



# Baseball Game Fun!

## Did you know that the game of baseball can be traced back to the American Revolution (1775-1783)?

According to History.com, a game that resembled baseball is said to have been developed from two English games, both which involved the use of a bat and a ball: 1. Rounders (a children's game brought to New England by the colonists); and 2. another popular game—Cricket.

During the American Revolution, there were different versions of these games played in schoolyards and college campuses all over the country. In 1845, more than 170 years ago, the New York Knickerbocker Baseball Club was founded. One of its members, Alexander Joy Cartwright, created a set of rules that were the foundation for the baseball played today! He decided upon a diamond-shaped infield, foul lines, and the three-strike rule. In addition, Cartwright got rid of the dangerous practice of tagging runners by throwing baseballs at them (Ouch!). By 1846, the Knickerbockers played their first official game, and baseball became an official sport, unique to America.

And then, in 1943, the All-American Girls Baseball League (AAGBL) was created, and in nine years, more than 600 women played in the league. Within the first five years, the number of spectators in attendance at games was over 900,000! One of the most noteworthy teams in the AAGBL was the Rockford Peaches of Illinois. They were one of two teams to play in every AAGBL season, and they won the league championship in 1945, 1948, 1949 and 1950. Throughout this time, Dorothy Kamenshek, Lois Florreich, Dorothy Harrell, Carolyn Morris, Alice Pollitt, Ruth Richard, Rose Gacioch, Eleanor Callow, and Joan Berger were all named to All-Star teams. The 1992 film *A League of their Own* is about the Rockford Peaches. Have you watched it?

Over time, baseball has become one of America's favorite past time—which means there is plenty to discover about the sport. For this patch, you can explore your favorite baseball team and players. You'll also use your creativity to customize your very own baseball card and then take action by going to a sporting event, creating your very own bat and ball game, or possibly trying out for a sports team!

How to earn the Baseball Game fun patch the Girl Scout Way:  
Ready? Batter up!

### Steps:

1. **Discover** — Celebrate your favorite baseball team and players by learning more about them.
2. **Connect** — Are you an athlete? Create your own personal baseball card OR interview an athlete you know to find out more about what inspired them to pursue the sport.
3. **Take Action** — Create your very own bat and ball game or attend a baseball game!

### Materials Needed:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need a few things:

1. Resources: You can go online (with the help of an adult), ask an expert, or visit your local library to research baseball teams and players.
2. Supplies to make your own baseball card: A picture of yourself, paper, scissors, markers or crayons, glue stick, etc. OR a pen/pencil and paper if you're going to interview an athlete.
3. A bat and a ball if you choose to create your very own game.

  
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## STEP

# 1 Discover more about your favorite baseball team or athlete.

1. Choose a team or an athlete (or both!), then do some research. Here are some questions to get you started:
  - a. When did the team start and in what city?
  - b. How did this team get its name?
  - c. How many championships has this team won?
  - d. When did the athlete you chose get involved in baseball?
  - e. When did the athlete become a member of their current team?
  - f. What inspired this athlete to pursue baseball?
2. Did you find out anything really interesting? Share your knowledge with others who enjoy baseball too.

## STEP

# 2 Create your very own baseball card OR interview an athlete you know.

1. Using the template on the next page, paste or tape your picture on one side, and fill out the fun facts on the other side. Cut the card out, color, and decorate, then share your baseball card with others.
2. Know an athlete? Ask them if they would be willing to take time to tell you about their journey. When did they first become interested in sports? Which sports have they played? What do they like most about being an athlete? What challenges have they faced as an athlete? What do they want other people to know about sports?

## STEP

# 3 Create your very own game OR attend a baseball game.

1. Baseball originated from two different games involving a bat and a ball. Here's your chance to put your thinking cap on and create your very own game! You don't have to use JUST a bat and a ball—be creative!
  - a. Think of the focus and rules of your game. Write them down.
  - b. Try it out! Get a few friends or family members to play your game with you.
  - c. Give your game a name!
  - d. Share the fun with your friends or troop.
2. Attend a baseball game! You can attend any baseball game you wish—like the Pittsburgh Pirates, Erie Seawolves, or the Altoona Curve. Or you can attend a friend's softball/baseball game. It's up to you!

All done?

**Congratulations! You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the "Baseball Fun" Patch.**

After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at **800-248-3355** to purchase your patch. A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash or tunic.

# Baseball Card Template

Use this template to create your very own baseball card.

1. Cut along the dotted lines, fold in half, and glue closed.
2. Glue a photo of yourself in the box on the front of the page.
3. Write your name under the photo.
4. Fill in the details about yourself on the back.

<p>photo</p>	<h2>GIRL STATS</h2>
	Age: _____ Height: _____
<p>_____</p> <p>Name</p>	Girl Scout level: _____
	Favorite Sport: _____
	Future Ambition: _____
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