



Cowtown Pioneer Settlers Council's Own Interest Project

Girl Scouts 11 to 17 must complete one Technology, one Service, one Career, two Skill-Builders and any two other requirements.

The four starred requirements must be completed.

Technology

Houses and Cabins, Dog Trots and Mansions

Visit local museums or historical sites to see how people in Fort Worth lived in the past, or visit your local library. Excellent locations to compare are Log Cabin Village and Thistle Hill. Discuss what you discover. Did all people live in the same type of home? Were there particular areas of town where one kind of house or another would fit in better than others? Use your best resources to make a model of a house from the 1870s and explain what you have learned about the different homes that you might have seen in our Cowtown.

Work Dresses and Ball Gowns

Research the cloth and fashions from the 1870s. On paper or on your computer, make your own clothing designs for a pioneer girl. Try making your own design come to life using the same methods that a pioneer girl would have used. Wear your dress or gown to a Girl Scout meeting or event.

On Track

In the 1870s, travel was limited to ships, horses and trains. Find out about these different modes of transportation and compare the advantages and disadvantages of each. Which was quicker? How fast was it? How expensive was it to travel? With your family or friends, take a train ride. The Tarantula Train departs the Fort Worth Stockyards daily. Call the stockyards for dates and times.

Service

***Pioneer Games**

Since time began, girls have played games to teach social and practical skills. Learn about the games that girls played in the past, particularly from 1850 to 1880. Discuss what the games teach. Do you see any similarities in games that girls play today? Play at least three games children from pioneer or Cowtown Fort Worth would have played. Teach these games to younger Girl Scouts.

Career

A Woman's Work is Never Done

There were many employment opportunities in the 1870s that have made a difference in our lives today. Find a job from the 1870s that might have interested you. Research what qualifications were necessary for this job, such as apprenticeship and education. Discuss other factors, such as race, age, sex and marital status. What jobs were available for women?

Cowtown USA

Attend a rodeo, stock show or fair, such as the Mesquite Rodeo, or volunteer at a rodeo, stock show or fair. Learn about the events and their rules in advance. Visit the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame or visit your local library to learn about the history of women in rodeo and the cattle industry. Discuss what you have discovered.

The "Stock" Market

The business of cattle is multilayered and requires a great deal of people and effort to get cattle from the ranch to the steak on the dinner table. Visit the historic Fort Worth Stockyards and tour the cattle barns. Find out why the stockyards were placed in this location and where the cattle went from here. How long were the stockyards in use for livestock? Visit the livestock on site and watch the cattle drive down Exchange Street. Call the Fort Worth Stockyards for times.

Back at the Farm and Old McDonald's Ranch

Discover the difference between a farm and a ranch. Visit your local library or museum to learn why farmers and ranchers did not get along. If you can, visit a ranch and take a tour or visit the Cattleman's Museum. Find out the meaning of branding symbols and how barbed wire was used. Design your own brand and explain what it means to your friends, family or younger Girl Scouts.

Skill-Builder

***Hairstyles From the Pioneer Time Period**

Just as there are different styles in how women wear their hair today, women in the past had particular ways of doing their hair. Learn about the hairstyles that were popular in Fort Worth in 1870. Discuss the rationale in the different styles and what they were trying to emphasize, such as width, height, curls and bangs. Pick a historic hairstyle that you can try, and wear that hairstyle to a Girl Scout event or meeting. Try your new hairstyle on a friend or family member.

Grub

Recreate a typical meal for the settlers of the 1870s. Make as much as you can from scratch, such as butter and bread. If your family has a garden, use the vegetables, or

visit a farmer's market for fresh produce. Be sure to complement your meal with suitable beverages. Share your meal with your family, friends or sister Girl Scouts.

***Museums and Historical Sites**

There are many local museums and historical sites that demonstrate and preserve life in pioneer or Cowtown Fort Worth. Museums and other repositories of historical artifacts and information are important for future generations to stay connected to their heritage. Someday, things you play with, wear and use on a daily basis will be analyzed by future historians. They will try to understand how you, your family and your friends lived and what you cared about. Visit a local museum or historical site with a pioneer or Cowtown display, such as Log Cabin Village, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, or the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

***Fort Worth, Cowtown, Niles or Panther City?**

Like many communities, Fort Worth and the communities within it have had many different names and nicknames. Many of the communities included in the city limits were once their own towns and had their own names. Visit a local library and find out about some of the nicknames and communities that are part of Fort Worth's history. This might include White Settlement, Panther City, Fort Worth and Cowtown. Discover why and how these names were earned, if they are still used and how.

Cattle Drives and Campfires

When the cowboys were on a drive, they enjoyed sitting around a campfire, telling stories and singing songs. Find out more about the Chisolm Trail cattle drives. Learn a song or story that tells about life on the cattle drive. Host your own Cattle Drive Campfire, and share your song or story with your family, friends or a younger Girl Scout.

Schoolin'

Re-enact a day of school with your troop or at a Girl Scout event. Have a spelling bee, recitation or write on a slate or blackboard. Some museums and historic sites have historic schoolhouses and may have programs where you can use reproduction textbooks and slates. Afterwards, discuss how school today is different from the 1870s. How is it similar?

Sunbonnets and Chapeaux

As recently as the 1960s, women wore hats and gloves most of the time. Some of these hats were used for practical purposes, such as sunbonnets; some were used for social rituals, such as mourning; and some were worn to indicate social status. On paper or on your computer, design a bonnet or hat that might have been worn by the settlers in the 1870s. Make a sample to display or wear in a fashion show.

Tots and Toys

Since the dawn of time, children have had toys or made things to play with. Find out what children in the 1870s used for toys. Were they bought in a store or homemade? Do we still use any of these toys today? Are any similar to what you played with as a girl? Try to make a historic toy and play with it with your friends or family.