

Museum Discovery Badge
Interest Project Award (Ages 11-17)

Earn your Museum Discovery badge while spending the afternoon at one of the largest maritime museums on the Great Lakes! The requirements and options are listed below. For assistance with planning your activities or to schedule a visit, contact the Assistant Educator/Submarine Curator Karen Duvalle at toll free 866-724-2356 ext. 105.

❖ **Skill Builders** (*No. 1 and one other of your choice*)

1. Visit a museum of your choice. Take in the exhibits on your own. Then, if possible, arrange for a “behind-the-scenes” tour. Determine how the museum is meeting its mission or objectives by asking your guide questions and by observing how others use the museum. Discuss with others what you like most about this museum, and how you might change it to appeal to or meet the needs of different age groups, cultures, or people with disabilities.
2. Develop a mini-exhibit for your Girl Scout council on Girl Scout history. You will need to research, organize, catalog, exhibit, and learn how to care for the display items.
3. Design your own museum! Choose a theme, determine your objectives, plan exhibits and activities, and diagram one or more of the exhibit spaces. Select a theme from your list of the following or come up with one of your own: Children, Film and Broadcasting, History, Natural History, Science and Technology, Automobiles, Fashion, Art, Women’s History or Living museums such as zoos, aquariums, or botanical gardens.
4. Visit or learn about the exhibits at Juliette Gordon Low Girl Scout National center in Savannah, Georgia, or GSUSA’s National Historic Preservation Center. If possible, visit a historical exhibit at your council.
5. Build a model or draw a blue print of a site, such as a medieval castle, a modern skyscraper, a sports arena, or a neighborhood. Describe your model in writing on an exhibit card.

❖ **Technology** (*Chose one*)

1. Visit at least three American (including the Smithsonian - <http://www.si.edu/>) and three foreign museums online. Visit at least three virtual museums online, keep a log of what you see, and compare your experience to an actual trip. Develop an online tour for a family member or friend based on her interest.
2. Museums house priceless and irreplaceable collections of all kinds. Discover the high-tech security methods museums use to protect their collection from vandalism or theft. (*Available upon request*)
3. If moon rocks were exposed to the air, they would rust. If medieval tapestries were placed on direct sunlight, they would fade. Find out about the special lighting, temperature, and humidity systems that museum use to exhibit rare and delicate. (*Available upon request*)
4. Visit a local museum and check if it is accessible to people with disabilities. What technologies are used to aid people with disabilities to visit museums? After your visit, make a list of recommendations on how you would improve the facilities.
5. Find out how audiovisual materials such as videotapes, music cassettes, films, slides, and photographs are preserved. (*Available upon request*)

❖ **Service Projects** (*Chose one of the following to do on your own or with your troop*)

1. Develop or facilitate an activity for younger Girl Scouts at a local museum. For example you might arrange a sleepover at a historic site or a science museum.
2. Create a small exhibit on something you feel strongly about. Arrange to show or share this exhibit in your Girl Scout council, house of worship, or school. Topics might include women in the arts, women's inventions, the history of your favorite music or dance, fashion, conservation issue, or civil liberties.
3. Form a museum association for people your own age and explore ways to provide service to a local museum, library, historical society, nature museum, zoo, or botanical garden aides, docents, or museum interpreters. Or participate in an existing volunteer program. Evaluate your training and experience.
4. Develop a directory of local and regional resources for your council or service unit, including museums, historical societies, archaeological sites, botanical gardens, zoo arboretums, libraries, or exhibits. Make sure to include features (elevators, audio tours, Braille guides, etc) that make each site accessible to a broad audience. Suggest how these places could provide educational experiences for Girl Scouts.

❖ **Career Exploration** (*Chose one*)

1. Find out about three careers that are museum-based, such as a conservator, exhibit preparer, curator, educator, librarian, graphic artist, researcher, public relations or communications staff, fund-raiser, or editor of a museum publication. Find out what educational preparation and training are required for these positions. (*Can provide assistance with this activity*)
2. Identify two museum studies programs at colleges or universities. Find out if these programs might enable you to work in a special kind of museum: for example a museum devoted to art history, science education, American history, or zoology. (*On your own*)
3. For one day, shadow a person with a museum-related career. If there is no museum in your area, check to see if there is a museum outreach program that comes to your community, a nature center, zoo, botanical garden, or other facility. Or shadow someone who contracts with a museum, such as an exhibit maker, storyteller, or artisan. What kinds of skills does the person practice on her job? (*Prior arrangements must be made*)
4. Learn about maintaining exhibits at living history museums such as zoos, aquariums, and botanical gardens. Request a behind-the-scenes tour and ask questions about training and experience in this field. (*On your own*)
5. Work as an intern or aide in a museum.

❖ **Chose two more activities from any category to complete your badge.**