



Originally created by Kim Jones

Have you lived in the Metro St. Louis area all of your life, or are you just visiting? Either way, this Interest Project can be worked on by Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors. Explore the Gateway to the West. Visit the attractions; learn about the rich history of this wonderful city. Once the requirements' are completed, purchase the Interest Project award from our GSSI Council Shops.

St. Louis is a city rich in history, traditions, diversity and wonderful attractions. The Greater St. Louis area includes not only the city but several counties as well.

You must complete:

- Two Skill Builders activities
- One Technology Activity
- One Service Project Activity
- One Career Exploration Activity
- Two activities from any category of your choosing.

Have fun as you complete this Interest Project!

Skill Builders

1. St. Louis is named for Louis IX, King of France. Find out what you can about this monarch. When did he reign? Why was he granted Sainthood by the Catholic Church? What were some of his accomplishments as King of France? Share what you learn with others.
2. The St. Louis Zoo is considered one of the best zoo's in the world. Visit the St. Louis Zoo. Find out when this zoo was started. Who was its founder? Visit some of the attractions such as Puffin Coast or the Rivers Edge. What makes these attractions so special? What did you learn about some of the inhabitants of these exhibits? Also visit one of the older attractions, such as the Flight Cage which was built by the Smithsonian for the 1904 World's Fair. Which exhibits were your favorites? Share what you saw and learned with others.
3. The 1904 World's Fair was held in what is now Forest Park in the heart of the city. Some structures still stand today that were built for this exhibition. Can you find out which ones they are? Research the fair and find out what you can about it. Several new innovations came about, including the ice-cream cone. Some information can be found out at local libraries or the St. Louis History Museum also located in Forest Park. Try to visit the park. Imagine what it looked like during the fair. Share your information with others.
4. The St. Louis Arch is called the Gateway to the West. Why? Find out about its construction. When was it completed? Find out what it took to build this amazing structure. Visit the Arch. Stroll through the museum that chronicles the early city and the westward expansion of the country. If possible, ride to the top and look out at the city below. Share what you learn with others.
5. The Dred Scott case was a landmark case that was tried at the Old Courthouse in St. Louis. Who was Dred Scott? What was so important about his suit? What was the outcome of his case in St. Louis? What were further outcomes of his case? Write a summary of Dred Scott and share with others.
6. The Greater St. Louis area is home to many museums and attractions. Contact the Chamber of Commerce or the Tourism Bureau. Look in the Yellow Pages . Find out what you can about those attractions in the area big and small. Visit one not used for another requirement. Why did you choose this attraction? What did you learn? Was it educational or recreational? Would you recommend it to others? Share what you discover.

7. St. Louis has its share of festivals, parades and celebrations throughout the year. Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day, Fair St. Louis are just three. Find out what kinds of seasonal activities the city and area has to offer. Contact the Chamber of Commerce. If possible attend an event.
8. St. Louis and the surrounding Metro area is home to many cultures and ethnic groups as can be noted in the vast variety of restaurants. Choose a type of food you enjoy and discover a new place to eat and a new food to try. If you like Italian and have never had toasted ravioli, then The Hill is a must! Grand Avenue is home to many different ethnic cafes. Try one. Share your findings with others.
9. If you like the thrill of ghosts and goblins then this requirement is for you. The Lemp Mansion in St. Louis was named by Time magazine as one of the "Top Ten Haunted Places in America." Today it is a restaurant and bed and breakfast. Find out who is reported to haunt the mansion. What is its sad history? Try to visit the mansion. What did you see or hear? What did you learn?
10. St. Louis has been called home by many notable Americans, including Scott Joplin, Vincent Price, Stan Musial, Ozzie Smith and Buddy Ebsen. See what you can find out about three famous St. Louisians. Write a brief summary about them. What was their claim to fame?
11. Who were the Mississippians and where did they live? Visit Cahokia Mounds. Learn what you can about this ancient culture and how they lived so many years ago. When was Cahokia Mounds made into a state park? When was the new Interpretive Center built?

Technology

1. The Spirit of St. Louis was a famous airplane. Who flew it and what was the significance of the flight? Why was the plane named The Spirit of St. Louis? Where is it now? How has flight changed since then?
2. The Mississippi River is not just the longest river in the United States. It has been a trade route for over 200 years. How has river transportation changed since the fur traders first traveled up and down the river? Are there locks and dams? Where are they located? How do they work and what is their purpose? Visit the Great Rivers Museum near the Clark Bridge in Alton to find some of your answers.
3. St. Louis is home to several top hospitals. How does technology improve health care? Choose one way that modern technology helps aid patients. Do a little research. Have there been any improvements in the past ten years in your choice? Are there any plans in the future for improvement?
4. The St. Louis Zoo houses hundreds of animals within its boundaries. Several new habitats have been built in order to meet the needs of the animals. Choose an exhibit. How is technology used to better the life of those animals within the exhibit? Share what you have learned with others.
5. Create your own requirement. It must deal with technology in St. Louis. Follow all Girl Scout safety guidelines!

Service Projects

1. Write and illustrate a children's book using St. Louis as the backdrop. Make a copy and donate it to your Girl Scout council or local library.
2. If there is a park or playground in your area, check with the local Park & Recreation Department to see if there is a service you can provide. Consider getting a group of friends together to clean up the area. Perhaps you can beautify the area by planting flowers or painting benches. Take photos of your work to show to others.
3. Create your own requirement. Follow all Girl Scout safety guidelines!

Career Exploration

1. St. Louis is home to Boeing. Many planes have been designed and manufactured there through the years. What types of careers are available in the aeronautics field? See what you can find out. Check the local newspapers and employment websites. Share what you learn with others.
2. Health care is a big business in the St. Louis area. What careers can you choose from? Which local colleges and universities have degrees in any type of health care. Pick a career, then contact two colleges or universities to see what education is needed to graduate in that field. Is this something you are interested in?
3. Museums abound in our city. What sort of careers are available in this field? Do a little research. See what kind of education is needed to work in a museum. Are you interested in conservation, preservation, being a Docent or Curator? Do you like art, science, history or archeology? Share what you have learned with others.
4. Create your own requirement regarding career opportunities in the St. Louis area. Follow all Girl Scout safety guidelines! Share your findings with others.

The Meet Me In St. Louis IP is available through GSSI Council Shops, located at:

Corporate Service Center
#4 Ginger Creek Parkway
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618.629.0692

Regional Service Center
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