

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 GSNC Shop

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 FAMOUS NEW YORK FEMALE DANCERS

Josephine Baker	Lena Horne
Katheren Dunham	Ludie Jones
Pearl Primus	Debbie Allen
Janet Collins	
Carmen DeLavalledes	
Janet Jackson	
Judith Jamison	
Misty Copland	
Michaela DePrince	

- ★ 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

NAACP-Long Island Chapter: www.naacp.org

National Coalition of 100 Black Women-LI Chapter: www.li100bw.com/ncbw

Urban League-Long Island: www.urbanleaguelongisland.org

National Pan-Hellenic Council-African American Fraternities and Sororities:
www.blackgreek.com/divinenine

Alvin Ailey-Dance School: www.alvinailey.org

Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce: www.liaacc.org

Girl Scouts of USA: www.girlscouts.org

Girl Scouts of Nassau County: www.gsnny.org

www.womenshistory.about.com/od/africanamerican

African American/Black History Month: www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov