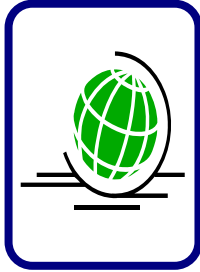


Our Own Council's Interest Project Award for Girls 11-17



GIRL SCOUTING – A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES INTEREST PROJECT

SKILL BUILDERS

CHECK OUT THE POSSIBILITIES

Using your Girl Scout age-level handbook, *Interest Project Book for Girls 11-17*, *Safety-Wise*, and STUDIO 2B_{SM} materials learn about each of the awards available to Girl Scouts 11-17 such as Program Aide, Girl Scout Gold or Silver 4Bs Challenge Awards, Community Service Bars, Girl Scout Community Service Bar, Girl Scout Gold or Silver Leadership Awards, Girl Scout Gold or Silver Career Awards, Interest Projects and STUDIO 2B_{SM} Focus books. Also check out recognitions such as Leader In Training (LIT), Counselor In Training (CIT), and religious recognitions. A complete list of insignia can be found at Girl Scouts of the USA's web site (www.girlscouts.org).

Discuss the difference between leadership and service and develop a way to keep track of your hours. Create a chart or display to show the options available to teen girls. Share your knowledge with other Girl Scouts at a recruitment event or within your community by displaying it in a library, church, or other public place.

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

Find out how Girl Guides and Girl Scouts began. Find out how Girl Guides was founded and who founded it. Who brought Girl Scouts to the United States and when? Chart the growth of WAGGGS from its beginning to present.

Now that you are a Teen Girl Scout, you can travel for longer periods of time and even travel outside of the United States. Select one WAGGGS member country you would like to visit and find out as much as you can about that country through books, magazines, travel agents, and Web sites. If possible, gather photos, posters, and souvenirs. Share this information by creating an imaginary television or radio commercial or travel brochure in which you tell everyone what makes your country special, particularly for Girl Scouts. Perform your commercial before other Girl Scouts, friends, or family members or give a recording of your commercial or copy of your brochure to a troop/group of younger girls.

THE ULTIMATE OPPORTUNITY

Find out about the Girl Scout Silver Award and the Girl Scout Gold Award. Compare the guidelines for earning each of these awards. Review the guidelines for each of the steps for earning the awards.

Read the "Go for It" insert for the Girl Scout Silver or Gold Award.

Make a timeline for completing the steps for either award. What training will you need to have, if any? How many hours of service must be completed? How much time do you have to complete the requirements? What documentation must you submit? What are the deadlines? Does your Council have a review process? If so, what is it?

AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE

As a Teen Girl Scout, you are now old enough to participate in a Girl Scouts of the USA STUDIO 2B_{SM} Destination. Each year, thousands of Girl Scouts 11-17 attend these special events. Learn about destinations offered by Girl Scout Councils, GSUSA, or other collaborating organizations to Girl Scouts 11-17 across the country. Visit the STUDIO 2B_{SM} web site (www.studio2b.org) and see what destinations are available. Decide on three destinations you think you might like. Find out the location, age requirements, cost, dates, focus of the program, and the availability of travel scholarships. Complete a destinations application, including the essays to get a feel for what it takes to get accepted. Find out your council's deadline for applications and consider submitting your application.

USE YOUR RESOURCES

Using resources wisely is an integral part of the Girl Scout Law as well as the Girl Scout program. Since the earliest days of the program, thriftiness has been a valued skill. Today girls have unlimited resources available to them if they use them wisely.

With your troop or group, explore the Money Smarts section of the GSUSA website or check out the CentsAbility program from your local Girl Scout office. Other resources include the STUDIO 2B_{SM} Focus Books – "Got Money" and "Cashin' In". Select one of the activities listed and do at least one activity related to earning, spending, saving or investing. Make sure you also check the relevant sections of *Safety-Wise* for money-earning guidelines.

Be sure to set a goal that you can reach by using your newly acquired skills!

BALANCING YOUR LIFE

Life gets busier for girls in middle and high school. It can seem overwhelming to try to fit in everything you want to do. Did you know that experiences gained in school, church groups, sports groups, and other clubs and organizations can count towards Girl Scout recognitions? Use the *Interest Project Book for Girls 11-17* and Focus books to see if any of your classwork applies to an interest project or Focus book.

Having options is part of Girl Scouts. Find out what ways you can participate in Girl Scouting. Learn about the pros and cons of being a "Juliette" (independently registered Girl Scout).

BY GIRLS, FOR GIRLS

Your “Troop Leader” is now an Advisor. Your troop should be taking on more of the meeting and decision-making tasks. By the time you are teens, your Advisors should be helping wherever needed (and ensuring *Safety-Wise* is followed) and the girls run the show! Learn about the various forms of troop government. Practice your leadership skills by leading a portion of a meeting or a project.

You can _____ also explore the possibility of becoming a Program Aide for a group of younger girls or help a troop of younger girls plan and implement an event.

TECHNOLOGY

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

As a Girl Scout 11-18, you can apply for a STUDIO 2B_{SM} destination. Your troop/group can also participate in a trip outside of your normal meeting location. Choose a location you’d like to visit such as the Juliette Low Birthplace in Savannah, Georgia, the Edith Macy Conference Center in New York, one of the World Centers, or another destination of your choice. Read “Planning Trips with Girl Scouts” in *Safety-Wise* for guidelines on traveling or _____ review your council’s trip planning guide. Figure out how to travel there by plane, train, or car. Collect road maps or train schedules, or call a travel agent to ask about plane schedules. You can also find out plane, train, and map information on the internet. Estimate the number of miles you will travel, how much it will cost in gas prices or ticket fares, and how long it will take you to get there.

EMBRACE THE FUTURE

Girls can do absolutely anything — and math, science and technology are no exception. They’re all around you. Want to find out how technology can be a part of your future? Unlock the door to discover the genius inside you. Visit the Girls Go Tech section of the GSUSA web site (www.girlscouts.org). Select at least one activity for your age group and complete it or participate in a workshop or event that focuses on science, math or technology.

CAREER EXPLORATION

CAREERS IN GIRL SCOUTING – ANOTHER PATH!

Learn about the positions available for adults through your Council. Interview someone who holds a paid position or interview an administrative volunteer such as Service Unit Manager, Cookie Manager, Organizer, etc. What skills or special training does she have? Why did she/he choose to serve in this capacity?

Make a list of positions offered by your council. Select one position and make a list of skills and abilities that someone would need to perform that job.

TRAINING – LEAD THE WAY!

Trainers play an important role in the Girl Scout organization. Learn about the training programs offered by your Council. Interview a trainer and find out how to become a trainer or find out why she/he decided to assume this role. Make a list of the skills and aptitudes you think a good trainer should possess.

CAMPUS GIRL SCOUTING – THE ROAD DOESN'T END HERE!

Girl Scouting does not end with high school. Research Campus Girl Scouts and contact a Campus Girl Scout group. Find out how they established their group and what types of activities they do. Interview one of their members regarding leadership opportunities for Teen Girl Scouts. Find out how Campus Girl Scouting fits into their future plans.

THE LIFEBLOOD OF GIRL SCOUTING – VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the work of many dedicated volunteers, we have troops/groups, area events, and council events. Choose one of the following activities:

- Interview a volunteer and find out how she/he juggles work, family, and volunteering.
- Find out what awards adult volunteers can receive. Find out if an adult in your troop/group/area is eligible for an award and go through the process of nominating her/him for this special recognition. For information on the adult recognition process, contact your local Girl Scout office.

SERVICE

SHARE THE FUN

Girl Scouts of all ages like to explore the world outside of their troop setting. Find out what local opportunities are available for younger Girl Scouts. Check your service unit, area or council calendars then volunteer to help prepare or assist with one of these events.

HELP A SISTER GIRL SCOUT

Many Teen Girl Scouts are working on service projects for their Girl Scout Gold or Silver Awards and often need assistance from their sister Girl Scouts. They may need assistance educating their community, making and distributing items, or helping to beautify their community. Help another Girl Scout with a service project.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Through Girl Scouts you have had numerous opportunities to assist people in your community. Visit www.wagggsworld.org, www.YouthAction.net, or other relevant web sites to see what other girls have to say about the issues that affect them. Brainstorm a list of local problems. Plan and implement a service project designed to address one of those problems.

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