



American Cultural Heritage Series



All Grade Levels

The American Cultural Heritage Series will give Girl Scouts the opportunity to explore cultures different from their own by choosing various activities that they would like to complete. Each of the five patches can be earned by completing a specific number of activities:

- Girl Scout Daisies must complete 4 activities
- Girl Scout Brownies must complete 7 activities
- Girl Scout Juniors must complete 10 activities
- Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors must complete 13 activities

When completed, girls can write a reflection or choose a creative way to share what they have learned.

PURPOSE: To foster an understanding and an appreciation of the various cultures that make up the United States. This series offers suggested activities for exploration and education.

CONNECTIONS TO GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (GSLE):

- Discover: Girls develop critical thinking.
- Connect: Girls advance diversity in a multicultural world.
- Connect: Girls feel connected to their communities, locally and globally.
- Take Action: Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally.
- Take Action: Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

NOTES: The *It's Your World – Change It!* Journeys will serve as valuable resources while earning these patches.

To earn this patch, select one of the following options:

- Each girl selects an individual country/region.
- The entire troop selects one or several countries/regions to compare and contrast.
- Patrols or groups of girls select individual countries/regions to work on collaboratively.

Several cultural backgrounds in this series are described below. By no means are these categories limited – other cultures can be included.

- **African Americans:** Africans born in Africa or descendents of Africans. Racial groups can include blacks, Berbers and Arabs from North Africa and non-indigenous groups such as Asians and whites descended from Dutch, Portuguese, English and French colonists and traders.
- **Asian Americans:** refers to people who are from or descended from Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet or Vietnam.
- **European Americans:** people from or descended from any of the six regions of the European continent: Scandinavia, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, the United Kingdom and the Baltic regions (Includes about 45 countries).
- **Latin Americans:** people from or descended from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, or countries in Central and South America.
- **Native Americans:** descendants of North America's first inhabitants.

ACTIVITIES:

For the country or region you choose to explore...

1. Locate it on a map:
 - a. What type of terrain does the country have?
 - b. What is the weather like?
 - c. What time is it in your country/region now? What time is it where you live?
2. Discover whether there are Girl Guides here. Use the Girl Scouts of the USA website to help you search: www.girlscouts.org. Compare their program to your Girl Scout program.
3. Find out which language(s) are spoken here. Then learn to speak three phrases in that language.
4. Find a recipe of a popular food to make and share with your friends or family.
5. Discover three historical landmarks. Learn about the history of one of the main landmarks. Does the United States have something like it?
6. Research a holiday celebration and share it with your family or troop.
7. Determine which performing and/or fine arts are part of this culture's heritage. Select from the following categories: instrumental music, vocal music, dance, theater, opera, sculpture, painting or architecture. Research the art and perform/present to your troop.
8. Explore religion in this area. Is there one major religion or are several religions practiced?
9. Research what type of clothing young people your age wear. Is the clothing worn in the country influenced by the weather/climate? Is your own clothing influenced by the weather?
10. Find out what sports are played. Choose a game and play with your troop!
11. Study the type of government your country/region follows. Is it the same or different from the United States' government? How does their government affect their everyday lives?
12. Determine if the school system is similar to the one you attend. Can you find out how long children are required to attend school?
13. Make a replica of their flag. Be able to describe the meaning of the colors and symbols on the flag.
14. Research the monetary system. What are the names of their monetary denominations? What does the money look like? How does the value compare to

- United States currency? How much does it cost to buy a loaf of bread in this country? What does a loaf of bread cost in your local grocery store?
15. Explore the methods of communication utilized here. Television? Radio? Telephones? Cell phones? Internet computers?
 16. Name three famous people who come from this country or who have ancestors from this country. If they are famous in the United States, are they also famous in the country of their birth? If they are a famous person from history, how did they help their country?
 17. Name the standard of measure this country uses. Is it metric (centimeter, kilometer, liter) or standard (mile, inch, yard)?
 18. Plan a trip here. What kind of accommodations would you expect? How long would you like to stay? What would you like to see and do?
 19. Invite someone from this country or someone who has traveled to this country to speak to your troop OR attend a festival which highlights your country/region.

When you have completed the requirements, you can purchase these patches at any of our six regional Gathering Places, www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org or our online shop, www.shopgirlscouts.com and go to "Uniquely Ours".