
Women and the Civil War

Girl Scout Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors

To complete this patch program, please complete the following:

- Girl Scout Daisies two *Discover*, three *Connect*, and one *Take Action*
- Girl Scout Brownies three *Discover*, three *Connect* and one *Take Action*
- Girl Scout Juniors four *Discover*, four *Connect*, and two *Take Action*
- Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, & Ambassadors five *Discover*, five *Connect*, and two *Take Action*

Discover

Learn about the roles of women during the Civil War. What new tasks were women left at home asked to do? How did women support those fighting in the field?

Compare the lifestyles of women during the Civil War and today. How do they differ? How are they the same?

Learn more about a woman from each category. What role did she play in the Civil War?

- Civilian (ex. Jennie Wade, Tillie Pierce, Elizabeth Masser Thorn)
- Nurse (ex. Clara Barton, Mary Edwards Walker, Dorothea Lynde Dix)
- Soldier (ex. Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, Mary Livermore, Sarah Edmonds Seeyle)
- Spy (ex. Rose O'Neal Greenhow, Pauline Cushman, Antonia Food Willard, Ginnie & Lottie Moon)
- Slave (ex. Harriet Tubman, Susie Baker, Cathay Williams)
- First Lady – Mary Todd Lincoln

Several popular recreational forms were dancing, parlor games, and croquet. Select one of these leisure time activities, learn how to do it and then teach it to your troop or a group. What is a rebuses? What were some of the favorite toys of this time?

Learn the song Dixie. What is its importance to the Civil War.

Learn to play an instrument common to the time, i.e. a harmonica; or research the background of songs composed during the war.

Discover if your own community was involved in some way with the war, or what the community was like at the time of the Civil War.

Connect

Visit a Civil War site or museum.

Do a simple cross stitch picture or cross stitch our initials, draw a picture using a piece of charcoal, or make hand-dipped candles. Make a food that would have been popular in 1860 (applesauce, gingerbread, etc.)

Visit or learn about one-room schools. What is a McGuffey Reader? How are schools different today?

Observe one or more of the following people at work:

- Soap Maker
- Blacksmith
- Dress Maker
- Weaver
- Butcher
- Spinner
- Candle maker

Imagine that you are an editor of The Civil War Times. Design a newspaper with stories about women and children during the civil war.

Imagine yourself living during the Civil War time. Create a personal journal. Provide details so that your ancestors will be able to understand exactly what you were experiencing during the war. Make a minimum of 6 entries.

Take Action

Read children's story related to the Civil War to a younger Girl Scout troop.

Find recipes of the time and prepare a meal that the typical family might have eaten and that the soldiers often dreamed about.

Organize a marbles tournament or a day of games from this period.

Hold a debate on one of the following topics:

- I will fight to free slaves or I will not fight to free slaves
- Women should be allowed to fight in the war or women should not be allowed to fight in the war

Take on the persona of one of the women mentioned above. Share with your troop your name, where you are from, and any other information about your family. Talk about what you were doing during the Civil War.