



Forensic Science Interest Project Patch for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts

Requirements: Complete seven (7) activities including two (2) Skill Builders; one (1) Technology; one (1) Career Exploration; one (1) Service Project; and two (2) other activities in the area of your choice.

Skill Builders

1. Contact your local police department and ask the crime scene photographer to teach you the basics of crime scene photography.
2. Contact your local police department and ask the fingerprint expert to teach you about basic fingerprinting. Have this expert prepare a fingerprint card. Give it to your parents. It is an excellent way to identify you in case of an extreme emergency.
3. Contact the nearest crime lab. It might be operated by local sheriff or state police. Find out if they would be able to give you a tour and demonstrate parts of evidence gathering. If not, invite them to your meeting and discuss how evidence is gathered.
4. Contact local prosecuting authority, either state attorney or prosecutor or whatever name is used in your area. Ask for a program about rules of evidence and the court presentation of evidence.
5. Contact your local police department and learn auto crash investigating techniques. If you can, have someone set up fake auto crashes so you can investigate them.

Career Exploration

1. Contact your area police academy for speakers on many different aspects of law enforcement.
2. Contact a local hospital and invite a technologist and / or a pathologist to speak about their career. Ask them if they would be willing to give you a tour. (Other places to inquire are large military bases, or FBI offices.) Inquire if there are any government places near you that have forensic labs that can help.

Technology

1. Learn how to use darkroom techniques. Learn how to develop film and make prints. You might want to ask a local photographer to your meeting to explain these techniques to you.
2. Call your local police department and set up a time when you can tour their crime lab. Find out about crime dog and how they detect drugs. Also find out about how fingerprints are taken, and have a fingerprint card made up for your parents in case of an emergency.
3. What is forensic psychiatry? What is a serial killer? How does forensics play a part in the capture of these serial killers. Research how someone like the Son of Sam, John Hinkley, or Mark David Chapman, who shot John Lennon were eventually caught.
4. What is Forensic anthropology? A forensic anthropologist usually investigates older remains, rebuilds faces from skulls, etc., Make a trip to a major museum of science or natural history to find out more.
5. Contact your local or state police department. Find out how guns with the serial numbers filed off can still be linked to a specific crime. How are they reconstructed? Learn also about fiber analysis, hair samples, DNA testing, etc.

Service Project

1. Contact your local police department, and request fingerprint cards. Make arrangements with a leader of a younger troop to distribute these cards to the parent's of each girl in the troop. These fingerprint cards are an excellent means of identification in extreme circumstances. You can also take Polaroid (or other) pictures of the girls to kept along side the fingerprints.
2. Prepare a panel of speakers to talk about their careers in the various areas of forensic science so another troop or group can learn about the numerous careers available.

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