

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**. 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.

COUNCIL APPROVAL MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE ANY WORK IS DONE ON THE REQUIREMENTS DEVELOPED BY THE GIRLS OR GIRL. 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 it.

Your Own Interest Project is for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts and can be designed by an individual girl or a group.

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 in the Junior Girl Scout Badges and Signs book or the Interest Projects for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts 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 textiles and fibers, for instance, would not be appropriate, but a badge on knitting or embroidery would. This is because knitting and embroidery are only touched upon in the Textile and Fibers Badge. A knitting badge could be more specific and go into greater detail. An interest project on music would not be appropriate because there is a music interest project developed by GSUSA. However, dance would be appropriate, since there is no interest project developed by GSUSA on this topic.
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
✓ skill development	✓ 2 Skill builders
✓ choices to reflect diverse needs or interests of girls	✓ 1 requirement each from service, career exploration and technology
✓ service possibilities related to activities	✓ 2 additional activities
✓ career awareness opportunities where appropriate	✓ share your activities with the council , Girl Scout troop and friends
✓ activities that lead to increased appreciation and leisure time pursuits	
✓ elements that would expose girls to the ever-expanding world of technology	

5. Activities should reflect the cultural diversity of the community.

6. 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.”

7. *Our Own Troop’s Badge and Your Own Interest Project* patches have a green border and are the same size and shape as the GSUSA badges and interest project patches. They are blank. The troop or girl will need to plan how they are going to put their design on the badge or patch. The troop/girl(s) will need to embroider, appliqué, or textile paint the blank badges.

8. After the girl/girls have reviewed the guidelines, they should select the topic and decide upon the activities. The leader/consultant should see that the purpose, activities and badge/interest project design is submitted to the Program and Training Department at the council office for approval.

9. 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 interest project. Girls should not think that this is an easy way to get a badge or interest project.

10. 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 Badges and Signs*, *Cadette Girl Scout Handbook*, *Senior Girl Scout Handbook*, and *Cadette and Senior Girl Scout Interest Projects*.

11. There should be an opportunity for evaluation of the badge or interest project after completion.

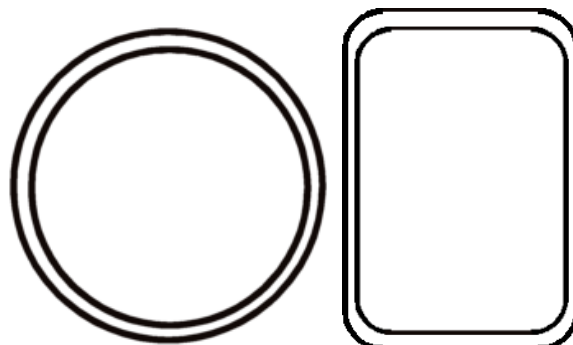
Two weeks after submission of this application, the troop/girl will receive written status of the application. Upon completion of the badge/interest project, please have the girl(s) complete the evaluation and return it to the Program Department at the Girl Scout office. The **blank** badge/interest 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 12/2000

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 and # _____

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/INTEREST PROJECT:

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

MY OWN TROOP'S BADGE/ YOUR OWN INTEREST PROJECT

Our Own Troop's _____ Badge/Interest Project Patch

Assn. SU _____ Troop level and # _____

Leader/Consultant: Name _____ Address _____ _____ Phones _____ _____	Individual Girl: (for Interest Project) Name _____ Address _____ _____ Phone _____
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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?

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 national badge/interest project? If so, please explain.

Signature of Girl Representing Troop or
Individual Girl

Signature of Leader/Consultant