

# HISTORY MYSTERY Patch Program



## Cadette & Senior Girl Scouts



Girl Scouts®

Created by the  
Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council  
Archives Group

1-800-542-5905  
www.gsvsc.org



GSVSC ARCHIVES GROUP

# GSVSC History Mystery Patch Introduction

The GSVSC History Mystery Patch program was designed to help troops celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Scouts and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline. The focus of this program is to have fun discovering Girl Scout history in all the communities in the 37<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> counties of Virginia Skyline.

The GSVSC Archives Group is charged with the responsibility of keeping the history of Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline. The Archives Group has recorded the history of GSVSC in *Through the Years 1963-1998*. Through this patch program the Archives Group is challenging troops to fill in the blanks in Virginia Skyline's history. Finding out when and where troops were organized and who was involved is a very important part of recording our council history.

- ✦ Each age level has it's own requirement packet in addition to the leader packet.
- ✦ The challenge for everyone: **Find out when Girl Scouting began in your community. Who was involved? What did they do? Where did they meet?**
- ✦ The ultimate pieces of information needed by the Archives Group: **Which Girl Scout troop was the first to be organized within our current council geography? AND when was the first Girl Scout troop organized in each community?**

***A good history mystery detective will be looking for the following:***

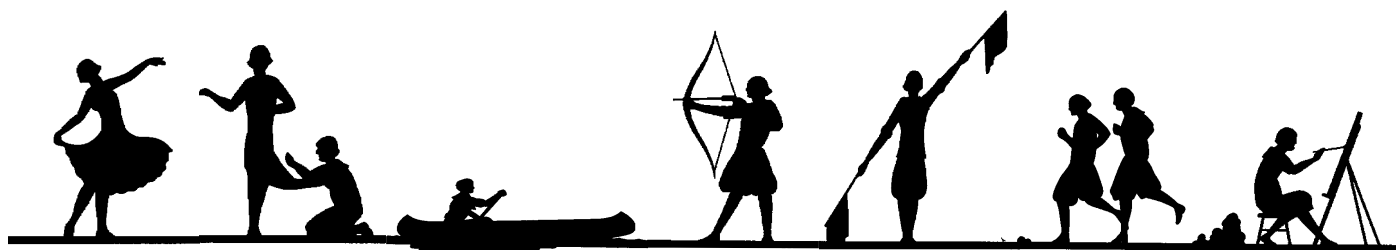
- Troop meeting places
- Places where troops camped
- Troop meeting activities-songs, games, badges, etc. of long ago
- Service provided to the community
- Troops, troop members, and their leaders
- People involved in Girl Scouting in your community

***YOU can help with this quest by completing the GSVSC History Mystery Patch!***

***Information on what you find will be published in The Skyline and Program Notes, and on the council's web site at [www.gsvsc.org](http://www.gsvsc.org).*** Troops should complete the requirements appropriate for their program-level. When the requirements are completed and the required report is filled out, leaders will be able to purchase the *GSVSC History Mystery Patch* from the Skyline Shop.



\*A copy of this book is in the History Mystery Suitcase.



# Cadette & Senior G.S. Patch Requirements

1. Learn about Girl Scout history. Find the earliest record of a Girl Scout troop in your community. Keep a record of all the information you gather. How does it relate to the Girl Scout History timeline?

**LEADER CLUES:** Brainstorm with your girls on how to find this information. Have them list people, places, records, etc. that will help their search. Use as many different resources as you can and be sure to record dates along with names and places.

Encourage them to develop a timeline including local history and significant events in their own lives as well as Girl Scout history. If the girls have their *individual girls records* these can help.

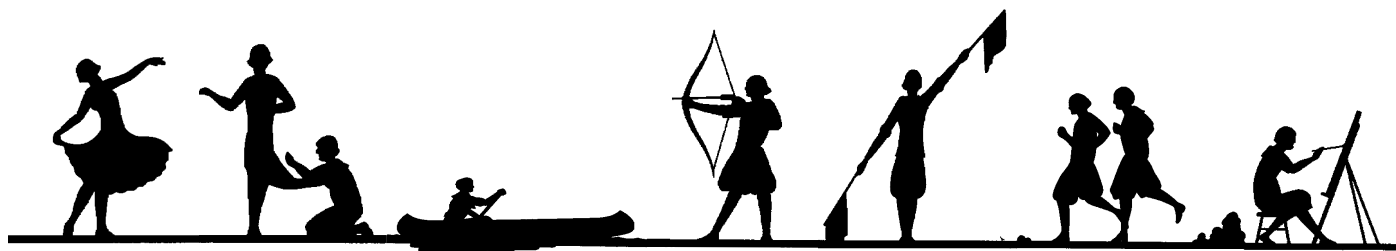
2. An alternate choice would be to plan and carry out an event for younger scouts to help them learn about Girl Scout history.

**LEADER CLUES:** Comparing what Girl Scouting was like through the years and sharing the type of activities the older girls enjoy today. They might help a younger troop earn the History Mystery Patch.

If the girls are contacting and visiting women in the community who have been Girl Scouts they should do this with adult supervision. Have the girls check Safety-Wise for the program standards and activity checkpoints that apply.

## **Suggested sources of information:**

- Newspapers; if you make copies of articles, be sure to include the name of the newspaper and the date.
- Places of worship histories and bulletins; if you make copies include the name of the place of worship and the date of the publication.
- Troop scrapbooks and records.
- Local historical society, historians, and museums.
- Interview current and former Girl Scout adults individually or at a planned gathering
- Interview women you admire and find out if they were Girl Scouts.
- Retirement homes or senior citizen centers are good places to find former Girl Scouts. If your troop already has a connection with senior citizens through service projects, this patch will be a good activity for you and your senior friends to work on together.
- Photographs; if copies of photographs are included in the history include the date and full names of the people in the photograph if possible and as much information about the picture as you can discover.
- Girl Scout event fliers
- Correspondence-letters and postcards
- Talk with other Girl Scout troops who are working on the GSVSC History Mystery patch
- Conduct a Girl Scout census or survey
- Visit antique shops and flea markets; if you find any old Girl Scout things see if you can find out to whom they belonged



# Cadette & Senior GS Requirements Cont.

3. Complete the Cadette and Senior GS History Mystery Detective Report and Evaluation (Form #2718) and send it along with the information you gathered about Girl Scout history in your community to the Skyline Shop with your patch order. You may want to keep a copy of the report for your troop's records.

Troops may order GSVSC History Mystery Patches for any guest who helps the troop complete the patch. The troop can pay for the patches or ask the guest to pay for them. The patches for guests should be ordered with the troop patches.

## Girl Scout Program Links

(with the GSVSC History Mystery Patch)

### Cadette and Senior Girl Scout Interest Projects (1997 edition)

#### Generations Hand in Hand

Skill Builder #1

Get family members Girl Scout history

Skill Builder #2

Oral history

Careers #2

Retired person volunteer work

#### From A to V: Audio Visual Production

Oral History

#### Writing for Real

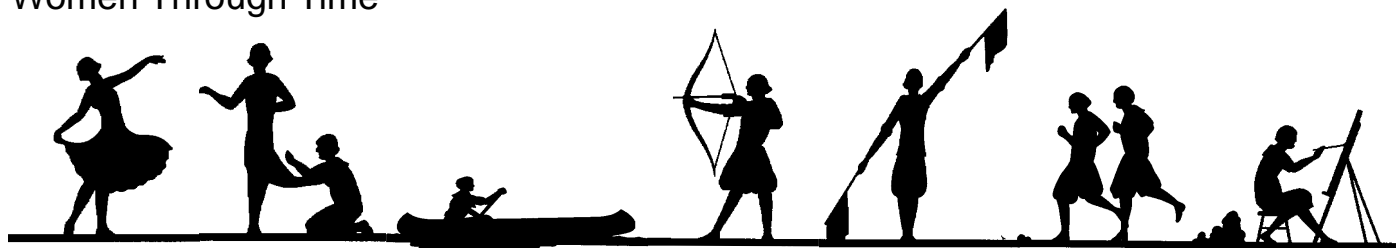
Written Girl Scout history

#### Collecting

Girl Scout Collections

#### Heritage Hunt

#### Women Through Time



# ORAL HISTORY

Oral history is the practice of recording first hand impressions of past events on video or audio tape. Today changes occur at a rapid pace, so now is the time to capture the memories of people in the community to document those changes before precious memories are lost forever.

## First Steps

1. **Set the goals of your project.** What is it you want to learn and what ultimately do you plan to do with the information? Once you've established the focus of your project, you can then locate possible subjects to be interviewed.
2. **Prepare a general list of questions to accomplish your goal.** Do not become a slave to your list, however, or be limited by them. Remember that oral history is a personal reflection of the interviewee. Keep questions short and to the point, but avoid questions that can be answered with a simple yes or no.
3. **Know your topic.** Be familiar with written history and other background on your chosen topic. You may even want to do a pre-interview without equipment to get a feel for what questions would be good. Check with the person you will be interviewing to see if they have photos, scrapbooks, etc. that may help you jog memories.
4. **Use good quality equipment.** Depending on what the purpose of your project is, you may opt to record on video, audio cassette or both. Tape is NOT a permanent record, it will eventually deteriorate....so you may want to consider transcribing the interview and taking photographs to store with the transcript. (note: audio cassette is the best for transcribing. And always use a copy to transcribe from NOT the original.)
5. **Arrange a time, date and interview place.** Pick a comfortable, quiet place. Try to pick a place without a lot of background noise likes pets, children, street noise, etc.

## The Interview

1. Be prepared. Before you arrive, make sure you are familiar with your equipment. Make sure it is all in working order, including batteries. Extension cords are good to have for backup.
2. Labels! Always label your tapes, no matter the format. Nothing is more distressing than accidentally erasing an important interview.
3. Arrive on time.
4. Do an on-site test recording to make sure everything works.
5. Identify tapes. Put an introduction on your audio tape before the interview. State your name, date, location of interview and name of who's being interviewed.

6. Listen. An interview is a very lop-sided conversation. Let the person you're interviewing be the star. **DON'T INTERRUPT.** Sometimes people pause to get their thoughts, so give them a chance to continue. Rather than "uh-huhing" during interview, nod your head up and down occasionally to show you are paying attention. Keep your opinions and feelings to yourself.
7. Watch the time. Try to keep an interview to an hour or less.
8. When the interview is done, don't leave abruptly. Give your subject some time to "come down". You may have stirred up some powerful emotions.

**Note:** It is always a good idea to get a signed release from your subject. This way the interview can be used to truly preserve history - by providing a resource for researchers, etc. Without a release, you can not use quotes from the interview!

### **After the Interview**

1. Send a thank you note!
2. Make an index of your tapes. Zero the counter at the beginning of your tape and make a list of topics discussed and note where they are on the tape by the counter. This will make segments easier to find for future use.
3. Transcribe the interview if possible. It is time consuming but preserves the interview for posterity and makes the interview much easier to use by researchers.
  - Change as little as possible. With the exception of ers, ums and false starts, the interviewee's word choice (including his/her grammar) and speech patterns should be accurately represented.
  - You may want to let your subject read the transcript to make sure that unusual words (names of people, towns, rivers, companies, words in a foreign language, etc.) are spelled correctly. Sometimes it is hard to understand certain words when playing back the tape.

### **What to Do With Your Final Product**

If your interviews are Girl Scout related, consider sharing your oral histories with the Virginia Skyline Archives Group. Other possibilities include sharing with the library (Roanoke City has a wonderful repository of information in the Main Library's Virginia Room) or with a local college. Libraries and colleges can offer the temperature and humidity controlled environment needed to preserve tapes and papers.

# Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council

## RELEASE FORM

Producer/Interviewer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment/Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

### RELEASE FOR ADULTS

I, being of legal age, hereby consent that the videotapes, photographs, motion picture film in which I appear, and/or audio recordings made of my voice may be used by Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council and Girl Scouts of the USA, their assigns or successors, in whatever way they desire. Furthermore, I hereby consent that such photographs, films, recordings, and the plates and/or tapes from which they are made shall be their property, and they shall have the right to make use of such photographs, films, recordings, plates, and tapes for such scholarly and educational use as they may desire free and clear of any claim whatever on my part.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand, in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

on the date of \_\_\_\_\_.

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

# Cadette & Senior GS Report & Evaluation

*This form must be completed to order patches. The documented research that you gathered in finding the earliest record of a Girl Scout troop in your community must be attached to this form.*  
**NO REPORT, NO PATCHES.**

From Cadette or Senior Girl Scout Troop: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the earliest record of a Girl Scout troop you found in your community? Please indicate the sources of your information and be sure to include dates.

Describe in detail the information about this troop (who, what, where, when, etc.):

*Attach the information you gathered about Girl Scout history in your community while you were searching for the oldest Girl Scout troop.*

**CONTINUED ON BACK**

# Cadette & Senior GS Report & Evaluation

What did you find most interesting about this activity?

What would you like to find out more about?

Other comments:

**RETURN FORM BY MAIL** (when ordering patches by mail):  
Skyline Shop, 3663 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019  
Charlottesville Shop, 380 Greenbriar Square, Charlottesville, VA 22901

**RETURN FORM IN-PERSON** (when visiting the shop to purchase patches):  
Skyline Shop, 3663 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019  
Charlottesville Shop, 380 Greenbriar Square, Charlottesville, VA 22901

**COST OF PATCHES**  
\$1.25 each (if mailed, add 10% shipping cost)

## PATCH ORDER

# of Girls: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Guest Participants: \_\_\_\_\_



**1912**

To do my duty to God and to my country  
To help other people at all times  
To obey the Laws of the Scouts.

**1972**

On my honor, I will try:  
To serve God  
My country and mankind  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law

## THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE



**Girl Scouts®**

**1920**

On my honor, I will try:  
To do my duty to God and my country.  
To help people at all times  
To obey the Girl Scout Laws.

**1984**

On my honor, I will try:  
To serve God and my country  
To help people at all times  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

## THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

**1913**

A Girl Scout's honor is to be trusted.  
A Girl Scout is loyal.  
A Girl Scout's duty is to be useful  
and to help others.  
A Girl Scout is a friend to all,  
and a sister to every other Girl Scout no matter  
to what social class she may belong.  
A Girl Scout is courteous.  
A Girl Scout keeps herself pure.  
A Girl Scout is a friend to animals.  
A Girl Scout obeys orders.  
A Girl Scout is cheerful.  
A Girl Scout is thrifty.

**1920**

A Girl Scout's honor is to be Trusted  
A Girl Scout is Loyal  
A Girl Scout's Duty is to be Useful and to Help Others  
A Girl Scout is a Friend to All and a Sister to every  
other Girl Scout  
A Girl Scout is courteous  
A Girl Scout is a Friend to Animals  
A Girl Scout Obeys Orders  
A Girl Scout is Cheerful  
A Girl Scout is Thrifty  
A Girl Scout is Clean in Thought, Word, and Deed

**1917**

A Girl Scout's honor is to be trusted.  
A Girl Scout is loyal.  
A Girl Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others  
A Girl Scout is a friend to all, and a sister to every  
other Girl Scout.  
A Girl Scout is courteous.  
A Girl Scout keeps herself pure.  
A Girl Scout is a friend to animals.  
A Girl Scout obeys orders.  
A Girl Scout is cheerful.  
A Girl Scout is thrifty.

**1972**

I will do my best:  
to be honest  
to be fair  
to help where I am needed  
to be cheerful  
to be friendly and considerate  
to be a sister to every Girl Scout  
to respect authority  
to use resources wisely  
to protect and improve the world around me  
to show respect for myself and others through my  
words and actions.

**1996**

I will do my best to be  
honest and fair,  
friendly and helpful,  
considerate and caring,  
courageous and strong, and  
responsible for what I say and do.

and to

respect myself and others,  
respect authority,  
use resources wisely,  
make the world a better place, and  
be a sister to every Girl Scout.