

FOXFIRE HOUSE CLOTHING



Foxfire House is a Swiss German bank house located at Camp Furnace Hills. Built in the early 1800's, the house has been restored and offers living history programs for Girl Scouts of all ages. While experiencing life as the early settlers lived it, girls enjoy wearing clothing that would have been worn by those settlers. Long skirts, kerchiefs, aprons, and caps would be part of the dress of the day.

If you like to sew, these would be a fun project for you. The kerchief is easy for Juniors to make. Aprons and skirts are a bit more difficult but can be made by older Juniors and Cadettes. The cap is the most difficult costume part. Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors who like to sew will have fun with this challenge.

Once you have made your costume parts, plan to visit Foxfire House and learn about life in the 1800's.



Foxfire Costume Pieces

On the following pages, we have included directions for making the kerchief, apron, cap and petticoat. Younger girls can easily make a kerchief and apron. The cap can be made by teen girls. Adding these period dress pieces to a plain blouse and gathered skirt will give the girls the feeling of being back in the 1800's as they experience their life at Foxfire House. The petticoat is worn as a skirt and can be made by teen girls who want a more authentic piece of clothing.

Directions and drawings for these period dress pieces were taken from Rural Pennsylvania Clothing by Ellen J. Gehret.

Foxfire Apron (Schartz)

Materials needed: White or off-white muslin, cotton or linen fabric; cotton tape or grosgrain ribbon; thread to match fabric.

To determine the amount of fabric you will need, measure the person from waist to ankle and subtract 4 inches. This will be the length of fabric; the width of your fabric will be from 36 to 40 inches.

To determine the amount of cotton tape or grosgrain ribbon you need, measure the person's waist and add 20 inches.

If the fabric has selvages you won't have to hem the sides of the apron.

The bottom hem will be $\frac{1}{4}$ " folded up twice. It is easier to sew the hem if you iron it first.

For the waistband fold $\frac{1}{4}$ " and then $\frac{1}{2}$ " and sew. Insert the cotton tape or ribbon into this hem.

The fabric will be self-gathering on the tape or ribbon and the length that extends out will be the ties.



Photo of Foxfire cap and apron

Foxfire Petticoat (Rock) also called skirt

Materials needed: 2 to 2 1/2 yards of 45-inch fabric; cotton, linen, linsey-woolsey or worsted; natural fiber color, brown, black, yellow, blue, light tan or vertical blue and brown stripes are recommended; cotton tape or grosgrain ribbon; thread to match fabric.



No pattern is needed to make the petticoat because it is made of two widths of 45-inch fabric sewn together with selvage edges forming the side seams.

The length is determined by the wearer's height. The finished length of the petticoat should have the hem 8 inches above the floor.

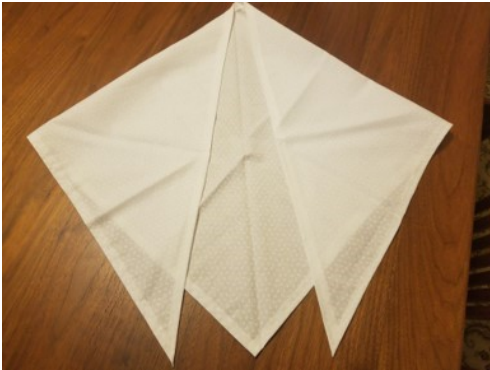
Sew the two lengths of fabric together at the selvage edges leaving about 6 inches from the waist unsewn on one side.

Sew a double fold hem in the bottom of the petticoat.

At the waist of the petticoat fold $\frac{1}{4}$ " and then $\frac{1}{2}$ " and sew.

To determine the amount of cotton tape or grosgrain ribbon you need, measure the person's waist and add 20 inches. Insert the cotton tape or ribbon into this hem. The fabric will be self-gathering on the tape or ribbon and the length that extends out will be the ties.

Foxtire Kerchief (Hals Duch)



Materials needed: A 32 ½ inch square of muslin, cotton or linen in off white, white, blue, or small plaid; thread to match fabric.

Hem the edges with a 1/8-inch hem. Do not hem selvage edges if used.

Fold the square in half to form a triangle.

When worn, the kerchief extends just over the shoulders without restraining arm movement. Front edges can be secured with a straight pin.

Foxtire Cap (Haube) (pictured with the apron on previous page)

Materials needed: One half yard of 36"-wide white or off-white batiste, linen or lightweight muslin; thread to match fabric; 18" piece of #8 cotton thread or string.

You can make pattern pieces from paper or lightweight cardboard. Cut one of cap back and one of cap front from fabric **making sure to put your pattern on the fold of fabric as indicated.**

Run a gathering thread along the dotted line of the cap back.

Adjust the gathers to fit the cap front along the dotted line.

Stitch the front and back together by hand or machine.

Hem the three sides of the cap front.

Cut the drawstring in half and anchor one end of each string at the seams where the cap front and back are joined.

Turn under a narrow hem encasing the drawstring being careful not to catch the string with your needle. Allow both end of the string to come out of the cap at the center back and use them as a drawstring to gather the bottom of the cap back until fits properly.

Tie the string in a bow and tuck it inside the cap so it is not seen.

