

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

**Purpose:** This patch program is designed to help Girl Scouts of all cultures develop an understanding and appreciation of the the African Diaspora and African American/Black Heritage through history, dance, literature and the arts.

## This patch can be done individually or as a troop.

To earn this patch:

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

**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 at the Girl Scouts of Nassau County store or reserve your patches at <https://gsnc.wufoo.com/forms/gsnc-patch-program-patch-request/>

*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 four religions of Africa.
  - d. How many languages/dialects does Africa have? Name four 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 Scout 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 serves 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 the 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 with your troop how their showcase is African influenced.
- ★ 9. Participate at the African American Museum Hands on Art Saturday and create an 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, and how is it celebrated?
- ★ 12. Learn about the history of African influenced dances in America and where they originated, and their links to slavery. Create a historical timeline about different types of dance 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 DeLavalledes  
 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 company has 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 Fraternities and Sororities, Urban League, 100 Black Women 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.gsnny.org](http://www.gsnny.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)