

Past and Promise: The World of Me

Past and Promise is a patch program about our heritage and how it has made us who we are today. It is a patch program about exploring, discovering, and sharing with others. The program is divided into three sections: **Family Roots**, **Community History**, and **Girl Scout Heritage**. Each troop/group/girl should select at least two activities from each section.

Girl Scout Brownies – Complete 6 activities

Girl Scout Juniors – Complete 8 activities

Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors – Complete 10 activities

The depth and scope of each activity must be varied according to the interests and abilities of the girls. Leaders must guide the troop toward completing the activities in a meaningful and challenging way. As with all Girl Scout programs, each troop must discuss how they want to implement the program and have on-going discussions and evaluations. When discussing family heritage, leaders must be sensitive to each individual girl's background and create an atmosphere of acceptance and open mindedness. Differing family structures due to adoptions, divorce, re-marriage, and extended families will be found in every troop. Be flexible with activities. Do not make assumptions about anyone's family. Celebrate ethnic, cultural and religious differences as they make us unique and give our communities diversity and strength.

The purpose of this patch program is to:

- Develop a sense of self-worth through exploring our family heritage.
- Emphasize Girl Scout heritage and rekindle Girl Scout tradition.
- Increase understanding of the cultural and ethnic diversity of our area.
- Encourage inter-troop projects and sharing.

Family Roots

1. Discover your grandparents' ethnic origin. At a troop meeting, place stars on a world map marking your roots.
2. Make a family tree or kinship chart. Has the spelling of your name changed?
3. Make a family map showing where your family has lived and various places of importance to your family.
4. Discover the real beginnings of some of your family traditions (ex: holiday celebrations, family sayings or jokes, etc.).
5. Begin a collection of old family recipes. Discover who created them and how they were handed down. Create a troop cookbook if possible.
6. Document your history by making a timeline from the day you were born until the present. Add in events of personal importance such as when you started to walk, when you lost your first tooth, or family vacations. Include famous events that you think helped shape your life.
7. Collect picture and family memorabilia to preserve your heritage.

Community History

1. Pick an historical event that happened in your community. As a troop or individually, make a mural or collage about this event.
2. Visit an elderly neighbor or relative and find out what she/he did at your age. Ask if you could tape the interview to show the rest of your troop. Prepare your questions beforehand and practice after a troop meeting.
3. Borrow old clothes, hats, and shoes to put together a fashion show.
4. Learn what is being done to preserve the heritage of your community. Visit a historical museum and interview a person who works there. Find out what they do at the museum.
5. Make a map of countries contributing to your community's population. What contributions has this population made to your community?
6. Capture your present world in a time capsule. In a container put pictures, poems, and/or objects from your culture. Plan for it to be opened by a significant date; such as your high school graduation.

Girl Scout Heritage

1. Read a book or article about Juliette Gordon Low. Share what you have learned with someone.
2. Make up a skit, display, or song that captures the spirit of Juliette Low and the beginning of Girl Scouts.
3. Celebrate Girl Scout special days: Juliette Low's birthday, Thinking Day, and Girl Scout Week. Find out what is traditionally done in your community for these days. Continue these traditions or start your own.
4. Learn about the four World Centers and how they are part of our Girl Scout heritage.
5. Discover famous women who have been important in Girl Scouting, either locally, nationally, or internationally.
6. Explore old handbooks and uniforms. Put on a Daisy Day by conducting your day like Juliette would have in 1912. Examples could be putting on a fashion show or start a Service Unit Girl Scout historical collection.

Sharing is a required part of this patch program. With other troops, parents or the community, share your heritage by displays, pictures or song. You could even plan a heritage celebration as part of your Thinking Day observance.

