



## 1963 to 2023: 60 Years of Girl Scout History in Virginia Skyline

During this 60th Anniversary Year your Virginia Skyline Archives Group is going to highlight some interesting and fun facts about those 60 years in our council. *Our History Along the Skyline* will be featured every two weeks in continuing articles and pictures in *The Girl Scout Connection*.

### THE SUMMER CAMP SUITCASE

*The information in this article is shared from a program experience with Roanoke Valley Brownie/Junior Troop 230 and Jane Garnett, Skyline Archives Group member and consultant for Troop 230.*

Troop 230 explored the Girl Scout History Summer Camp Suitcase created by Virginia Skyline Council's very own Archives Group. During the troop's one-hour meeting, here is what the girls discovered, explored, and enjoyed within the suitcase program materials.

They loved dressing up in the vintage camp uniforms, learning 57 ways to use a bandana, and seeing an old-fashioned mess kit, folding utensil, and collapsible drinking cup. After reviewing several of the books in the suitcase, the girls decided they wanted to learn more about semaphores, knots, compasses, tent camping, and tools. So that will be ideas for future meetings.

Three of the girls pictured here are wearing vintage camp uniforms included in the suitcase (no animals were harmed for the photo; just stuffed animals).



Also in the suitcase was an embroidery hoop with summer camp pins and badges, a vintage sit-upon, an old rucksack, and several books. Troop 230 read the poem “57 Ways to Use a Bandana” (see below for this great poem). Then they practiced some of the uses of a bandana and included them within the photo above. Can you find all 12 ways they used them? The answer: lap napkin, bandage, hair tie, belt tie, dog neckerchief, sling, headband, babushka/headscarf tied under the chin, potholder, hobo lunch bag, Western neckerchief, and homemade doll.

If you want to borrow this Summer Camp Suitcase or other Girl Scout historical suitcases, complete the [Resource Reservation \(form #2159\)](#). More information on what program materials are available is [HERE](#).

**LEARN MORE HISTORY: [Virginia Skyline Girl Scout Council’s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Book](#)**

*This tidbit of council history was brought to you by The Virginia Skyline Archives Group. Find out more about this group and the historical uniforms and programs that they offer for FREE to troops and service units.*

## *57 Uses of the Bandana*

Just ask a Girl Scout "What is a bandana?"  
"A most useful thing," she will say.  
For this bright, handy square of fabric  
Can be used in 57 ways.

First as a triangular bandage  
For right hand, and left hand, and knees,  
For right eye, and left eye, and headache,  
Or for right foot, or left foot, or sneeze.

You can wrap up your lunch in a jiffy.  
Then mop up the stuff that you spill.  
As a hat, it can look very spiffy.  
As a babushka it will keep out the chill.

It's a flag on the top of a flagpole,  
Or a grease pit to mark the place,  
Or a warning on trailing tent poles  
That extend from bulging trunk space.

You can bind up a cut from the hatchet,  
Or a slip of the wrist with the knife,  
Or a burn to keep down the blister,  
And as a warning it may save your life

It makes a good sling for that broken arm.  
It braces your leg while you use a cane,  
On the ground, as a sit-upon, it serves you,  
On the trail shows the way that you came.

"Round the neck it is Western in flavor.  
On the head, a pirate so bold.  
Dropped coyly, it might lead to romance.  
As a muffler. It keeps out the cold.

In a game it serves as a blindfold,  
In a relay it's something to pass.  
In a race it marks home base line.  
At a square dance marks laddie from lass.

As a belt it will hold up the trousers.  
On a dress it makes a fun sash.  
As a tie it adds some distinction.  
In hip pocket it gives certain dash.

As an apron it serves you at teatime,  
Or a centerpiece doily, they say,  
Or a hot pad to lift up the coffee,  
Or to wrap up warm bread on a tray.

In pairs its purpose is doubled.  
Two make a bikini, you know,  
Or a blouse, a skirt, or sunshade  
If you know how to sew.

For childcare, it is a blessing.  
Tied to a chair, he or she won't fall.  
Tears or tails can be dried very neatly,  
And for play, you can make it a doll.

For knot practice too, it is handy,  
Square, clove, bowline, and more.  
Now this makes 57 uses  
And you, no doubt, could add more.

So, with this we'll end this ditty.  
More uses we'd name had we chose.  
But we'll add only the primary purpose  
That of blowing the nose!