

Native American Awareness Girl Scout 11 - 17 Interest Project Award

Interest Project symbol: Unami – turtle



Skill Builders

1. Make a Native American armband or choker. Research the materials originally used to make these items. Find out what they were used for and who wore them.
2. Dances were performed for special occasions. Learn about one of these dances and the special occasion associated with it.
3. A winter's count was a tanned hide made for the purpose of recording and then retelling special events in the life of a North American tribe. Learn about the winter's count and start your own.
4. Read three Native American stories. These stories usually have a moral or are an explanation of a natural event such as stars, weather changes or seasons. Discuss these stories with your group.
5. Music played a major role in the daily lives of the Native American people. Learn what kinds of songs they sang and what their purpose was. Learn about instruments that were used and how they were made. Learn a Native American song.
6. On a camping or day trip, demonstrate how a tribe traditionally prepared and cooked two food items.

Technology

1. Learn how Native Americans created their pottery without the use of modern technology. Make your own sun-baked clay plate or dish. Decorate it using non-toxic paints, impressions, or scratch decorations. Compare its usefulness and durability to pottery of today.
2. Create a replica of a Native American piece of clothing, using traditional designs and decoration. Be able to identify and explain which Native American tribe this design and decoration came from.
3. Learn a skill such as basket weaving, corn grinding, or Native American farming techniques. Identify how these tasks are performed today.
4. Consider Native Americans living in different regions, climates, and terrains. How has their location affected their home, clothing, and utensils? Does it impact diet?
5. Agriculture was an important part of Native American culture. Compare Native American and modern farming techniques. Local vocational-technical or agriculture schools, 4H clubs, or farms are good sources for researching this topic.

6. Interview an older and a younger Native American at a pow-wow or other Native American gathering. Has modern technology helped or hindered teaching about their culture to others? To their own family?
7. Native Americans were probably the first conservationists. For example, the animals they killed for food were also the source of raw materials to make clothing, tools and utensils. Nothing from the animal was wasted. Write a short essay on the conservation attitudes of today. Are our values similar to theirs? Have we improved on their conservation attitudes and practices?

Service Project

1. Make a Native American craft such as a musical instrument, jewelry, or item of clothing. Demonstrate the craft for a group of younger girls.
2. Find out about three Native American tribes from your area. Compare how these tribes were similar and how they were different. Prepare a skit to show the normal daily life of a tribe. Present your skit to a group of younger girls.
3. Visit your local museum or library. Develop a plan for raising public awareness about issues affecting Native Americans. Present your ideas in a public forum.
4. Learn three games played by Native Americans. Learn the history or purpose of the game. Teach these games to a group of younger girls.

Career Exploration

1. Interview someone who works in the field of Native American history or anthropology. Find out what they like about their job and how it connects the past, present, and future.
2. Explore women's roles in a tribe. Compare their role to those of women today. Read about a leading Native American woman. What obstacles did she overcome and what were her accomplishments?
3. Interview a modern day Native American or a member of a re-enactment group. Find out about their heritage, career goals and job opportunities.
4. Visit a Native American historical museum. Find out what is involved in being a curator of items used in daily life, traditional and ceremonial dress, dwellings, etc.