



BEHIND THE SCENES GIRLS 11-17 INTEREST PROJECT PATCH SKILL BUILDERS

1. *Interview a law enforcement official or attorney. Learn about different types and levels of crimes. Who are the players involved in an investigation and what role do they play? What are standard procedures used in solving crimes? Discuss a case that has received a lot of media attention. How can the media help or hinder an investigation?
2. *Investigators can learn a lot from a crime scene. With the help of a law enforcement officer, set up or explore a mock crime scene and look for and identify the clues that can solve the crime. Discuss how crime scenes can be destroyed or preserved.
3. *Attend a mystery play and try to solve the mystery before the end or with your troop or group, participate in a “host a murder” party where you have to solve the mystery.
4. *Self defense; learn about the different things you can do to prevent from becoming a victim.
5. Start your own mystery book club. Take turns having members choose a book and get together after reading to discuss what you liked or did not like about it.
6. *Play a game that requires you to use investigative skills. At the end, share your strategy for playing. Did it work? What would you do differently?

TECHNOLOGY

1. *Learn about fingerprinting and the changes in technology that have made this science more exact and easier to use.
2. *How do you know if someone is telling the truth? Learn about lie detectors and how they are used by law enforcement. What are other clues that you can utilize to determine whether someone is telling the truth? Practice these with different members of your troop or group.
3. *DNA has become increasingly useful in investigations. Learn what it is, how investigators collect it, and how it is used to solve crimes.
4. *Learn what an Amber Alert is. Discover where it originated and why. How does law enforcement use it today? Learn about one case where an Amber Alert was issued and what was the result.
5. *When crime scene investigators remove evidence or trace from the scene or from a person, it is sent to a lab to be analyzed. What do they look for? What tests are run and information found that could help tell what happened at a scene.

SERVICE PROJECTS

1. Write your own mystery play and perform it for a group of younger girls.
2. Collect new stuffed animals for your local or state police department to give to children who are victims in crimes.
3. Make a poster for younger girls about stranger danger. Talk with them about how they can protect themselves.
4. Organize an event for girls to learn about different careers in investigative fields.

CAREER EXPLORATION

1. *Research careers that use investigative skills and interview at least two people in different fields. (Police, Federal agents, Private Investigators, Social Workers, Journalists, etc.) Which skills do they commonly use? What education and training do they need? What are the benefits and challenges to their jobs?
2. Learn about volunteer or mentoring programs in your area that would use investigative skills. Participate in one or have someone come and talk to your troop about them.
3. Choose an author who writes mysteries. Become familiar with their books, learn how they find their stories, do their research, and why they chose this path.
4. What are forensic scientists? Explore the different types and career opportunities they have. What education do they have?