

Council Patches

“American Girl” History **B J C** (grades 2-6)

This program is designed to help girls learn about history in a way that directly relates to their lives.

B J C Complete at least seven activities, including the starred activities. For non-starred activities, girls should choose one character to focus on.

Discover:

1. * Read five books from the “American Girl” series. All books may be from one character’s story collection or the books may be about different characters. Write a short paragraph on each book and share with the troop.
2. * Choose a character and make a presentation to the troop about her. Tell the troop about the girl’s time period, family, likes and dislikes and how the girl is like you.
3. Research a game or activity of that time period and present it during a meeting time.
4. Visit a historical site that is similar to a place mentioned in your book (Victorian home, log cabin) or visit a museum that depicts life during a particular era.
5. Bring an American Girl doll dressed in your era to a meeting and tell about her.

Connect:

1. * As a group or individually, make and complete a chart comparing your life today with a character’s life that you have chosen. You may include things like transportation, school, activities, games, clothing and relationships.
2. Find and follow a recipe from your chosen era and try to make it as your character would have done during her lifetime. You may need to use an outdoor stove, ingredients that were available during that time or substitutions that may have used due to rationing or unavailability. You may use recipes from family cookbooks or research old recipes at the library or on-line.
3. Create a craft or toy that was popular during that time period.
4. Write your own story like “Meet (your name)”. Include family pictures. The story should be three to five chapters of your life. You may want to write about a particular birthday party or about going to school.

Take Action:

1. * Think about the important issues related to your character’s era. How would you have responded to those needs if you lived during that time? Are the concerns the same concerns of our present day?
2. Perform an “American Girl” play about your time period. Assign parts and plan costumes and scenery. Invite an audience (parents, older people in your community) if possible.