



“American Girl” History

Purpose:

This patch program was developed to encourage girls to learn about history in a way that directly relates to their lives.

Requirements:

Daisy: 1 discover, 1 connect, 1 take action

Brownie: 2 discover, 2 connect, 1 take action

Junior: 3 discover, 2 connect, 1 take action

Discover

1. Read 5 books from the “American Girl” series. (The books may be read to those that need help.) All books may be from one character’s story collection or the books may be about different characters. Write a short paragraph on each book and share with someone special.
2. Choose a character and make a presentation to an adult about her. Tell that person about the girls’ time period, family likes and dislikes and how the girl is like you.
3. Research a game or activity of that time period. Ask your troop leader if you may present it during a meeting time.
4. Visit a historical site that is similar to a place mentioned in your book (such as a Victorian home, log cabin, etc.) or visit a museum that depicts life during a particular era.
5. Dress your American Girl doll dressed in time period you just read about.

Connect

1. As a group or individually, make and complete a chart comparing your life today with the character’s life that you have chosen. You may include things like transportation, school, activities, games, clothing and relationships.
2. Find and follow a recipe from your chosen era and try to make it as your character would have done during her lifetime. You may need to use an outdoor stove, ingredients that were available during that time or substitutions that she may have used due to rationing or unavailability. You may use recipes from family cookbooks or research old recipes in at the library or online.
3. Create a craft or toy that was popular during that time period.
4. Write your own story like “Meet (your name)”. Include family pictures. The story should be three to five chapters. You may want to write about a particular event.

Take Action

1. Think about the important issues related to your character’s era. How would you have responded to those needs if you lived during that time? Are the concerns the same concerns of our present day?
2. Perform an “American Girl” play about your time period. Assign parts and plan costumes and scenery. Invite an audience (parents, older people in your community) if possible.