

Exploring Native Americans Junior Badge

Badge symbol: Munsee – wolf



Complete at least 6 activities:

1. Learn a traditional dance and share it with your group. Learn what the purpose of the dance is, who performs it, and when it is performed.
2. Native Americans used music in celebrations, spiritual ceremonies, and displays of their heritage. Learn a song of their heritage, memorize and sign it with others or teach it to another group.
3. The women of the village were responsible for preparing food for the family. Some of the responsibilities were gathering berries, herbs, roots and seeds, and preserving food by drying or smoking. They also heated stones for griddles and tended roasting pits. Make a traditional Native American food. Think about the length of time needed to prepare these foods. Compare it to today's standards.
4. In Native American cultures, things were made for a certain purpose, such as utensils and pottery for food and cooking, clothing, or to be used in ceremonies. Make a craft that Native Americans once used in their daily life.
5. Learn about a winter's count and reasons why they were made. Make one on your own or as a group project.
6. Learn a traditional Native American story.
7. Games and toys made by Native Americans were traditionally used to develop skills, to pass on beliefs, or to be part of a celebration. Learn a game from a particular clan or tribe.
8. Native Americans used legends to explain natural phenomena, such as seasonal change, a constellation, or a geographical feature. Choose a legend and discuss how it teaches about relationships between people and the environment or how it suggests proper behavior toward the environment.
9. Share a day at a Native American Pow-Wow. Learn what women's roles were in the past in the tribe and what roles they play in present-day tribes.
10. Take a trip to the library or do research on the Internet on different Native American cultures. Every tribe was different depending on climate, location, and what food was available. Share this information with your troop or group.