



## UMOJA (*Uniting Members of Joint Ancestry*) Patch Program



**Purpose:** This patch program is designed to help Girl Scouts of all cultures develop an understanding and appreciation of the African Diaspora and African American/Black Heritage through History, Dance, Literature and the Arts.

Levels: **b j c s a**

**This patch can be done individually or as a Troop.  
To earn this patch:**

**Brownie Girl Scouts:** Complete three activities and may do any number of additional activities.

**Junior Girl Scouts:** Complete four of the starred activities and two additional activities.

**Cadette Girl Scouts:** Complete five of the starred activities and at least three additional activities.

**Senior Girl Scouts:** Complete six starred activities and at least four additional activities.

**Ambassador Girl Scouts:** Complete six starred activities and at least four additional activities.

Once requirements for each level have been completed girls can purchase the UMOJA Cultural Patch that can be picked up at the Girl Scouts of Nassau County store with a completed evaluation (see attached).

\*\*\*For all J, C, S and A, activities are to be shared with your troop or other troops in and out of your Girl Scout community. \*\*\*

This patch program was created by the members of the UMOJA Alliance Task Force

## Girl Scouts of Nassau County UMOJA Alliance - *Uniting Members Of Joint Ancestry*

**UMOJA:** A Swahili word for "unity" and one of the principles of Kwanzaa.  
**ALLIANCE:** a merging of efforts or interests.

This task force was formed by a group of Girl Scout Volunteers who identified the need to renew our focus on and relevance in the African American community. Founded in 2007, Girl Scouts of Nassau County's UMOJA Alliance (Uniting Members of Joint Ancestry) is dedicated to presenting a cross cultural alliance for unifying the African Diaspora by developing leadership, courage, confidence and character in girls through building pride in Black Heritage, connecting Long Island communities and mobilizing support.



The UMOJA Alliance provides inspiring and empowering programs to hundreds of girls of all ethnic backgrounds, offering fun and educational cultural events. UMOJA has built adult support to improve the quality of life for our girls and to enhance their cultural values. UMOJA is building on the Girl Scout foundation by investing in our girls and teaching them civic responsibility.

If you would like more information on how you can become a member of the UMOJA Alliance, please feel free to contact Yari DeLeon, Community Initiatives Manager at [deleony@gsnc.org](mailto:deleony@gsnc.org) or 516-741-2550 ext 272



\*\*\* Please use all resources available to you in making this experience educational and FUN\*\*\*\*\* (libraries, books, internet, museums, people etc...)

### Activities

- ❖ 1. Find some information on the African Continent, some examples below:
  - a. Where is it located?
  - b. How many countries make up Africa?
  - c. Name 4 religions in Africa.
  - d. How many language/dialects does Africa have? and name 4 of them.
  - e. How many people live in Africa?
  - f. Research Girl Scouts in Africa
  - g. Research the people and how they live: food, music, customs and dress.
  
- ❖ 2. Learn about the first African American Girl Scouts Troop. Share your work with your troop and present it to your leader.
  
- ❖ 3. Learn about a famous African American woman and how she has contributed to society (Politician, Actor, Teacher, Writer, Mother, Girl Scout etc...)
  
- ❖ 4. Cook your favorite recipe of African origin and share it with your Troop, family and friends.
  
- 5. Visit a restaurant that serve ethnic food and try something new. (ie: Soul food, Moroccan, Egyptian etc...)
  
- 6. Pick an African American, Afro-Caribbean, Afro Latina, or Afro European woman of literature and learn about her. Go back in time and imagine yourself in the time the writer was born and the history behind her writings. Make sure you know details about her life (where she lived), what era of time she lived (1800's), and the significant event in that era (Civil Rights Movement) and present a poster board presentation of your writer to your Troop or family members. (ie: Zora Neale Hurston, Mary Prince, Maya Angelou)
  
- ❖ 7. Visit the African American Museum in Hempstead, NY and pick one thing you learned and found most interesting and share it with your Troop.
  
- 8. Visit any museum, art gallery, play, concert, library exhibit, poetry reading and share it with your troop how their showcase is African influenced.
  
- 9. Participate at the African American Museum Hands on Art Saturday and create original piece of art inspired by African culture.

- ❖ 10. Learn about Kwanzaa. Who founded Kwanzaa, when did it start, where is it celebrated, what does it celebrate and how is it celebrated? You can celebrate Kwanzaa with your Troop.
- ❖ 11. Learn about Black History Month in America – Who founded it? When was it founded? Why and how is it celebrated?
- ❖ 12. Learn about history about African influenced dances in America and where they originated and linked to slavery. Create a historical time line about different types of dances from slavery to now.

DANCE GENRES

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Swing       | Break Dancing |
| Lindy Hop   | The Twist     |
| Charleston  | Buck          |
| Jitterbug   | Stick Dance   |
| Tap Dancing | Stepping      |
| Jig         |               |

- ❖ 13. There are many African American dancers who have made a significant contribution to society. Pick ONE from the list below and share her story with your Troop or family members.

FAMOUS FEMALE DANCERS

- Josephine Baker
- Katheren Dunham
- Pearl Primus
- Janet Collins
- Carmen DeLavalles
- Debbie Allen
- Janet Jackson
- Judith Jamison
- Misty Copland
- Michaela DePrince

FAMOUS NEW YORK FEMALE DANCERS

- Lena Horne
- Ludie Jones
- Debbie Allen

- 14. Select ONE of the African American Dance Companies below and learn about what type of education is needed for a career in dance with these companies and what contributions that dance company made to society.

DANCE COMPANIES

- Cleo Park Robinson Dance
- Evidence
- Urban Bush Women
- Philandanco

NEW YORK DANCE COMPANIES

- Alvin Ailey
- Garth Fagan Dance
- Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center
- Dance Theater of Harlem
- David Rousseve/REALITY
- First and Heel Performance Group

- ❖ 15. Find out about an African American service organization in your community and invite a representative to your troop/group meeting. Have them share their purpose and how they enhance the community it serves. (ie: NAACP, African American Fraternity or Sororities, Urban League, 100 Black Woman of Nassau County)

## Online Resources:

African American Museum of Long Island:

[www.theaamuseum.org](http://www.theaamuseum.org)

NAACP – Long Island Chapter:

[www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org)

National Coalition of 100 Black Women –LI Chapter:

[www.li100bw.com/ncbw](http://www.li100bw.com/ncbw)

Urban League – Long Island:

[www.urbanleaguelongisland.org](http://www.urbanleaguelongisland.org)

National Pan-Hellenic Council – African American Fraternities and Sororities:

[www.blackgreek.com/divinenine](http://www.blackgreek.com/divinenine)

Alvin Ailey – Dance School

[www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org)

Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce:

[www.liaacc.org](http://www.liaacc.org)

Girl Scouts of USA:

[www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org)

Girl Scouts of Nassau County:

[www.gsnc.org](http://www.gsnc.org)

African American/Black Woman:

[www.womenshistory.about.com/od/africanamerican](http://www.womenshistory.about.com/od/africanamerican)

African American/Black History Month:

[www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov](http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov)

## UMOJA (*Uniting Members of Joint Ancestry*) Cultural Patch Program EVALUATION FORM

LEADERS – Please complete this evaluation with input from the girls. Bring the completed form to Girl Scouts of Nassau County's Shop to purchase patches. If you do not want patches, please return your evaluation to: Information Management, GSNC, 110 Ring Road West, Garden City, NY 11530. Thank you for participating in this evaluation. Your comments are important to us.

Leader's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Troop # \_\_\_\_\_ Girl Scout Level \_\_\_\_\_

# of Girls participating \_\_\_\_\_ # of Girls who completed/received patches \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did the activities meet the stated objectives?

No       Somewhat       Yes

2. Please explain your answer to Question #1.

-----  
-----

3. What level of interest in the African Diaspora/Black Heritage did the troop demonstrate as a result of their participation in the UMOJA Cultural Patch Program?

No Interest      Little Interest      Moderate Interest      High Interest  
                                                                 

4. What did you or your Troop say was the most important thing they learned?

-----  
-----

5. What was the least interesting for the Troop and why?

-----  
-----

7. Would you use this program again?     Yes       No

8. Suggestions/Comments:

-----  
-----

\_\_\_\_\_

USE BACK OF PAPER IF NEEDED.