



Native American History Month

PURPOSE

Girl Scouts uncover Native American 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 Native American History 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

Native American Heritage Month is an annual celebration of achievements by the first Americans, the Native Americans, and is a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as Native American Indian Month, the event grew out of American Indian Day, the brainchild of Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian and director of the museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, New York. In 1990, Congress passed, and President George H. W. Bush signed into law a joint resolution that designated the entire month of November as Native American Heritage Month. To this day, the joint resolution is still held and has also evolved to include the contributions of Alaskan Natives. Today, Native American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the diverse ancestry, cultures, traditions, and histories of the indigenous American people. This month is also an opportunity to educate society and raise awareness about the uniqueness of Native people as well as the many ways they completed challenges to influence the country we know today as America. While Native American Heritage Month is celebrated in November, this patch can be earned year-round!

ACTIVITIES

DISCOVER

- ACTIVITY #1: Watch this a video about the Seminole Clans, take notes, and discuss it with your friends.
- ACTIVITY #2: Who is Dr. Arthur C. Parker? And why is he important to Native American History?
- ACTIVITY #3: Find and read a story written by a member of the Seminole Tribe. Then write two things you thought were interesting about the story.
- ACTIVITY #4: Research how Native American History Month is typically celebrated and choose two ways you are going to celebrate it this year.
- ACTIVITY #5: Find a map of the Native American Tribes in the United States. Identify the name of the tribes that settled in Florida, Georgia, and California.
- ACTIVITY #6: Each spring in undisclosed South Florida locations, a Green Corn Dance is held. The Green Corn Dance is a special spiritual event that expresses the Native Americans' gratitude to the Creator for providing food. What happens at the Green Corn Dance? What is another name for the Green Corn Dance?
- ACTIVITY #7: Read *Native Americans: Seminole*, by Sarah Tieck, and discuss it with your friends.
- ACTIVITY #8: Find some famous Native American quotes and write down what they mean to you.
- ACTIVITY #9: Research an influential Native American woman such as Lyda Conley, the first female Native American plaintiff to present a case before the United States Supreme Court and share what you learned about her contributions to the world.

CONNECT

- ACTIVITY #10: Pony beads were first introduced to Native Americans by the French explorers in the early 17th century. The beads became popular very quickly since they were used to decorate Indian garments and were a symbol of wealth. Complete a craft using pony beads.
- ACTIVITY #11: The Native Americans made numerous contributions to America, many of which are still used today. Conduct some research and find at least five things the Native Americans contributed to the United States.



- ACTIVITY #12: Learn about the historical significance of music developed for and by Native Americans over the years including jazz, rock and roll, blues, country, folk, gospel, rap, hip-hop, new age, and reggae. Create a playlist of your favorite songs, ask your parents/guardians to share their favorites as well.
- ACTIVITY #13: Native Americans carved their own canoes to make use of the vast network of lakes and rivers in North America. They hollowed out logs by using a special technique to soften the limber, making it easier for them to carve. Learn more about the special technique and how to carve a canoe then plan out the steps you would follow to carve one.
- ACTIVITY #14: John Joseph Mathews, one of the Osage Nation's most important writers and member of the Osage Tribal Council in the 1930s, wrote a book titled, *Sundown*. *Sundown* tells the story of a young man who returns home to his tribe after going to college and serving in the military. Write a short story of your own explaining your experience after returning home from being gone for a while.
- ACTIVITY #15: Frybread was created by the Navajo Native Americans in 1864 using the ingredients that was given to them by the U.S. government when they were forced to make a 300-mile journey, known as the Long Walk, to relocate to New Mexico. Frybread is a flat dough that is made with wheat flour, sugar, salt, and fat. It is fried in oil then eaten alone or topped with various items such as honey, jam, powdered sugar, or beef. Find a simple frybread recipe online and make it with your friends and family.
- ACTIVITY #16: Seminole patchwork is known as intricate handwork that was developed by Seminole women in the 1800s as a necessity for clothing which had to be made using scraps of material that was leftover. This handwork soon became a distinct design that had a significant meaning. Design your own Seminole patchwork, color it, and then share it with a friend or family member.
- ACTIVITY #17: Start a book buddy program to discuss Native American 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 the members from several Native American tribes such as the Seminole, Algonquin, and Wampanoag.



- **ACTIVITY #18:** The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is in the heart of the Everglades on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation and is home to more than 180,000 unique artifacts and archival items. Plan a visit to this museum to learn about the Seminole people and experience their cultural and historical ties to the Southeast and Florida.
- **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 a Native American History Month event in your area and share your experience with your troop.
- Host a craft part with your friends and family to create necklaces, keychains, or bracelets using pony beads and design your own patchwork.
- 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.