

Women's History Month

PURPOSE

Girl Scouts uncover the contributions women have made to America by learning about women's history, achievements, traditions, and culture with a goal to promote cultural diversity in our community.



GIRL SCOUT LEVELS / REQUIREMENTS

To earn the Women's History Month Culture patch, Girl Scouts need to complete a Take Action activity along with the following requirements. Girl Scouts are encouraged to complete at least one activity from each section: Discover and Connect.

- Daisy Girl Scouts: any 4 activities
- Brownie Girl Scouts: any 6 activities
- Junior Girl Scouts: any 8 activities
- Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts: any 10 activities

Please review the [Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for All Girl Scouts](#).

BACKGROUND

Women's History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by women and a time to recognize their central role in United States History. In 1978, Women's History Month began as a local 'Women's History Week' in Santa Rosa California on behalf of the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women. In 1980, several women's groups and historians who were led by the National Women's History Alliance successfully advocated for national recognition. In February of that year, President Jimmy Carter issued the very first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th National Women's History Week. Presidents after Jimmy Carter continued to proclaim this week in March until 1987 when Congress made the decision to designate all of March Women's History Month. Since 1995, each president of the United States has issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women's History Month. Numerous countries including China, Russia, and the UK, celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th, but the United States is the only country that has an entire month devoted to the recognition of women. Today, Women's History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of women across United States history and society – activists, scientists, politicians, and civil rights pioneers such as [Sacagawea](#), [Amelia Earhart](#), [Marie Curie](#), [Susan B. Anthony](#), [Lily Ledbetter](#), [Clara Barton](#), and [Ida B.](#)



Wells. The National Women's History Alliance provides a theme for Women's History Month each year. In 2022, the theme was "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope". While Women's History Month is celebrated in March, this patch can be earned year-round!

ACTIVITIES

DISCOVER

- ACTIVITY #1: What started as a weeklong celebration in 1978 to align with International Women's Day has become a month of honoring and recognizing the contributions women have made throughout history! Watch this [video](#) (CSA) or this [video](#) (DBJ) to learn about Women's History Month
- ACTIVITY #2: Who the first female author was has been speculated over time and is difficult to pinpoint because they were either published anonymously or under a fictitious male name. Pseudonyms, or a made-up name typically used by an author, were often used by women so they would be taken seriously by publishers. We've come a long way since then with Marguerite Higgins as the first woman to win a Pulitzer in 1951 for her war reporting and Maya Angelou as the first female inaugural poet in U.S. presidential history in 1933.

Listen to Maya Angelou's *Life Doesn't Frighten Me* [here](#), then write a poem or short story of your own what is inspired by overcoming your fears.

- ACTIVITY #3: Women weren't always allowed to participate in sports, isn't that crazy? It took some brave women to prove they were just as capable as men and could complete in different sports. Look through this [slideshow](#) from the National Women's History Museum about the history and achievements of women in sports.
- ACTIVITY #4: Up until the 16th century, female characters were the highlight of most plays, female actors themselves were not. In fact, most of these roles were played by male actors. Opera opened the stage for women to be in lead roles, but there was still push back. During Restoration in 1660, women were taking to the stage in star roles. Finally in the 17th century the first female playwrights emerged, Aphra Behn and Susanna Centlivre. Like many playwrights now, they wrote sharing their perspectives and focused on topics that they were passionate about.

Like these fearless female playwrights, create your own skit about something you are passionate about. Who is the main character? What do they stand for? How do they overcome obstacles? Then act it out with your family or troop!

- **ACTIVITY #5:** While women have always made contributions to business, it wasn't until the 1900s that they started creating their very own businesses. The first female entrepreneur in U.S. history was Madam C.J. Walker, who started her own hair-care company. She was born as Sarah Breedlove, the daughter of former slaves and was the first in her family to be born free. She, like many entrepreneurs, faced an issue and sought out to seek a solution; in this case the issue was her own hair loss, and the solution was her hair growth formula.

Watch this [video](#) to learn more about Madam C.J. Walker's early beginnings and how she became the first female self-made millionaire in America! What do you think were some of Walker's biggest obstacles? What are three traits that someone might have to be a successful entrepreneur?

- **ACTIVITY #6:** The film industry is filled with many wonderful contribution and accomplishments by women who have been forgotten throughout time. For this activity build the profiles of some of these forgotten women, include their name, birthday, birthplace, and their largest contribution to the film industry.
- **ACTIVITY #7:** It's no mystery that women are often overlooked in the STEM field, but often have made the biggest contributions. Some of these women include Margaret Hamilton, a software engineer who was on the team that built the on-board flight software for NASA's Apollo program, and Katherine Johnson, a space scientist and mathematician who had a key role in calculating trajectories for the space program. For this activity research and create a complete a profile for one the women pioneers in STEM of your choosing.
- **ACTIVITY #8:** Watch Rebecca Chang talk about how growth mindset worked for her in this [video](#). What are the four ways she talks about to create a growth mindset? What are the differences between a growth and fixed mindset?

CONNECT

- **ACTIVITY #9:** International Women's Day (IWD) is held every year on March 8. It is a celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political accomplishments of women around the world. Each year since 1996 there has been a theme for IWD, this year's theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories". Visit the IWD website [here](#) and find out ways you can celebrate International Women's Day this year. Choose one and celebrate with your friends, family, and/or troop.



- ACTIVITY #10: Have you ever heard of the term “glass ceilings”? Glass ceilings are the invisible barriers that prevent women and minorities from being promoted to higher levels within their company or organization. Watch this [video](#) to learn more about this invisible barrier. What is something we can do to help break the glass ceiling? Pretend you are a current journalist researching women who broke glass ceilings in their field between 2015 and 2022. Collect research on one woman and write a column piece about who she is and what she did to get to the role she is in now.
- ACTIVITY #11: On average, women make \$0.82 for every \$1.00 a man makes. Equal Pay Day is the date that signifies how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the year prior. This year’s Equal Pay Day is on March 15, 2022. Visit the U.S. Department of Labor’s [site](#) to learn more about the pay gap
- ACTIVITY #12: Women are changing the world, tackling one issue at a time. Find an issue that affects women globally and then dive deeper to discover if there is a woman working to find a solution. What is her name? Where is she from? What is the issue? How is she making a difference?
- ACTIVITY #13: Over 40% of small businesses in the world are owned by women, and it is growing every day. Research a women owned business in your community and find out how they got started. Some websites have an “About Us” or “History” page, so consider looking there first.

Once you have found an owner(s) of interest, reach out to them via email or phone (with an adult’s help) and see if you can set up a time to ask them questions.
- ACTIVITY #14: There has always been a very clear distinction between men and women’s involvement in sports, whether it be the athletes or the administration. While there is still a long way to go to minimize this, there have been huge steps forward with the first female Major League Baseball (MLB) manager, Kim Ng, and even more recently with the United States National Women’s National Team (USWNT) winning their \$24 million equal pay settlement on February 22, 2022.

Either follow the USWNT’s six-year journey to equal pay using this [site](#) or watch this [video](#) about Kim Ng, the Miami Marlins General Manager.
- ACTIVITY #15: While most fields have been historically dominated by men there are some where this is more widely apparent, like mining, construction, or trucking. Review the charts [here](#) to see the percentage of women in these occupations. Then watch this [video](#) of Emily Pilloton-Lam



speaking on women building the world they want to see and encouraging young women to not be fearful of the trade industry. Think about things that a woman might need to be successful in a historically male dominated field.

- **ACTIVITY #16:** Girls Scouts is known for building girls on courage, confidence, and characters and encourages them to unlock their potential. One the greatest ways Girl Scouts does this is giving the opportunity for you to take on a passion project and earn your Gold Award as Senior or Ambassador. For this activity, visit the [GSSEF Blog](#) to learn about some of our Gold Award Girl Scouts and how they're making a difference. (If your council has their own site for Gold Award Girl Scouts feel free to search there). Find out what it takes to earn a Gold Award and get inspired to earn your next Girl Scout Highest Award, whether it be Bronze, Silver, or Gold!
- **ACTIVITY #17:** For this activity, watch one of the videos below for your appropriate Girl Scout level. Then on a separate sheet of paper write 3 positive affirmations and 5 things your love about yourself. Put it somewhere you'll see it every day and know that you can accomplish anything you set your mind to!
(DB) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6H0w03GJrQ>
(JCSA)https://youtu.be/K3WJvM_COz4
(SA)
https://www.ted.com/talks/luvvie_ajayi_jones_get_comfortable_with_being_uncomfortable?language=en
- **ACTIVITY #18:** As women we should all work diligently to encourage one another and build each other up. Think about the women in your life who helped shape who you are today; it can be a parent, a coach, a teacher, etc. For this activity write a letter to at least one woman in your life. Tell them why you appreciate them, give them a compliment or some encouraging words. If you would like to, share the letter with them so they can see how important they are to you!
- **ACTIVITY #19:** The number of women in the STEM field increases with every year, but there are still not nearly as many as men. Is it because of fear or lack of interest? Let's find out! Use this [website](#) to learn more about "The STEM Gap" and take some notes on information that stood out to you.



TAKE ACTION

Share what you've discovered while doing this program and/or engage with the Women in our community by completing a Take Action activity. Some suggestions are listed below:

- Host a poetry night or talent show and highlight Women poets, artists and entertainers.
- Think of something you (and your friends) can do to make the world a better place. Think of a civil rights or social justice issue make a plan for a small thing you can do to improve the problem.
- Host a program for your Girl Scout troop, or with your troop for younger Girl Scouts, where you help fellow Girl Scouts earn this patch.
- Create an informational video based on one or more of the activities you completed above and share it with fellow Girl Scouts.

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