

GIRL SCOUT INTEREST PROJECT: Mt. Saint Helens

4. One of the unique features of Mt. St. Helens is the opportunity for scientists to measure how quickly the ecology of the region has recovered since the 1980 eruption. Describe how the forest industry and the government have created zones within the blast area to study reforestation rates. Use models or diagrams to illustrate your findings.
5. Learn about advances in architecture that allow builders to create buildings that are safer and more earthquake “proof.” Create a mock up (either a drawing or model) of a building using these principles.
6. Create a volcano exploration kit for use at a local day care center, camp or younger troop. Be sure to include basic definitions of terms and information that is unique to our area. Use lots of hands-on models and displays, diagrams and photos.
7. Put on a skit, puppet show, or dramatic presentation for a group of younger Girl Scouts on earthquake preparedness. Show them what to do in case of an emergency, especially if they are at school or away from home during an earthquake.
8. Design a library exhibit about Mt. St. Helens for a local school or public library. Include general information about volcanoes and special information about Mt. St. Helens. Offer to display it in conjunction with the anniversary of the eruption.
9. Help Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts earn the Mt. St. Helens Try-It or Badge.
10. Read about an individual who has studied volcanoes or earthquakes. What led this person to this career? How did their work add to our understanding of these phenomena?
11. Do a college search to find out which schools offer programs in vulcanology. Is this a specialized field? How long does a course of study run? What are some other related fields of study?
12. Interview a Park Service employee about career opportunities at our National Monuments. What led this person to this career? What type of education is required? What does this person do on a daily basis?
13. Go on-line to discover if investigational research data is available in real time. Can you view seismographic monitoring as it occurs?
14. Take a hike through or a science exploration trip to at least one of the following sites that you have not visited before:
 - Ape Caves, WA
 - Mt. St. Helens Interpretive Center, WA
 - Coldwater Ridge Interpretive Center, WA
 - Johnston Ridge Interpretive Center, WA
 - Weyerhaeuser Forestry Learning Center, WA
 - Crater Lake and Wizard Island, OR
 - Sediment Retention Dam on the North Fork Toutle River, WA
 - Lava Lands Visitor Center, OR
 - Or another lava field in the Northwest

Oregon Trail

The Oregon Trail was one of the main overland migration routes in the United States of America, leading from locations on the Missouri River to the Oregon Territory. Between 1841 and 1869 the Oregon Trail was used by settlers, ranchers, farmers, miners and business men migrating to the Pacific Northwest. This patch is designed to help girls understand and appreciate the history of the Oregon Trail and the pioneers that travelled it.

To complete this Interest Project, complete SEVEN activities. Must include two skill builders, four activities from any section and one SMART goal you develop and complete.

Skill Builders

1. Build a toy that may have been played with by a pioneer child. Give the toy to a child you know and share with them the history about the toy
2. Make a meal that people in covered wagons may have eaten and share it with others.
3. Try your hand at a skill the early settler women may have had to know about (i.e. spinning, weaving, quilting, soap making, making candles, hand sewing, etc.) or attend a presentation offered by a local guild in one of these areas. Check your local newspaper for these events. These could include a quilt show, Mission Mills' annual Sheep to Shawl event in Salem or a spinning or weaving guild display. Teach the skills that you learn to a younger troop.

Other Activities

1. Visit a historical site or museum on the Oregon Trail, such as:
 - The end of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
 - Fort Vancouver
 - Oregon City
 - Whitman Mission
 - High Desert Museum
 - Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
2. Trace your family tree. With your parents help trace back your family 4 generations - you, your parents, your grandparents, and your great grandparents.
3. Write a short biographical sketch about your parents' or grandparents' life, or make a recording with your parents or grandparents talking about their lives.
4. Find out about your community. When was it settled? Who, if anyone, lived there before the pioneers moved into the area? Visit a historic place in your community and learn about conservation efforts to preserve that location.
5. Find out about the Native Americans that inhabited the area before the pioneers settled. Were they nomads? What did their homes look like? What did they eat? Attend a Pow Wow and

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practice a Native American craft.

6. Read a book or story about pioneer life. Would you have liked to live during that time period? Write down your thoughts. What things were different? What kinds of chores were the children expected to do?
7. Take a field trip and follow part of the Oregon Trail. There are places not far from the Willamette Valley where the actual ruts from wagons are visible. A trip from Prineville to Oregon City might be an example. Hike for two miles along the Oregon Trail. How does it feel walking that distance? How do you think the pioneers felt with the distances they covered?
8. What entertainment did the pioneers participate in both along the trail and in the established settlements? How is it different than today's entertainment? If possible, participate in some form of entertainment they might have enjoyed.
 - Music: What types? What instruments?
 - Drama: Melodrama. Vaudeville type?
 - Dance: Square or live dance. Waltz.
9. What kinds of work did the pioneers do before they came and after they got here? Was it the same or different? Can you identify what kind of work all of these people did?

Farrier	Copper	Mercantile	Seamstress	Wrangler
Blacksmith	Cobbler	Apothecary	Wagon Master	Midwife
Tin Smith	Haberdasher	Milliner	Tailor	Cow Poke

10. What might a trip to the doctor have been like? What kinds of medicines were used? How has medicine changed?
11. Play through the Oregon Trail computer game and reflect on the experiences and skills needed to make the trip.
12. Contact the National Park Service or Bureau of Land Management and find out about conservation projects supporting the Oregon Trail.

Resources

National Park Service Oregon Trail website: <http://www.nps.gov/oreg/index.htm>

Bureau of Land Management – Oregon Trail Interpretive Center website: <http://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/>