

Making the Rounds

Interest Project for Cadettes and Seniors



Skill Builders

1 What exactly is “medicine”?

Investigate the history of medicine and how it has evolved into the health-care system that exists today. Create a timeline of key dates that helped revolutionize modern medicine.

2 Women have played a key role in medicine throughout history, especially during wartime. Research women’s roles during World War II and note how women were portrayed during wartime. (Ex: *Rosie the Riveter*).

3 Familiarize yourself with medical terminology. Most medical terms are derived from a combination of “stem” words. Learn 5 medical terms and how each “stem” word contributes to the meaning of the term. (Ex: *cardio-* = *heart*).

4 Research 2 women who have contributed to modern medicine. Create a pictorial or written summary of their lives’ work. Share your research with others.

5 Explore different types of medicine in today’s society (Ex: *chiropractics, Chinese herbal medicine, etc.*). Learn about 3 unconventional forms of medicine and share your information with your group/troop.

Technology

1 Read articles about new discoveries in medicine, (Ex: *prosthetics, organ transplants, genetics*), from the Internet. Keep a booklet of the discoveries or research projects being conducted for at least 4 weeks. Also, during the four weeks, check to see if there are any updates on an article you have in your booklet.

The quality of life has changed dramatically from a hundred years ago—partly due to medical advances. From wartime aid to cancer research, women have helped the progression of medical technology. However, there are mysteries yet to be uncovered. Is a career in medicine right for you? Find out!

2 Human cloning and genetically altered humans are topics of great controversy. Examine both arguments for each topic and decide where you stand on the issues.

3 Take a tour of an area in a hospital that uses machinery and computers frequently. (Ex: radiology, surgery, cardiovascular services). Learn about each machine and its purpose.

4 Use your ingenuity to create your own medical invention. Pretend that you have just been asked to design a revolutionary device/machine to be used in medicine. Make an illustration of the device, label all parts, and write a summary of what your device does. Share your invention with others. (If others in your troop are doing the same requirement, have an "invention fair.")

5 The hospital itself uses technology to operate. The switchboard is not a new concept; however, it is still in use today. Interview a switchboard operator and have her/him show you how it is operated OR research the history of switchboards and how they work.

Service Projects

1 Learn about the different volunteer opportunities at a local hospital. (Ex: Junior Volunteer, Music Therapy, Flower Delivery, etc.). Choose a type and volunteer for at least 1 week, for at least 10 hours. Keep a log of your experiences and the observations you make about how the hospital operates and about the different professions you see.

2 Help in the children's center of a local hospital by creating and/or contributing to a "play room" for the siblings of children in the hospital and for children who are well enough to play with other children.

3 Participate in the planning of a Career Fair for younger girls to help them learn about the careers in medicine and the hospital. Arrange for speakers to come present their professions and answer any questions the girls have about their careers. (For a checklist of activities to do when organizing a Career Fair, refer to p. 153 of A Resource Book for Senior Girl Scouts.)

4 Create a booklet that summarizes health care professions. Include a page that allows the student to analyze her career goals, whether health-care related or not. Distribute these booklets to area junior high and high schools' Guidance Departments and/or Career Rooms.

5 It is important to have an organized list of phone numbers for physicians, poison control centers, and other emergency numbers. Design and produce an "Emergency Numbers" data sheet. Distribute them to the public or place them in a public place. (Ex: public library's lobby).

6 Participate in an activity for a medical cause (local or national). (Ex: walk for diabetes, help with Easter Seals by distributing coin holders, etc.).
NOTE: Check Safety-Wise Standard 33 on pg. 76.

Career Exploration

1 Watch a fictional television program that relates to medicine. (Ex: *ER* or *Chicago Hope*). Create a list of all the different professions you see. Also note which professionals are portrayed as women. Are stereotypes in place or has the program tried to express women as equals in a hospital environment?

2 Watch a real-life television program about medicine. (Ex: *Trauma: Life in the ER* on *The Learning Channel* (TLC)). Make a list of your predictions of which professions will be done by men and which ones will be done by women. Now make a list of the different professions you see and note which ones are performed by whom. Is your list what you predicted?

3 Shadow a professional in a medical field of your choice for a day. (p. 64 of *A Resource Book for Senior Girl Scouts lists a few health-care-related careers*). Before you go to “work,” write down what you think of this profession—It could be your views from what you

have seen on TV or from personal experiences in a hospital. After you shadow your professional, write a summary of your “day’s work.” Then, record your afterthoughts of the career. Are your thoughts about the job at the end of the day any different from those you had at the beginning of the day?

4 Interview a medical professional. (Ask such questions as: *What is your typical day like?, Who do you work with normally?, What is your favorite aspect of your career?, What one thing about your job would you change and why?, etc.*). Is this a career you would be interested in pursuing? Why or why not?

5 It takes much more than a doctor to make a hospital function. Research at least 3 non-medical-related careers that contribute to the operation of a hospital. Do your findings about each career change your perspective of the teamwork that is involved in managing a health-care system? Why or why not?

6 There is usually a medical profession for every part of the body. With your group/troop, use chart paper and trace someone. Now investigate the different specialties in medicine. Label the “person” with medical

specialties that you find for the parts of the body. (Ex: *cardiologist = heart*).

7 Before a doctor can prescribe medication for an ailment, countless hours go into researching the problem and trying to create a treatment. Research (*the Internet may be helpful*) different pharmaceutical companies and which medications they produce. Does pharmaceutical research sound interesting to you? Why or why not?

8 Are you still unsure if a career in medicine is right for you? Well, medicine integrates all avenues of careers. For example, hospitals need lawyers for malpractice suits. Investigate a recent malpractice lawsuit and, with your group/troop, hold a “mock trial” session (with one group being the plaintiff and one group being the defendant). Were you aware that a career in law would require knowledge of medicine?

And Beyond

If you have enjoyed learning about careers in medicine, you might want to earn these other badges:

- Inventions and Inquiry
- Math, Maps, and More
- Why in the World?
- Women’s Health