

Fantasy Flying Circus Patch Program



INTRODUCTION:

Girl Scouts, please direct your attention to this patch program that takes you flying high with all the wonders of a three ring circus! You will learn more about the circus, its history, performers, animals and contributions to American culture. Let the fun begin!

TO ORDER THE PATCH:

Please use the Council Patch Order Form which can be downloaded from the www.gsgcf.org website download section and mail or fax to the council headquarters in Sarasota.

DISCOVER:

- ❖ Learn about how circus began. Where were the first circuses held? What kinds of acts were included? Find out when and where circuses got started in America and how they have evolved over time.
- ❖ Watch a circus performance (either live or on video). Study the different kinds of circus performers and choose the one that you find most interesting (animal trainer, clown, trapeze artist, tightrope walker, showgirl, aerialist, ringmaster, etc.). What do you think would be the most rewarding part of that job? What do you think would be the most challenging part?
- ❖ Learn about the three main types of clowns that are recognized today: the Auguste, the Character, and the Whiteface. How are they different from one another? Learn about how clowns create their clown faces. Choose your favorite type of clown and create your own unique clown face.
- ❖ Attend a live circus performance (or watch one on video) and observe how setting, lighting and music are used to convey mood. How did these elements create a feeling of suspense or comic relief throughout the performance?
- ❖ Phrases and words that originated from the circus have become a part of everyday American life. Learn about three phrases or words that originated with the circus and that are still commonly used today. Find out the meaning and background to these colorful words.



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CONNECT:

- ❖ Circuses are almost always travelling shows. Talk to a past or present circus member who has travelled with the circus. Find out about living arrangements, schedules, schooling for children and life on the road. Ask about the best and most challenging aspects of life on the road.
- ❖ Learn about someone who is famous for their part in American circus, whether it's a performer, a ringmaster or one of the founding fathers. Make a presentation to your troop or family about this person's life and greatest accomplishments.
- ❖ Interview an animal trainer. Ask about his/her training methods and how the animals are controlled. Find out about the safety precautions that are taken to protect both the trainer and the animals. Ask about the process of becoming an animal trainer. What kind of education and/or training is required? If you can't interview an animal trainer, watch a circus performance and pay close attention to the animal acts. How is the trainer using the animals' natural abilities and instincts? How does the trainer communicate with the animal? How does circus animal training compare to handling pets at home?
- ❖ Take a back-stage tour of a circus. Make a list of all the behind-the-scenes jobs that are necessary to create a successful circus. Are there any jobs that seem interesting to you? Find out about the training required for those jobs.
- ❖ Most Americans consider the circus an experience for all the senses, including taste. Make a list of your favorite circus treats. Have a circus tasting party with your troop or friends.

TAKE ACTION:

- ❖ Learn about the organizations that care for circus animals after they are retired from circus life. Find out about what is needed to care for the animals and how you can support these organizations.
- ❖ With your troop or friends, put on your own circus act for your families and friends. Ask for donated items that you can give to a local charity as your admission fee.
- ❖ Create an interactive presentation to teach a younger troop about the history of the circus and its impact on American culture.
- ❖ Come up with and carry out your own circus-themed service project.

