



Hispanic American Culture



PURPOSE

Girl Scouts uncover Hispanic 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 Hispanic American 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 3 activities
- Brownie Girl Scouts: any 5 activities
- Junior Girl Scouts: any 7 activities
- Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts: any 10 activities

Please review the [Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for All Girl Scouts](http://www.girlscouts.org/en/help/help/internet-safety-pledge.html) at <http://www.girlscouts.org/en/help/help/internet-safety-pledge.html>

BACKGROUND

You have likely heard the words Hispanic and Latino/a/e/x used before, possibly even interchangeably. While someone may identify as both Latine and Hispanic, it is possible to be one and not the other as these words do not mean the same thing. Hispanic is a term used to refer to those from Spanish-speaking countries. There are 21 countries traditionally considered Hispanic, and they are: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

While there are many individuals who are proud of their Hispanic identity, it is important to recognize that Hispanic culture itself is very diverse. Each territory, region, country, etc. has its own unique history, culture, and traditions. There is also great racial diversity as these countries historically have white, black, and indigenous populations that have contributed to the rich cultures that we can learn about today. It is important to respect all of the identities that are a part of the greater Hispanic community, and to recognize that not everyone will choose to identify themselves as “Hispanic” based upon their own culture, origins, and experiences.

ACTIVITIES



DISCOVER

- **ACTIVITY #1:** Although there were people already settled throughout the Americas, it was Christopher Columbus who opened the Americas to Europe, who was the global power at the time. When was his first voyage to the Americas and what were the names of the ships? What country financed his voyages? Trace his voyage on a map.
- **ACTIVITY #2:** Simón Bolívar was a Hispanic leader who had significant influence on South America. What areas did he help free from the rule of which country? What countries make up those areas now?
- **ACTIVITY #3:** Over 11 million Africans came to the Americas as slave during the Atlantic slave trade, and this has contributed to much of the racial diversity we see across the Americas today. Learn more about the Atlantic slave trade. Why is it sometimes known as the triangular trade? Where were most slaves taken?
- **ACTIVITY #4:** The United States built a canal through a Central American country to connect two oceans. Find the canal on a map. What country is it in and what two oceans does it connect? When was it built and why?
- **ACTIVITY #5:** In addition to much of Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean, the Spanish also settled in much of what is now the United States. Color the areas that the Spanish colonized and identify which U.S. states are in those areas today.
- **ACTIVITY #6:** Find a blank map of the Americas and the Caribbean Islands, and color and name the countries where Spanish is spoken.
- **ACTIVITY #7:** Name the largest mountain chain, longest river, largest and highest lake, and famous waterfalls of South America.
- **ACTIVITY #8:** Watch a documentary on one or more of the 21 countries traditionally considered Hispanic. Share what you have learned with your troop.

CONNECT

- **ACTIVITY #9:** Choose five of the 21 countries traditionally considered Hispanic and then draw, color, or paint their flag. What meaning is behind the colors, shapes, symbols, and words used?
- **ACTIVITY #10:** Learn the Girl Scout Promise in Spanish (provided below) and recite it at a Girl Scout meeting.

La Promesa de Girl Scouts

Por mi honor yo trataré

de server a Dios y a mi patria,

ayudar a las personas en todo momento,

y vivir conforme a la Ley de Girl Scouts.



* Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.

* Los miembros de Girl Scouts pueden sustituir la palabra "Dios" en La promesa de acuerdo a sus propias creencias espirituales.

- **ACTIVITY #11:** Find a recipe you can make that originates on one of the 21 countries traditionally considered Hispanic. Make it with your family and friends to try it out. You can also bring some samples to your next troop meeting.
- **ACTIVITY #12:** Learn the basic steps of a traditional Hispanic/Latin dance- like salsa, bachata, or merengue! Find a traditional song for the dance you've chosen and teach the steps to your family and friends or troop.
- **ACTIVITY #13:** Name a famous Hispanic woman writer, artist, musician, singer, etc. Find out about their life and their contribution to society. Share your new knowledge with your family and friends or troop.
- **ACTIVITY #14:** Make a piñata- a decorated container filled with treats and broken at a celebration. Traditionally associated with Mexican culture, piñatas are used in many Hispanic cultures. Learn more about their use in different countries. What are they filled with? What celebrations are they used for?
- **ACTIVITY #15:** La Navidad is a major holiday in Hispanic culture. What is this holiday called in the United States? What are the similarities and differences in how it is celebrated? What are some traditional Hispanic dishes for La Navidad?
- **ACTIVITY #16:** Choose one of the 21 countries traditionally considered Hispanic and plan a "dream vacation" there. Where would you go? What are the major tourist attractions and historical sites? What will the weather be like? Are there any holiday or cultural celebrations you could visit during?
- **ACTIVITY #17:** Choose one of the 21 countries traditionally considered Hispanic and find out if they have a form of Girl Scouting. Learn more about the history, traditions, and activities of their organization. Share your new knowledge with your family and friends or troop.
- **ACTIVITY #18:** Many Hispanic American women have made contributions to American society. Find a Hispanic American woman who has had an influence in America and learn more about their life. Share your new knowledge with your family and friends or troop.

TAKE ACTION

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

- Participate in a Girl Scout World Thinking Day and share what you have learned with your fellow Girl Scouts. (World Thinking Day is celebrated annually on/around February 22.)

- Participate in a Hispanic Heritage Month event in your area to engage with the Hispanic community and learn more. (Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15.)
- 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.