

Girl Scouts Bayou Council

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Legacy Program

Acadian Heritage Interest Project

Purpose is to gain insight into the multitude of traditions of the Acadian people of Louisiana and inspire pride in the culture. To earn the interest project, Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts should complete 10 activities including the four starred activities.

1. * Make a time line showing the exile of the French people, who became known as the Acadians, or if you are of Acadian decent trace your family history back as far as possible.
2. Visit with and older person of French decent, Have him/her share a story in the dialect with which they grew up. Learn to say some Cajun phrases and their meanings.
3. * Research the different religious customs of the Acadian people. Include the religious holidays such as All Saints Day and Good Friday and special religious celebrations such as burials, weddings, and Baptisms.
4. * Listen to traditional Acadian music. Learn to identify the instruments used to play it.
5. Learn what a fais-do-do is. Plan a fais-do-do as a troop activity.
6. Learn an Acadian dance such as the Cajun Two Step, Cajun Waltz, or Les Danses Rondes. Teach the dance to someone else
7. Listen to an Acadian Ballad. Find out all you can about the story and its composer. Write your own ballad.
8. Explore traditional Acadian foods. Why did Acadians eat foods like they did? Cook and share an Acadian dish with your troop, family, or friends.
9. * Visit a historical Acadian structure such as a home or church. Learn about its architectural significance, including the material the structure is made of, codes and taxes regarding building, and foundation of building.
10. Read about the non-religious customs of the Acadians. Suggestions include but are not limited to Mardi Gras (traditional not New Orleans style), boucherie, la tasse de café, and charivari.
11. Make a booklet of Acadian folklore remedies for common ailments. Or seek out a person in the community who is a traiteur and speak to them about their gift for curing.
12. Learn about Acadian superstitions or gris-gris. Share what you find with others.

13. Visit with a craftsman or museum and learn about a craft that was important to the Cajun culture such as quilting, spinning, weaving, canoeing, rawhiding and pirogue making. Try it out.
 14. Make a toy or learn a game that an Acadian Child might have enjoyed.
 15. Dramatize an Acadian folk tale using a skit or puppets.
 16. Make a list of famous Acadians past and present and be able to tell about their contributions to society.
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