



Girl Scouts.

Girl Scouts of Mitten Bay

OUR OWN INTEREST PROJECT

The Our Own Interest Project was created in 1979 for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts. In concept, it is basically the same as Our Own Troop's Badge. Ideally the interest project is developed by a group of girls or at least a small committee. However, provision is made for a girl working alone to develop her own interest project.

When you have selected the topic and the activities which you will do in order to earn the interest project, please complete the "Application for Council Approval" form and submit it to the service center for approval.

Blank interest patches may be purchased from the Marketplace—use the badge order form and check the appropriate box. The interest patches have a green border and are the same shape and size as the national patches. Girls in the group choose their own design for the patch and embroider it on after it has been approved.

Ten Hints for a successful Our Own Interest Project

1. Girls should work on several national interest projects before attempting to do an Our Own Interest Project.
2. The topic or subject for the interest project should be one that is not covered in other interest projects. An interest project on Canoeing would not be appropriate because there is a nationally developed Canoeing interest project. However, an interest project on this topic.
3. An Our Own Interest Project should resemble as closely as possible the format and components of those nationally. It should contain:
 - ◆ Skill development.
 - ◆ Choices to reflect diverse needs or interest of the girls.
 - ◆ Service possibilities related to activities.
 - ◆ Career awareness opportunities where appropriate.
 - ◆ Activities that lead to increased appreciation and leisure time pursuits.
4. Activities should reflect the cultural diversity of the community.
5. Activities should be written in an open-ended manner with opportunities for individual problem solving: for example, "Learn six knots, and what they are used for, demonstrate and explain, "rather than, " Learn the clove hitch, lark's head, bowline, square knot, and half hitch."
 - . There should be an opportunity for evaluation of the interest project after completion.
7. After the girls have selected the topic and begun to consider the activities, the leader or advisor will see that the purpose and topic are submitted to the service center for approval. (Use "Application for Council Approval" form).
8. After council approval, girls complete the interest project. This should take approximately the same amount of time that completing a national interest project would take. Girls should not have the idea that this is an easy way to get an interest project.
9. Girls decide on the design and the method they will use for placing it on the blank patches. The Patches could be embroidered, appliquéd, or textile painted.
10. A leader's role is to see that the activities reflect all the girls' interests, are safe (see Safety-Wise), reflect concern for the environment where applicable, are not so expensive that they eliminate some girl's from the activity, do not duplicate activities in Cadette & Senior Girl Scout Interest Projects, and are not written by adults.



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OUR OWN TROOP'S BADGE OR INTEREST PROJECT FORM

APPLICATION FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL

NOTE: BEFORE PLANNING YOUR OWN BADGE OR INTEREST PROJECT, PLEASE SEE THE GUIDELINES IN "GIRL SCOUT BADGES AND SIGNS" ON PAGE 228 FOR JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS OR THE INFORMATION SHEET FOR CADETTE AND SENIOR GIRL SCOUTS.

Troop Number _____ Service Unit _____ Junior _____ Cadette _____

Leader's Name _____

Leader's Address _____

Name of Badge or Interest Project _____ Date _____

Purpose of badge or interest project.

How did you become interested in this subject?

What resources (people, places, community) might you use in working on this?

Please attach a list of requirements to earn the badge or interest project.

Signature of girl in badge or interest project group _____

Approval by council _____

Mail to: Girl Scout of Mitten Bay, 5470 Davis Road, Saginaw, MI 48604

Keep a copy of this sheet and the badge requirements for troop records.