



Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month



PURPOSE

Girl Scouts uncover Asian American & Pacific Islander culture by learning about its history, traditions, people, and culture with a goal to promote cultural diversity in our community.

GIRL SCOUT LEVELS / REQUIREMENTS

To earn the Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Culture patch, Girl Scouts need to complete a Take Action activity along with the following requirements. Girl Scouts are encouraged to complete at least one activity from each section: Discover and Connect.

- Daisy Girl Scouts: any 4 activities
- Brownie Girl Scouts: any 6 activities
- Junior Girl Scouts: any 8 activities
- Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts: any 10 activities

Please review the [Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for All Girl Scouts](#).

BACKGROUND

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month) is an annual celebration of achievements by individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent as well as is a time to recognize their central role in U.S. history. Asian American and Pacific Islanders contributed to several facets of American culture and society, including science, medicine, art, literature, sports, government, politics, law, and activism. Although these individuals made numerous contributions, they were not recognized for them until the late 1970s and it took over ten years to make it a permanent month-long celebration. In 1977, New York representative, Frank Horton, introduced a Joint Resolution that proposed the proclamation of the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. Hawaii Senator, Daniel Inouye, introduced a similar Joint Resolution in 1978. After neither of these passed, Horton introduced a new Joint Resolution that proclaimed a week during the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week which was passed. In 1990, Congress chose to expand the observance from a week to a month. In 1992, May was



annually designated as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month under the George H. W. Bush administration. While AAPI Heritage Month is celebrated in May, this patch can be earned year-round!

ACTIVITIES

DISCOVER

- ACTIVITY #1: Watch this [video](#) about Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, take notes, and discuss it with your friends.
- ACTIVITY #2: Who is Frank Horton? And why is he important to AAPI History?
- ACTIVITY #3: Find and read a story written by someone of Asian American or Pacific Islander descent. Then write two things you thought were interesting about the story.
- ACTIVITY #4: Research how AAPI Heritage Month is typically celebrated and choose two ways you are going to celebrate it this year.
- ACTIVITY #5: Find a world map. Identify the locations where Asian American and Pacific Islander culture is from.
- ACTIVITY #6: Do some research and find at least three organizations that support Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- ACTIVITY #7: Read *Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas* by Natasha Yim and discuss it with your friends.
- ACTIVITY #8: Find some famous AAPI quotes and write down what they mean to you.
- ACTIVITY #9: Research an influential AAPI woman such as Toshiko Takaezu, a trailblazer in ceramic artmaking during the 1970s. Find out what she is best known for and share it with a friend.

CONNECT

- ACTIVITY #10: Origami was first introduced in the 17th century in Japan. This art form was primarily used for religious or ceremonial reasons, but eventually became more for decoration and art. Complete an origami craft.



- ACTIVITY #11: The Asian American and Pacific Islanders made numerous contributions to America, many of which are still used today. Conduct some research and find at least five things the Asian American and Pacific Islanders contributed to the United States.
- ACTIVITY #12: The Yamato Colony was once a small community of Japanese farmers in present-day northern Boca Raton. Look at map of Palm Beach County Florida and see if you can find references to the Yamato Colony.
- ACTIVITY #13: The story of tea begins in China. According to a legend, in 2737 BC, the Chinese emperor, Shen Nung, was sitting under a *Camellia sinensis* tree while his servant boiled drinking water. As the water boiled, some leaves from the tree blew into the water. Find a simple tea recipe and make it with your friends and family.
- ACTIVITY #14: The book titled, *The Yuckiest Lunch Box*, written by Debbie Min, is a children's story about food and cultural differences. Nari brings her traditional Korean lunch to her school but does not expect her classmates' repulsive reaction to its smell. After feeling embarrassed and rejected, Nari asks her mom to make her American lunches from now on, only to discover that what makes her different is her strength! Think about some things that make you different that are something to be proud of.
- ACTIVITY #15: Boba Milk Tea, also known as Bubble Tea, is a tea-based drink that originated in Taiwan in the early 1980s. Boba tea is made of tea, milk, water, sugar, and tapioca pearls. Typical versions use black, green, or oolong tea. Find a simple Boba Milk Tea recipe online and make it with your friends and family.
- ACTIVITY #16: The maneki-neko, the Japanese lucky cat, is often believed to bring good luck to the owner. The figurine depicts a cat, traditionally a calico Japanese Bobtail, with a paw raised to showcase a Japanese beckoning gesture. These figurines were originally made in white, however over the years different color variations were born. Look up the meanings behind the different colors and then color your own maneki-neko.
- ACTIVITY #17: Start a book buddy program to discuss Asian American and Pacific Islander literature by exploring different genres including: fiction, non-fiction, speeches, poetry, plays, spoken word and short stories. Be sure to include the classics as



well as contemporary books that include voices from individuals of Asian American and Pacific Island descent.

- **ACTIVITY #18:** The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens hosts several exhibitions of Japanese art and artifacts that feature different aspects of Japan's culture. The Gardens, Roji-en: Garden of the Drops of Dew, are inspired by the significant gardens of Japan. Plan a visit to the museum and gardens to learn more about Japan and its cultural and historical ties to AAPI Heritage Month.
- **ACTIVITY #19:** Think of someone at school or the playground who is of a different race or speaks a different language, who often plays alone (or a neighbor who lives alone). Next time you are there, ask that person to play or ask them to share something about their culture with you. Make a plan now for what you will say and do to include him or her in your play activity.

TAKE ACTION

Share what you've discovered while doing this program and/or engage with the Native American community by completing a Take Action activity. Some suggestions are listed below:

- Participate or volunteer in an Asian American & Pacific Islander Month event in your area and share your experience with your troop.
- Host an origami party with your friends and family to create some awesome sculptures.
- Think of something you (and your friends) can contribute to make the world a better place. Think of an item or material that would be useful in many ways for lots of people.
- Host a program for your Girl Scout troop, or with your troop for younger Girl Scouts, where you help fellow Girl Scouts earn this patch.
- Create an informational video based on one or more of the activities you completed above and share it with fellow Girl Scouts.

