

Title: Songwriting Patch

Level: All levels

Introduction: Nashville is known as “Music City.” Do you know why? One reason is because of the countless songs that are written and produced in Nashville every year. Take some time to learn about songwriters and maybe you will be inspired to write a song of your own!

Requirements: All levels must complete all requirements.

1. Research 3 female songwriters that lived or worked in Nashville. Try to find women from different decades. Learn about their childhoods, their lives in Nashville, and their songs.
2. Choose a song by one of the songwriters you researched in the last step. Listen to the song twice. The first time, listen closely to the lyrics and answer the following questions:
 - a. What does the song mean to you?
 - b. What is the person singing about?
 - c. Who is the person singing to?
3. The second time, listen closely to the music and instruments and answer the following questions:
 - a. What instruments do you hear in this song?
 - b. By listening to the instruments, can you tell what kinds of emotions the singer is feeling? Examples include happy, sad, joyful, angry, grieving, and/or loving.
4. Tell someone about one of the female songwriters you researched. You could tell your troop, someone in your family, or some friends. Share the information you learned and play some of the songs that the songwriter wrote.
5. Write lyrics to your own song! Follow these steps to write your lyrics:
 - a. Choose a topic you want to write about. Do you want to write about a person, a memory, a holiday, a pet, or something else?
 - b. Think about the tone of the song. Do you want the song to be happy and upbeat, sad and slow, or a combination of both?
 - c. Start writing! Song lyrics are basically poetry put to music, so start by writing a poem. Write your verses and chorus however you would like!
6. Optional: Once you have written your lyrics, you can put them to music. You can either use a piece of music that you know and that you think fits your lyrics, or you can write your own music.
7. Optional: Share your completed lyrics and/or music with your troop or family members.