

Girl Scouts-Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Inc.
Arizona American Indian Awareness
Council's Own Interest Project Patch for Girls 11 - 17



The State of Arizona has a rich cultural heritage in its Native Americans. Their influence is noted in names of towns, foods, crafts, games, and legends. Although not widely publicized, there are many famous Native Americans who were pioneers in their chosen fields. The purpose of this interest project patch is to acquaint the Girl Scout with some of the traditions, teachings, and wisdom of the American Indian.

In order to fulfill the requirements for this Interest Project, you must complete two activities from Skill Builders (including the starred one), one from the Service Project area, one from Career Exploration, and two additional activities from any category.

Skill Builders

1. Research the materials originally used to make an armband or choker. Find out what they were used for and who wore them. Practice making one for yourself or a friend.
2. Many Indians did not have a written language, but passed on their stories and legends through storytelling. Read a Native American legend or story. These stories usually have a moral or are an explanation of a natural event such as stars or seasons. Discuss the story that you have read with others in your troop.
3. Music was an integral part in the daily lives of the Native American people. Learn about what materials were used to make their instruments, and try making something similar.
4. Demonstrate how a tribe traditionally prepared and cooked two food items.
5. A winter's count was tanned hide made for the purpose of recording and retelling special events in the life of a tribe. Learn about the winter's count, and start one of your own using fabric or other materials.
6. Dances were performed for special occasions. Learn about one of these dances and the events that it was associated with.

Technology

1. Learn how Native Americans created their pottery without the use of modern technology. Make your own sun-baked plate or dish. Decorate it with impressions using non-toxic paints.
2. Using traditional designs and decorations make a replica of a piece of Native American clothing. Identify and be able to explain which tribe the design came from and its meaning.

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Technology (Continued)

3. Learn a skill such as basket or rug weaving.
4. Consider Native Americans living in different regions, climates, and terrains. How has their location affected their home, clothing, and utensils? Does it impact their diet?
5. Agriculture was an essential part of Native American life. Compare and contrast the farming techniques of long ago with those of today.
6. Interview an older and younger Native American, perhaps at a Native American gathering. Has modern technology helped or hindered teaching about their culture to others? To their families?
7. Native Americans were the first conservationists. For example, animals were used as a source for food, clothing, and utensils. Nothing from the animal was wasted. Write an essay on the conservation attitudes of today. Are our values similar to theirs? Have we improved on their conservation practices?

Service Project

1. Make a Native American article such as a musical instrument, clothing item, or piece of jewelry. Share how and what you made with a younger Girl Scout troop.
2. Find out about three Native American tribes from Arizona. Compare how they were similar and how they were different. Prepare a skit on the daily life of one of the tribes for other Girl Scouts.
3. Visit your local museum.
4. What issues are affecting Native Americans today? At the library, learn about an important issue that Native Americans are concerned about, and develop a plan to help them.
5. Learn three games played by Native Americans. Learn the history or purpose of the games and teach one to younger Girl Scouts.

Career Exploration

1. Interview someone who works in the field of Native American History or anthropology. Find out what they like about their job and how it connects the past, present, and future.
2. Explore women's role in the tribe. Read about a leading Native American Women. What were her accomplishments? Some historical examples are: Pocahontas, Queen Allaquippa, Gertrude Simmons Bonnie, Angel DeCora Dietz, Susan LaFlesche, and Maria Martinez.
3. Interview a Native American today. Find out their heritage, career goals, and job opportunities.
4. Find out what education is necessary and what is involved in being a museum curator.