

Age Level:

J

Native American Badge Program

Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee
Developed by Troop 992

Complete at least six requirements, including the two that are starred.
Badges are available from the Girl Scout Shop. The embroidered symbol is the logo of the prehistoric Indians of the Southeast.



- *1. Find out about a Native American tribe including the kind of foods they ate, houses they lived in, kind of government they used, their beliefs, tools they may have used, etc. In what ways is their culture celebrated, preserved and passed down to the next generation today?
- *2. Discover some of the problems facing the Indians today and what some of the tribes are doing to overcome these problems.
3. Many plants and animals were used not only for food, but also for medicine. Tribal medicine men were the ones that took care of the sick. What were some ways they cured people? Find 10 herbs, plants, or animals that were used in medicine and describe how they were used.
4. Make three crafts the Native Americans used such as baskets, pottery, musical instruments, jewelry, etc.
5. Find out what the tribe you are studying ate. What foods do we eat today that originally came from Native Americans? Cook and eat a traditional Indian meal.
6. With your troop learn a traditional Indian dance. What was the purpose of the dance, who traditionally performed it and when was it likely to be performed? *Avoid dances that are protected by tribal religious beliefs.*
7. Read or listen to a Native American story. It could be about an animal and how it came to be, how the constellations were made or a geographical feature.
8. There are many Native American women who have contributed to American society. Use books, the library or the internet to find out about five (5) of them and their contributions.
9. What states, rivers, cities and other geographical areas are named for Native American people and their tribes? Discover the information for 20 sites.
10. Learn the meaning of 12 Native American symbols. OR
Find out who invented the Indian alphabet and learn to write your name using it.
11. Learn three (3) games that were enjoyed by the America Indians and how they were used. Can you think of any present day games that are similar to theirs?

BEADS FOR BARTER

Many Indian tribes are famous for the beautiful jewelry they created. The Hopi Indians made necklaces from polished stones and shells. Other tribes used the teeth and bones of different animals. Some even used corn kernels as beads.

The colors the Indians used were chosen because they represented something important to the tribe.

Red = morning or evening; health
Blue = sky or water; power
Yellow = sun or moon

White = water or day
Orange = calm, peace

★ String your own necklace or belt with beads made from macaroni! You can even dye the macaroni different colors.

1. Get a bowl for each color you want to use. Pour a small amount of water into each bowl. Add a few drops of food coloring. (Remember: yellow + red = orange. Do not color the macaroni beads you want to be white.)
2. Put several pieces of macaroni in each bowl. (Ditalini works best.) Stir and allow them to soak for just a moment. (Macaroni takes the dye quickly.)
3. Carefully remove the macaroni. Allow the pieces to dry completely on a piece of wax paper.
4. Thread a needle with heavy thread and string the "beads." Tie the thread around the first bead so it won't slip off.
5. Make the necklace or belt long enough to fit over your head or around your waist. Leave some thread at the end of the strand so that you can tie the two ends together in a tight knot.
6. Make several strands of beads to wear at the same time.



WAMPUM

Indians on the eastern coast of America made beads from the white and purple parts of clam shells. These beads were woven into belts and necklaces and were called *wampum*.

Wampum was used as money when the Indians wanted to *barter* or trade for something.

The purple beads were worth more than the white ones.

★ You can make your own wampum by dyeing some macaroni pieces purple and leaving others plain. What two colors need to be mixed to make purple? _____

Fun and Games

Many Native American tribes enjoyed playing games. They made their own playing pieces from the things around them. They used sticks, stones, fruit pits, animal bones and other objects to create games and toys.

✧ **Stick Around**

To play this game, an Indian would bend a long, thin green branch into a circle and tie the ends together to form a hoop.

The object of the game is to toss three sticks, each a little shorter than the width of the hoop, into the hoop. The trick is that you must stand four feet away and turn your back to the hoop. Then toss the sticks over your shoulder without looking.

If you do not have a hoop, form a piece of rope into a circle. Give yourself one point each time you succeed in getting a stick in the circle. Give yourself an extra point if you get all three sticks on one turn.

✧ **Get the Point**

Some tribes enjoyed an especially challenging game. They would tie a ball of grass to a sharp, pointed stick. The object was to toss a ball and get it to land on the stick. (It's not as easy as it sounds!)

A modern version of this game uses a 12-inch stick, a 14-inch piece of string and a paper cup. Make a tiny hole in the bottom of the cup and insert one end of the string. Knot the end inside the cup so that the string can't slip out. Tie the other end to the top of the stick.

Now, try to swing the cup and catch it on the stick.

✧ **Can You Guess?**

In this game, you will need two small stones. Mark one stone with a red dot using paint, markers or crayon.

Sit in a circle with two or more friends. Pass one stone to another player, but keep it hidden the whole time. Ask another person to guess which stone you gave away. If the person guesses correctly, give him or her both stones. That person now takes a turn, and so on. If he/she guesses incorrectly, you go again. The person who guesses correctly the most times wins.

PICTURE THIS!

American Indians painted pictures to record their tribal history, to tell about their dreams; and to describe their successes in battle and in the hunt. Indians in the northern part of the U.S. painted their pictures on walls and totem poles. The Plains Indians used the hides of animals, and the Woodland Indians drew on strips of birch bark.

Indian picture writing is very beautiful. Paints were made from the earth and from dried plants and grasses which were crushed and mixed with water. A piece of buffalo bone was dipped into the paint and used to draw the pictures.

★ Here are some Indian picture-writing symbols and a message for you to translate. Use the back of this page to write the message in English. You will have to add such words as "to," "and," "in," and "the."

LAKE

EAT

SING

I, ME, MY

HOUSE

FRIENDS

REST
(Used instead of a period.)

MOUNTAINS

SWIM

BRING

COME

GO TO A FEAST, PARTY

FISH

WE, US

YOU, YOUR

DANCE

GO

PLENTY OF FOOD