

HOW TO DEVELOP

OUR OWN TROOP'S BADGE YOUR OWN INTEREST PROJECT

Our Own Troop's Badge and *Your Own Interest Project* provide an earned award for Girl Scouts who delve into subjects that are **not covered in existing nationally developed badges, non-badge projects and interest projects (IPs)**. These badge/interest projects are unique because they come directly from the girls' own interests. They also afford girls an opportunity to gain additional practice and skills in girl/adult partnership, problem solving, decision making and in researching their own projects.

If the girls planning and designing the badge/IP are the ONLY ones to earn the insignia, the troop leader or advisor may approve the badge/IP following the guidelines and the Girl Scout trademark guidelines found in *Green Pages*.

If the badge/IP will be shared with other girls, the GSCNC Program Department must approve the badge/IP BEFORE any work is done on the requirements.

WORK ALREADY COMPLETED BEFORE APPROVAL SHOULD NOT BE COUNTED TOWARD ANY REQUIREMENTS OF THE BADGE/INTEREST PROJECT.

Our Own Troop's Badge for Junior Girl Scouts is developed by the girls of an entire troop, patrol or by a committee. **Adults or individual girls cannot develop an *Our Own Troop's Badge*.**

Your Own Interest Project is for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts and can be designed by an individual girl or a group. IPs may be designed following the format in the IP book or the new GSUSA format.

Steps for a successful *Our Own Troop's Badge* or *Your Own Interest Project*.

1. Girls should work on several national badges or interest projects before attempting *Our Own Troop's Badge* or *Your Own Interest Project*.
2. Read the description for developing your own insignia at the front of the *Junior Girl Scout Badge Book* or the *Interest Projects for Girls 11-17* book.
3. The topic or subject for the badge or interest project should be one that is not covered as part of other badges or interest projects already in existence. A badge on the general topic of geology, for instance, would not be appropriate because one already exists, but a more specific badge on archaeology would.
4. *Our Own Troop's Badge* or *Your Own Interest Project* should resemble as closely as possible the format and components of those developed by GSUSA. Requirements should contain the following:

Badge	Interest Project- basic format	Interest Project – new format
✓ skill development	✓ 2 Skill builders	Build: required activity that builds a foundation
✓ choices to reflect diverse needs or interests of girls	✓ 1 requirement each from service, career exploration and technology	Learn: new information and skills
✓ service related to activities	✓ 2 additional activities	Do: put into action what girls learned
✓ career opportunities	✓ share your activities with the council , Girl Scout troop and friends	Share: share the newly-acquired skill
✓ activities that lead to increased appreciation and leisure pursuits		Design: your own goals/activities
✓ elements that expose girls to the world of technology		Reflect: what you learned and how it relates to the Promise and Law

5. After the girl/girls have reviewed the guidelines, they should select the topic and decide upon the activities. Activities should be written in an open-ended manner with opportunities for individual problem solving, i.e., “Learn six knots. Demonstrate and explain how they are used,” rather than “Learn the clove hitch, sheep shank, lark’s head, bowline, square knot and half hitch.” Activities should reflect the cultural diversity of the community to meet the needs of all girls.
6. *Our Own Troop’s Badge and Your Own Interest Project* patches are blank, so the troop or girl should plan a way to put their design on the badge or patch. Options might include embroidery, appliqué, or using textile paint to decorate the blank badges.
7. After approval, the girl(s) should complete the badge or interest project. This should take approximately the same amount of time that it would take to complete a GSUSA badge or IP.
8. A leader/consultant’s role is to see that the activities meet the following criteria:
 - are safe (see *Safety-Wise*)
 - reflect concern for the environment where applicable
 - are not so expensive that they eliminate some girls from the activity
 - do not duplicate activities already in GSUSA badges, patches or interest projects in the *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*, *Girl Scout Badge Book*, *Cadette Girl Scout Handbook*, *Senior Girl Scout Handbook* or *Interest Projects for Girls 11-17*.
9. There should be an opportunity for evaluation of the badge or interest project after completion.
10. For badges/IPs that are to be earned by girls other than the badge/IP developers, please allow two weeks for the GSCNC Program Department to process your submission and send you written notice of the status of your application. Upon completion of the badge/interest project, please have each participant complete an evaluation and return it to the Program Department. The **blank** badge/interest project patches can be purchased/ordered from the Girl Scout Shop with the Shop Purchase Form, which will be sent to troops upon receipt of the evaluation.

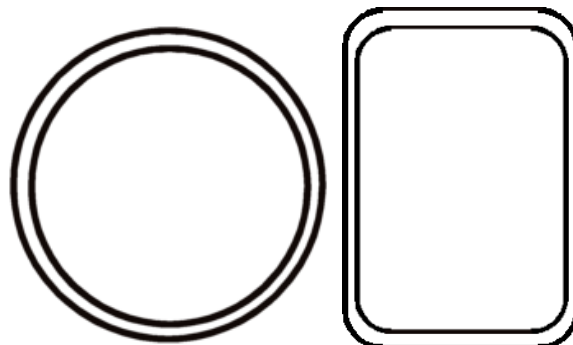
HAVE FUN WHILE YOU LEARN NEW SKILLS!!

Program 8/2006

Date application received _____

Approved _____

OUR OWN TROOP'S BADGE/ YOUR OWN INTEREST PROJECT APPROVAL FORM



Mail to:

Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital
Program Department
4301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Name of Our Own Troop's Badge/Interest Project _____

Assn. / SU _____ Troop level _____ Troop # _____

Leader/Consultant: Name _____ Address _____ _____ Phones _____ _____	Individual Girl: (for Interest Project) Name _____ Address _____ _____ Phone _____ _____
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Date we are planning to start badge/project _____

Date we are planning to complete badge/project _____

Number of girls participating _____

Date mailed:	Date completed:
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Purpose of badge/IP (how will it be shared with other troops?):

PLEASE LIST THE REQUIREMENTS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OR ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM. (AT LEAST EIGHT FOR YOUR OWN INTEREST PROJECT)

EVALUATION MY OWN TROOP'S BADGE/ YOUR OWN INTEREST PROJECT

Our Own Troop's _____ Badge/Interest Project Patch

Assn. SU _____ Troop level and # _____

<p>Leader/Consultant: Name _____</p> <p>Address _____ _____</p> <p>Phones _____ _____</p>	<p>Individual Girl: (for Interest Project) Name _____</p> <p>Address _____ _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p>
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The girls and adults upon completion of the badge or interest project should complete this evaluation. **Upon receipt of this form you will be sent a Shop Purchase Form to present in the shop or with your badge order in order to buy the blank badges/interest project patches.** Please send the completed evaluation and a self-addressed envelope to:

Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital
Program Department
4301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

How did the girl/troop become interested in this badge/interest project topic?

Describe any interesting experiences connected with this project.

What significant reactions did the girl(s) have?

Would you recommend this badge/interest project as a council or national badge/interest project? If so, please explain.

Signature of Girl Representing Troop or
Individual Girl

Signature of Leader/Consultant