

*To earn an Interest Project patch, you must complete at least seven (7) activities as follows:
2 Skill Builders, 1 Technology, 1 Service, 1 Career Exploration, 2 Activities from any category.*

HARBOR LIGHTS #5

Skill Builders

1. The Mackinac Bridge connects the Upper and Lower Michigan peninsulas. Find out the name of the designer. In what year was the bridge construction completed? How long is it? Who leads off the annual Labor Day Bridge Walk?
2. A strait is a narrow waterway connecting two large bodies of water. Draw a map of the Mackinac straits area showing and labeling land and water features.
3. Two annual yacht races finish their competitions at Mackinac Island. Learn the starting points for each race. Which race covers the longest distance? When are these events held?
4. Ferries provide passenger service to Mackinac Island from both Mackinaw City and St. Ignace. Write a short description of your ride to the Island and what you observed along the way. Or draw a picture of the Island and harbor areas as seen from the boat.
5. Lighthouses were an important part of early navigation of the Great Lakes. Take a picture of the historic Round Island Lighthouse. Learn when it was built and how long it was in active service.
6. The State of Michigan provides marina service on Mackinac Island. How many boats can be docked there at one time? Find out how rental fees are charged. How long may boaters stay? What services are available to users?
7. Ore boats are a common site on the straits area. Learn and explain the meaning of "down bound" and "up bound". What product do these boats generally carry? Where might they be coming from or where could they be going?
8. The Coast Guard maintains a red warning buoy in the waters off Mission Point Resort. Find out what hazard to navigation exists in that spot. With a buddy, ride a bicycle to Mission Point and look for the buoy.

Technology

1. The newest ferry service to the Island is catamaran. What does a catamaran look like? What makes it different from other boat designs?

2. Lighthouses used to be maintained manually using lanterns. Describe how advances in technology have changed navigation-warning systems. Find out what took the place of the Round Island Lighthouse.
3. During the yacht races, sailors often use special sails called spinnakers. What is the purpose of this sail and how is it different from the normal sails?
4. Boaters can use signal flags as a means of communication. Investigate how letters and numbers are represented by flag design. Learn what message, if any, is displayed by the Visitor Center Signal Flags.

Service Project

1. Put together a presentation, display or promotional flyer that can be shared with younger Girl Scouts telling them about the Straits of Mackinac and harbor areas.
2. Volunteer to take someone's picture with the harbor or straits in the background. Good locations are Upper Gun Platform in the Fort or on the porch of the Governor's Summer Residence, if you have the opportunity to help give tours on Wednesday morning.
3. Volunteer to be responsible for getting someone else's bicycle on the ferry and up to the Scout Barracks or vice versa.

Career Exploration

1. Find out what it takes to become either an architect or structural engineer. What do they generally do?
2. Research a job you might be interested in which is related to the travel or tourist industries, such as a tour guide, travel agent, flight attendant, or traffic controller.
3. Discuss different ways you might use writing, speaking, or artistic skills to combine travel and money-earning opportunities.