some sample questions you could use:
 - When and where was she a Girl Scout? What were some of the things she did?
 - What did her uniform look like? How did she celebrate Thinking Day, Juliette Low’s Birthday (Founder’s Day), Girl Scout Week, or other Girl Scout events?
 - Did she go camping, or on any Girl Scout trips?
 - Does she remember any Girl Scout songs?
 - What is her fondest memory of Girl Scouting?
 - Did she save any of her Girl Scout things - what are they?

*10. Preserve your own Girl Scout history. Here are some ideas:

- Start a scrapbook or journal with information about your time in Girl Scouting – record important information (when you joined Girl Scouts, your troop number, your leaders’ names, where your troop meets, trips you have taken, events you have attended, activities you have done, awards and recognitions you have earned, etc).
- Collect information on your own troop, clip articles about Girl Scout events in your area from the newspaper.
- Take pictures of events your troop attends or activities they do and put them in a troop album.
- Make a video/DVD of a special Girl Scout event, or record your memories on an audio tape/CD.

Preserving Our Past Junior Badge Resources

Website Resources:

www.girlscouts.org

www.gsmidtn.org

www.girlscouts.org/birthplace

www.vintagegirlscout.com

** Resources available through the Girl Scout office in Nashville for check out:

Historical uniforms

Historical Girl Scout handbooks

Girl Scout Collector’s Guides

“The Golden Eaglet” movie

Should you need additional assistance, please contact our archival staff below:

Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee

Phone: (615) 383.0490 or (800) 395.5318

Email: info@gsmidtn.org

This badge was designed for Junior Girl Scouts by Cindy Robinson, Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee archivist/historian, and is dedicated with grateful affection to Ellie Vermillion for her tireless efforts in “preserving our past.”