

Explore Butler County

When wanting to experience a different culture or visiting a famous site, one often thinks of travelling to a faraway place. The goal of this patch is to convey the rich culture and exciting activities for all ages that are in our own backyard. Butler County has abundant opportunities for everyone to experience museums, festivals, nature, art, culture and unique stores all nearby. Take a step back to examine the unforgettable aspects that make up our local area.



To complete this patch you have to do the required items: two Skill Builders and one Service Project from each category, and one from the Technology category.

History

Butler County is an area filled with a rich past. The county was named after General Richard Butler, an officer in the Revolutionary War. It is the birthplace of the Jeep, ignited the oil boom, and was the site of speeches made by President John F. Kennedy and Vice-President Dick Cheney. A step back in time introduces us to Massey Harbison, a notable Butler heroine, who was kidnapped by Native Americans, along with her children, and managed a daring escape. Our county's history is both exciting and interesting.

Skill Builder:

- *Make a detailed map of Butler County that includes important places. Add to it as you continue exploring Butler County. **(Required)***
- Visit the Butler County Historical Society Museum and one other historical site like the Lowrie Shaw House, Little Red School House, Cooper Cabin or the Harmony Museum.
- Go to a library and research important figures from Butler County's history like John Roebling, a civil engineer who designed the wire-rope suspension bridge in Brooklyn and Abe Abraham, known as the Ghost of Bataan.
- Attend The Night of the Living Dead Festival or visit Evan's City where the movie was filmed.
- Look in the Butler Eagle, Butler County's newspaper, for tips on activities to do. Clip articles, advertisements and notices on what interests you.
- Learn about Butler County's agricultural industry by visiting a farm market or taking a tour sponsored by the Butler County Food and Agriculture Council.

Service Projects:

- Volunteer to help at a historical site.
- Share your knowledge obtained during this section with your organization.
- Help out at the Jeep Heritage Festival.

Recreation

Butler County offers a wide variety of recreational activities. Moraine State Park, Jennings Environmental Education Center, and the trails at Succop Conservancy provide a fun and exciting experiences within a short drive.

Skill Builder:

- Attend a nature program at Jennings Environmental Education Center and visit the historic prairie.

- Hike at Moraine, part of the North Country Trail, or visit Succop Conservancy, and identify wildlife. Find and explore the George Washington Trail.
- Visit a local pool like Alameda Park Pool and try the slide or the skate park in Butler.
- Bike on the Rails to Trails, starting in Freeport, or a trail at Moraine, while observing proper safety habits.
- Go bowling and play laser tag at places like Family Bowlaway Fun Center or ride race cars and bumper boats at Fun Fore All or Erasers.
- During the winter, go skiing, snowboarding, ice-fishing, or shoe-snowing in Butler County.

Service Project:

- Make posters promoting your favorite recreational activity and advertise them in places like your local library, church, or online.
- Pick up litter on a bike or hiking trail in your area.

Arts and Entertainment

Butler County is filled with talented artists like mural artist Tom Panei and metal sculpture Bill Secunda. Patrons can view a collection of Asian artwork at the Maridon Museum or home-grown creations at the Art Center in Butler. For a small price, you can see wonderful plays and musicals all year round presented by theater companies like the Butler Musical Theater Guild and Butler Little Theater, Comtra Theater or Sing Hosanna!

Skill Builder:

- Visit Maridon Museum and redraw your favorite piece with your own personal style.
- Attend a Butler County Symphony concert, or other local concerts, and research more about your favorite piece or instrument.
- Attend an event at the Art Center like an art class, poetry reading, or art showing.
- Attend a play or musical and write a review or act out a scene with some friends.
- View alternative forms of art such as the Glass Blowing Center in Hilliards and the Appalachian Rock Shop.

Service Project:

- Entertain at a senior center with skills you have seen and acquired.
- Collect and donate art supplies to the Dunbar Community Center in Butler County or one of the senior centers.
- Assist in the production of a play or musical.

Festivals and Fun Places

The Portersville Steamshow, the Butler Farm Show, the Big Butler Fair and more are fun events that encompass local history and tradition. Others like the Saxonburg Arts Festival, Butler Fall Festival or Penn's Colony are a kaleidoscope of art, food and entertainment. Sporting events, semi-pro and amateur, and plenty of shops also provide a fun, nearby activities for everyone.

Skill Builder:

- Attend a Butler County sporting event such as a Butler Blue Sox game, Slippery Rock University football game, Learnerville Speedway Races or North Washington Rodeo.
- Attend a festival like the Harmony Dankfest, Ring the Arts New Year's event in downtown Butler County or the Mars Apple Fest.

- Plan a main Street outing by visiting a boutique, a unique restaurant, bookstore, or an antique shop in any of the county's town streets like Saxonburg, Zelenople or Slippery Rock.
- Take a trip to Penn's Colony and taste life in the 1700's with food, shopping and entertainment or attend a re-enactment of the French and Indian War at the Old Stone House.
- Research a famous county sports figure like major league baseball player Matt Clement or John Stuper, silver Olympic medalist diver Eric Namesik or wrestler Big John Studd.
- Attend one of many local parades and enjoy the high school marching bands and festivities.

Service Projects:

- Help out at one of the numerous festivals.
- Donate clothes, food or other items to a local charity group like the Goodwill, St. Vincent DePaul Society or the LightHouse.

Technology

- Look up the Butler County Tourism Bureau on the Internet and find interesting things to do. Plan a family outing.
- Contact Butler Memorial Hospital or UPMC Cranberry and learn about new medical devices and advances that help our neighbors.
- Visit local firefighters, police, or EMS and learn about new technology that keeps our community safe.
- Take photographs of your county visits and make a slide show or video, or blog it on a website.
- Research one of the many companies in Butler County that do global business like Ibis Tek, which makes stealth, remote-controlled vehicles; Westinghouse, which designs nuclear plants; Armstrong, a telecommunications company, or Il-Vi, a laser optic firm.