

# Girl Scout Ranger Program

<http://www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/girlscoutranger.htm>



The National Park Service and Girl Scouts of the United States of America have partnered to create the Girl Scout Ranger Program. Through this program you are invited to:

- explore the outdoors
- learn about the history of national parks

Girl Scouts are invited to participate in a variety of existing, organized **educational or service projects at national park sites**, or **design their own experience or project** to align with **Journey** work, **badge** activities, or a **Take Action** or **Highest Award** project. Girl Scouts are awarded certificates and/or patches for their participation.

While having fun in a national park, you can:

- Complete **Journeys**
- Meet **badge** requirements
- Do **Take Action** Projects
- Work towards achieving the **Highest Awards** in Girl Scouting

## Qualifying Program Experiences

Girl Scouts are invited to work collaboratively with NPS employees to take part in educational programs, volunteer and service projects at any NPS site. Example activities for Girl Scouts:

## Participate In Existing Educational Programs and Service Projects such as:

- Ranger-guided interpretive tours
- Junior Ranger programs
- Environmental education programs
- Web Rangers
- **Service projects:** Many national park sites have volunteer programs that can offer Girl Scouts an opportunity to assist in a variety of long-term or short-term projects to improve and ensure protection of park resources and facilities. Girl Scouts are encouraged to take part in any sustainable organized project, agreed upon by the NPS, as an appropriate service opportunity that protects and preserves park resources. Girl Scouts and their leaders should contact the park Volunteer Coordinator to select and develop these projects and activities.

## Design New Experiences or Projects

While existing organized educational programs are an excellent way to learn about the NPS, the NPS also invites Girl Scouts to develop their own projects and establish activities in collaboration with NPS employees. Girl Scouts interested in developing their own project must first coordinate their project with a park representative. While there may be some limits to the scale or type of activity, Girl Scouts are encouraged to seek out opportunities to develop their own activity. Parks have the discretion to decide what project best serves the needs of that location and fits within the guidelines of the site. Girl Scouts are also encouraged to use visits to NPS sites as inspiration for **Take Action** projects beyond the borders of the park or site, bringing their experiences home to improve their local community.

## How to Earn a Certificate and/or Patch

Girls can participate in the Girl Scout Ranger Program through a troop, event, travel, or camp experience, and will be awarded a program certificate and/or patch upon completion for their Girl Scout grade level.

While the program does not require a specific number of hours of participation for each Girl Scout grade level, it is important that the program stresses a progression of activities. Younger girls may experience a brief engagement in a short learning activity, and older girls should be challenged to engage in a deeper experience. Certificates are issued by the park after completion of program requirements.

To earn a Girl Scout Ranger certificate, girl scouts should participate in organized education activities and/or volunteer service projects for a minimum of five (5) hours at one or more national parks.

To earn a Girl Scout Ranger patch, Girl Scouts should participate in organized educational activities or volunteer service projects for a minimum of ten (10) hours at one or more national parks.



Girls Scouts participate in an archaeology event at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

## Getting Started!

Below are some tips on how to get involved in the Girl Scout Ranger Program.

**Find a site:** Visit the [Find a Park](#) webpage to find a park in your state or any park of interest.

1. **Learn about the site:**

Visit the park's website to learn about its history; the natural, cultural or historical resources it protects; and the activities that parks offers, such as hiking, biking, wildlife watching, and guided interpretive tours.

2. **Brainstorm for activities:**

Once you have learned a little bit about the park, think about activities that interest you. Many of the parks describe the interpretive and educational programs they offer to the public and various volunteer opportunities on their website; think about how these programs can help enhance Girl Scouts Journeys or meet badge requirements. Record a list of ideas for possible activities.

3. **Contact the site:**

Contact the site to discuss the possible activities. Once on the park's website, click on the "Contact Us" link in the left corner and call the park information number. Identify that you are interested in participating in the Girl Scout Ranger Program and would like to speak to the person who coordinates the program for the park.

4. **Coordinate and plan with the park:**

Work together with the NPS representative to determine the appropriate program or project. The NPS representative can also suggest ideas for activities, and will work with you and the girls to ensure that the project is going to be fun, informative and help you gain a better understanding of the national parks and the many natural, cultural, and historical resources they protect!

5. **Have Fun!**

Once all the logistics are set up, go and have fun with the Girl Scout Ranger Program! Feel free to keep track of your participation in the program by using the downloadable [Girl Scout Ranger Activity Log](#)!

## Learn more about becoming a Girl Scout Ranger

- Please visit the [frequently asked questions](#) page.
- The Girl Scout website has information about [Journeys](#), [Highest Awards](#) and [badges](#).
- Contact the [NPS Regional Youth Coordinator](#) for your state.