



GSSEM History Patch

Much of the history of Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan (GSSEM) and all Girl Scouts exists in the memories of our elders or lies hidden between the pages of family albums, historical documents, museums, and diaries. By exploring these buried treasures, girls can gain a greater appreciation and understanding of our history and take these lessons to connect the past with the present through shared experiences. Our sisterhood is full of traditions!

To complete the GSSEM History Patch, you must complete one requirement from each section and the mandatory visit to the GSSEM White Lake Girl Scout Museum (available by appointment only).

Discover: Girls understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.

MANDATORY

- Visit the GSSEM Girl Scout Museum located at our White Lake Service Center by scheduling an appointment. Contact: Joanne Galvin, Chair of GSSEM Archive Committee at archives@gssem.org or by phone at 248-258-1680. Tours are conducted by trained docents who will guide you through the museum and answer questions you may have. A patch for the museum visit is provided free of charge and will be given after completion of the tour.

AND

- Find the names of the former Girl Scout councils that merged to form Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan in 2009. See how far back you can trace each legacy Council. Were there other mergers?

OR

- Interview someone who belonged to one of the former councils—other than your own—and discuss his or her memories. Discover what traditions they remember? What was unique to their council?

OR

- Gather information on women who played important roles in these councils or in Girl Scouting. You can do this by finding old newspaper articles. What was their position? What were they responsible for doing?

Connect: Girls care about, inspire, and collaborate with others locally and globally.

- Find Girl Scout alumnae from former councils and ask them to speak to your troop. What impact has Girl Scouting had on their lives? What advice can they give you and your friends? How many generations of Girl Scouting can you find in one family?

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OR

- Create a wide game that shares the history and traditions of Girl Scouting or GSSEM with other troops in your area. You might choose a do a Girl Scout Tenderfoot or on another topic of your choice.

OR

- Create a Flat Juliette (modeled after Flat Stanley) and share your experiences with another troop from a different part of the council or in another state. Share some of your discoveries about GSSEM with them.

Take Action: Girls act to make the work a better place.

- Develop a school, church, or museum display on Girl Scouting to inspire and educate others.

OR

- Obtain permission at school to make public service announcements during Girl Scout Week or Women's History Month. Be sure to include Juliette Gordon Low, as well as other prominent women who have impacted society.

OR

- Make a booklet, coloring book, or a scrapbook of old uniforms and pictures, depicting different decades in the history of Girl Scouting. Can you find patches with the different legacy council names on them?

Congratulations! You've earned the GSSEM History Patch. The patches can be purchased at any GSSEM council shop during working hours.

Next steps: Girl Scouts all over the world share some of the same traditions! You can explore more in the Girl Scout Way badges for Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts.