

Preserving Our Past

A Series of Girl Scout History Recognitions

These Girl Scout history recognitions were developed as a "Council's Own" for the Girl Scouts of Middle and are available from the Nashville Shop. There is a recognition for each level – Daisy, Brownie, Junior, with Cadette/Senior/Ambassador having the same recognition.

Preserving Our Past - Daisy Level

Complete three activities, including number 5 (which is required).

1. Learn about Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low. Read about her family, her hobbies, her interests, her pets (books are available for check out from the Resource Center or visit www.girlscouts.org under Who We Are then History). Try an activity that she would have enjoyed - sculpting in clay, china painting, drawing or painting pictures, making paper dolls, writing stories, acting out plays.
2. Girl Scout uniforms have changed over the years. Find some 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.
3. 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 items would you want to keep for others to see in the future?
4. Visit with someone who was a Girl Scout at least 20 years ago. Ask her about what Girl Scouting was like when she was a girl. 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 happiest memory of Girl Scouting? Did she save any of her Girl Scout things - what are they?

*5. Preserve your own Girl Scout history. Here are some ideas: Start a scrapbook or notebook with information about your time in Girl Scouting - 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. Draw a picture of a special Girl Scout memory you have. Put all your troop's pictures together in a notebook or folder. Start a troop photo album with pictures of events your troop attends or activities you have done. Make a video/dvd of a special Girl Scout event, or just of your troop meetings. Make a Girl Scout time capsule - write down things you want to remember, add pictures or drawings, even some small objects. Seal it up and wait to open it when you become a teen-aged Girl Scout.

Preserving Our Past - Brownie Level

Complete four activities, including number 6 (which is required).

1. Learn about Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low. Read about her family, her hobbies, her interests, her pets (books are available for check out from the Resource Center or visit www.girlscouts.org under Who We Are then History). Try an activity that she would have enjoyed - sculpting in clay, china painting, drawing or painting pictures, making paper dolls, writing stories, acting out plays.
2. Girl Scout uniforms have changed over the years. Find some 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.
3. Review an old Brownie Girl Scout handbook. How does it compare to yours? What is different and what is the same? You might like to try an activity from the old handbook.
4. 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 items would you want to keep for others to see in the future?
5. Visit with someone who was a Girl Scout at least 20 years ago. Ask her about what Girl Scouting was like when she was a girl. 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 happiest memory of Girl Scouting? Did she save any of her Girl Scout things - what are they?

*6. Preserve your own Girl Scout history. Here are some ideas: Start a scrapbook or notebook with information about your time in Girl Scouting - 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. Draw a picture of a special Girl Scout memory you have. Put all your troop's pictures together in a notebook or folder. Start a troop photo album with pictures of events your troop attends or activities you have done. Make a video/dvd of a special Girl Scout event, or just of your troop meetings. Make a Girl Scout time capsule - write down things you want to remember, add pictures or drawings, even some small objects. Seal it up and wait to open it when you become a teen-aged Girl Scout.

Preserving Our Past - Junior Level

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 from the Resource Center 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" (available for check out from the Resource Center). 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 Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee's historic display at the Nashville office, or a local display of vintage Girl Scout items. If you can't visit a display in person you can still "visit" the Vintage Girl Scout Online Museum at <http://www.vintagegirlscout.com/> (To schedule a tour at the Nashville office, email our historian/archivist at crobinson@gsmidtn or call 615-383-0490).

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 important 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 - Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Level

Complete a minimum of four activities from Section A, and one activity each from Sections B, C, and D.

Section A

A1. Research our Founder, Juliette Gordon Low. Try to discover what personal characteristics enabled her to set in motion the largest voluntary organization for girls and women in the world. Learn something about her relationships with her family and friends. What obstacles did she overcome, what honors and acclaim have been awarded her?

A2. Visit the birthplace of Girl Scouting in the U.S.A. - Savannah, Georgia (either in person, or by interviewing someone who has been there and has photos and materials to share). 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 - 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).

A3. Learn more about early Girl Scout history - where it came from, how it was organized, how it was funded, and some of the influential people who gave it momentum. What is the foundation of this organization? Read excerpts from the Constitution of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and our Congressional Charter (see the Leader's Digest).

A4. Research, then contrast and compare the highest awards in Girl Scouting through the years. Correlate your achievements in Girl Scouting with those that would qualify you for awards in years past.

A5. Complete activities to earn a badge from the past, or do a variety of activities suggested in old handbooks.

A6. Visit a Girl Scout memorabilia swap meet, show or sale. Or, arrange for a private collector to share her collection with you. Ask about the current value of these items, and where and how collectors obtain their items. Discuss why collecting Girl Scout memorabilia is so popular, and what value it has (beyond monetary value). Find out what motivates private collectors and what they do with their collections.

A7. Learn techniques for preserving 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?

A8. Discover how to do an "oral history." Practice your interviewing technique with family and friends.

Section B

B1. Use technology to help preserve Girl Scout history in your area. Arrange to interview someone who was involved in Girl Scouting in years past. Besides taking notes, use a video or still camera and/or a tape recorder to preserve the information. Share your information with the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee archives or Girl Scouts in your area.

B2. Use the internet to research Girl Scouting (read and sign the Online Safety Pledge found in Safety-Wise). First, visit GSUSA's website (www.girlscouts.org). Then, visit several council websites, including Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee's (www.gsmidtn.org). Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee has a Facebook page, as does GSUSA and others. See if you can find individual service unit or troop web pages or Facebook pages. What type of information do they all have in common? Do they all present a positive picture of Girl Scouting? What features make some sites more attractive/useful than others?

B3. Visit the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee's historic display in our museum at the Nashville Service Center, or a local display of vintage Girl Scout items. Take an online "tour" of the Vintage Girl Scout Online Museum at <http://www.vintagegirlscout.com/> (To schedule a tour of our GSMIDTN museum, contact our historian/archivist at crobinson@gsmidtn.org or call 615-460-0219).

B4. Use old Girl Scout handbooks/badge books to compare technological badges and activities of the past with those of today. Make sure to use handbooks from at least three different decades. How has Girl Scouting kept pace with advances in science and technology? (Books are available for check out through the resource center at Nashville Girl Scout Service Center).

Section C

C1. Share your knowledge of Girl Scout history with other Girl Scouts. Plan and carry out an event for younger girls that focuses on Girl Scout history, or help a Brownie Girl Scout or Junior Girl Scout troop earn a Girl Scout history related recognition.

C2. Promote Girl Scout history in your community. Set up a historical exhibit at your local library, civic center, or other public area. You may choose to do this during March in celebration of Girl Scout week, or you may wish to set up an exhibit honoring Juliette Low during October for Founder's Day (October 31). You may also choose another time to set up your display if it has special significance to your troop or area.

C3. Volunteer to help in the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee archive or as a guide for girls visiting the Girl Scout Nashville Service Center to tour the Historic Gallery and exhibits.

C4. Assist in preserving Girl Scout history in your area. Here are some ideas: compile information on those involved in Girl Scouts in your area, collect histories of your own troop and others, clip newspaper articles that feature Girl Scouts, take photos of Girl Scout events in your area. If your service unit or area has a Girl Scout historian, you could give these materials to her. Make copies to donate to the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee archives.

Section D

D1. Girl Scouting is, historically, a volunteer based organization. Find out about opportunities to work for Girl Scouts as an adult volunteer. What are the procedures volunteers must go through to have their services accepted/approved. Find out what opportunities you have as a Cadette/Senior/Ambassador to volunteer your services. What are the requirements and procedures you must follow?

D2. Arrange to interview someone who works for the Girl Scout organization in a paid position. Ask about her job description, her qualifications and background, salary range, benefits. etc. What path led her to work for this organization? Was she involved in Girl Scouting as a girl?

D3. Historic preservation is an interesting career. Interview someone who works either as a paid professional in this field, or as a volunteer. You may consult with our historic/archival committee members or with other museum staff/volunteers in your area. Many historic homes open to the public have staff and volunteer positions in this field. Discover what special training/education they have had.

D4. Girl Scouts is a non-profit organization. Choose another non-profit organization and compare it with Girl Scouts. How are the two groups funded? How are they staffed? Research colleges that offer degrees toward working in the non-profit sector. Find out what special courses they offer.

Resources for “Preserving Our Past” Girl Scout History Recognitions

Online resources:

www.girlscouts.org

www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/our-history.html

www.girlscouts.org/en/visit-us/visit-us/jgl-birthplace.html

www.juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org

www.juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org/en/about/about-the-birthplace.html

www.juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org/en/learn/about-daisy.html

www.vintagegirlscout.com This is an independent site created by GS collector Nancy White.

<https://gshistory.com/> This blog is an independent project created by GS historian Ann Robertson.

Many vintage Girl Scout movies (including The Golden Eaglet) are available online (check YouTube).

The following items are available from our resource center in the Nashville Service Center:

Vintage Girl Scout uniforms
Vintage Girl Scout handbooks
Girl Scout Collector’s Guide
Biographies of Juliette Gordon Low
Books on Girl Scout history and GSMIDTN history
“The Golden Eaglet” dvd

For more information and check-out procedures, call 615-460-0255 or email info@gsmidtn.org

You may visit our Girl Scout history museum located in the Cabin area of the Nashville Service Center during our regular business hours.

Guided tours of our Girl Scout history museum are available by appointment. To schedule a museum tour, or for other assistance in completing these recognitions, please contact our historian/archivist, Cindy Robinson at crobinson@gsmidtn.org or by calling 615-460-0219.

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