



WIDER OPPORTUNITY

Interest Project Patch

For Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts

Have you ever been on a Wider Op? Have you ever applied? Whether you have attended a Wider Op or not, you can complete the required activities and earn the Rockland County Girl Scout Council's Own Wider Opportunity Interest Project Patch. This Interest Project Patch can be completed as a troop or group, while exploring the subject of Wider Opportunities, or it can also be earned by an individual Girl Scout.

Requirements: Complete seven (7) activities including: two (2) Skill Builders; one (1) Technology; one (1) Career Exploration; and one (1) Service Project. The other two (2) activities can be chosen from any category. The starred (*) skill builder is required and should be done before starting the other requirements.

SKILL BUILDERS:

***1. Application.** Working with a current Wider Op booklet, select three opportunities you would be interested in exploring. Obtain a Wider Op application from your Council and fill it out. Write a short essay for two of your three choices, stating why you should be chosen for this Wider Op. Ask someone, that is your GS leader, your English teacher, a school counselor, or someone whose writing ability you admire, to help you put the finishing touches on your application and essay.

2. Participation.

* If you have never applied for a Wider Opportunity, speak to someone who has been on a Wider Opportunity. Write a short essay explaining what you have learned about Wider Opportunities.

OR

* If you have applied for a Wider Opportunity, and have not been chosen, write a short essay explaining what benefits you have received from just going through the process.

OR

* Participate in a Wider Opportunity. Take notes and write an article for your Council's publication.

3. Interviews.

Do a mock interview. Pair up with another Girl Scout (preferably another GS who has attended a Wider Op in the past), a GS leader, a Council staff member or volunteer who has interviewed for Wider Op or another adult.

4. Assets.

Write a short essay stating why Council should recommend you for the Wider Op you have chosen. What assets do you bring to this program? What do you hope to gain from this experience? Set a goal that you hope to achieve by participating in this Wider Op. State how you hope to achieve this goal.

5. Transportation.

Part of the cost of a Wider Op is the cost of transportation. Choose either the Wider Op you have been accepted to attend, or one of your three choices and do the following:

* Determine various means of transportation you can use to get to the Wider Op of your choice.

* Contact at least two (2) travel agencies for prices and schedules for each means of transportation to the same location. Compare.

When you are accepted for a Wider Op, then you can also use GSUSA Travel Service for transportation information.

CAREER EXPLORATION:

1. Involving Your Career.

Be aware of the various career opportunities around you and make note of the ones that especially interest you. How can participating in a Wider Op be helpful in determining your career choice? Can you use this experience to make it easier to decide what type of career you might enjoy more? How can completing the requirements to earn the Wider Opportunity IPP be a useful tool for you when you apply to college and/or apply for a job?

2. Reference.

When you go on a college interview or place an application with a company for a job, references from other people are usually required. When you apply for a Wider Op, references are also needed. Whom should you ask for a reference? Why is it important which people you choose to ask for a reference? What should influence your choice?

3. Recognitions Earned.

* Explain how recognitions earned in Cadette and Senior Girl Scouting, have and can help you in considering a career. Now explore how Wider Opportunities can help you in your career decision. Include this information when applying for a Wider Opportunity.

OR

* If you are a Junior Girl Scout, use the recognitions you have earned as a Junior GS to fulfill this requirement.

4. Outside Activities.

Many Girl Scouts are involved in activities outside of Girl Scouting. For example you may be on a sports team, a club in your school, enrolled in a dance, theater, gymnastics or swimming program. You might be in the school band, orchestra or choir. These are just a few examples. These outside activities can be considered assets toward a future career choice. They may be extremely useful when applying for a Wider Op. Explain how at least one of your outside activities can be viewed as an asset for both a career choice and for being recommended for a Wider Op.

TECHNOLOGY:

1. How To Finance Your Wider Opportunity.

Prepare a plan on how you will finance your Wider Opportunity. What are some of the ways you can earn money for your trip. Think about a job, raising funds, or obtaining an event sponsor. Ask about Council resources, GSUSA resources, Service Unit resources and troop resources. How much money will you still need and have to raise to be able to go on the Wider Opportunity you choose.

2. Fund Raising.

After you determined how much money you still need to raise for your Wider Op., list at least three (3) ways you can raise money through fund raising. Prepare an estimate of the amount you expect to earn from each fund raiser and how you determined that amount. Will you be able to raise enough money for your trip?

3. Budgets.

* If you are recommended to participate in a Wider Op, prepare a budget of the expenses you think you might incur while on the Wider Op. You may have to research this by asking someone who has gone on the same or similar Wider Op, your troop leader, or a Council staff person. Keep track of how much money you spend while participating in the Wider Op and compare it to your budget. How close were your actual expenditures to your budget? Can you explain why?

OR

* If you are not participating in a Wider Opportunity, then select any of the Wider Op programs, and find out what kind of expenses you will incur. You may have to research this by asking someone who went on the same or similar Wider Opportunity, your troop leader, or a Council staff person. After you have finished, go over your budget with your troop leader or someone who has participated in a Wider Op and see if you have included all your expenses in your budget.

SERVICE PROJECTS:

1. Saying It With Pictures.

Using photographs, postcards, magazines, and other pictures, make a scrapbook outlining your trip. The pictures must be relevant to your activities. Donate this scrapbook to the Council library so that younger Girl Scouts can use it as a reference material when they are trying to learn about Wider Opportunities.

2. Background.

Do some research about the Wider Opportunity you have selected. Find out about the area that you will be visiting. Create a booklet with this information. Include information about the Wider Op, and the area where the Wider Op takes place. Donate this book to the Council Library as part of a Wider Op Discovery Box that other Girl Scouts can use as a resource.

3. Spread The News.

Wider Opportunities are a wonderful part of Girl Scouting. Assist a younger Girl Scout troop in learning about Wider Opportunities. Bring any information or pictures that you

have gathered about Wider Opportunities and present it to them.

4. Helping Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts Learn About Wider Ops.

After participating in a Wider Op, help a Cadette or Senior Girl Scout apply for a Wider Opportunity. Provide her with information that will help her understand the Wider Opportunity application process, or complete the requirements of the Wider Opportunity IPP.

5. Helping Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts Who Have Been Accepted to Attend a Wider Opportunity.

Help a Girl Scout who is going on a Wider Opportunity with making or collecting swaps, fund raising, and /or securing supplies needed for her Wider Op.

Adapted from the Thousand Islands Girl Scout Council's Own Wider Opportunities IPP.

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