



Adventurer

What kind of adventure speaks to you? In this badge, you'll go on a multiday high-adventure challenge. You could go rock climbing, spelunking, ice caving, skiing, canoeing, kayaking, biking, rafting—or a combination! Put your outdoor skills to the test—and gain some new ones—as you become a Girl Scout Senior Adventurer.

Steps

1. Enhance your adventure
2. Get in the team spirit—and refine your teamwork
3. Know your gear
4. Plan your service to the great outdoors
5. Capture the adventure

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to go on a multiday outdoor adventure trip with friends and Girl Scout sisters.

A Girl Scout is a natural-born traveler and pathfinder. She has an urge to get out and match her wits with the elements, to feel the wind, the sun, and even the rain in her face. If you know how to lay and follow trails, how to walk without getting tired, how to build a fire that will burn, and how to protect yourself from the weather, your wits are likely to win in this matching contest.

—Girl Scout Handbook, 1940

Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step. Inspired? Do more!

Tips Before Takeoff

- ▶ You'll be adventuring with a team—so before you dig into this badge, put together your group of friends, family, and/or Girl Scout sisters. Before you go, you'll need to make sure all girls have permission from their family to go on the trip, that you bring along the right number of adults to help you.
- ▶ As a Girl Scout Senior, you will likely have experienced planning, budgeting, and getting the right gear together for great outdoor adventures. You will need those skills in this badge. Some badge steps will help guide you, but food, personal gear, and logistics will need to be considered before you head out for steps 4 and 5. If you need planning pointers, use your network to find expert help.
- ▶ Be sure you have someone on the trip who knows first aid, along with a well-equipped first aid kit—and a plan for emergencies!

Leave No Trace Principles

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

Weather Watch

As you're researching, pay attention to weather conditions in the location you chose. How will you be prepared for changes in weather? How will you stay updated with the most accurate and current information?

STEP 1 Enhance your adventure

Choose your adventure activity and find a location that will offer possibilities for a trip of at least two nights. Keep your Leave No Trace principles in mind as you decide where to go. (Find them on page 2 of this badge.) Then choose one of the following to help enhance your adventure.

CHOICES - DO ONE:

- Find out the background of your activity.** If you're rock climbing, you might review past expeditions: What are popular climbs, famous climbers, the challenges they face? Is there a great adventure novel on your activity? Or if you're rafting, look into the river—what are the different rapids on the trip, and what experiences have past adventurers had?

OR

- Get to know the ecology of your adventure area.** Dig into the science of the place—what's the geology of your destination, what are common flora and fauna? Are there environmental issues or regulations you should be aware of? Soil erosion, common pests, pollution issues? Use this information to prepare for step 4—your outdoor service project.

OR

- Add an element.** Plan an activity within your adventure. For example, if you're kayaking, find a fun hike to take one afternoon after you've set up camp. Or if you're biking, figure out an indoor adventure in case rain takes you off the road for a day.



Page from the Past

Trail Musings

You who have once followed the trail will never forget it. No matter where you may happen to be and no matter how many years have gone by, a wisp of wood smoke under your nose at twilight, or the chirp of a tree frog, or the feel of the hot sun on your shoulders, will be the signal for a whole flock of memories to come winging back to you.



First Girl Scout Naturalist badge

When you lie within four walls at night and hear the rain on the roof, you will remember how it sounded on canvas a few feet above your head, and how once a curtain of rain was the front door of your shelter. You will have good memories that no one can take away from you of good comradeship, of all kinds of weather, of gay little happenings along the way, of firelight flickering on the trees at night, of campfire songs, and food eaten among friends with the sauce of hunger and laughter. And if you also remember that you were buffeted by the wind, scorched by the sun, soaked by the rain, smothered with dust, you will know that these things have made you one with all followers of the trail since time began.

—Girl Scout Handbook, 1930



STEP 2 Get in the team spirit— and refine your teamwork

On your adventure, you'll need to divide tasks and function as a group. You'll need to keep everyone involved and excited. Try one of these for motivation and team-building to promote—and learn to manage—team spirit in challenging situations.

CHOICES - DO ONE:

- If your adventure involves a new skill or fitness level, work on it together. This could be an entirely new skill, such as learning to spelunk or kayak, or it could be building endurance for a mountain-climbing or biking adventure.

OR

- Attend a one-day high-adventure course. Ask for activities that will help refine the skills your group most needs to work on. Do you need to learn to work together, or could you address a team issue you've had in the past so that it doesn't come up on your outdoor adventure?

OR

- Spend a day practicing cooperative and initiative games. Look for ideas in publications like Project Adventure's *QuickSilver*, *Silver Bullets*, *Cowtails and Cobras*, and *No Props*.

High-Adventure Groups

This is a list of independent groups offering high-adventure courses. Your Girl Scout council may also offer opportunities.

- Association for Experiential Learning
- Project Adventure
- Outward Bound
- National Outdoor Leadership School

More to Explore

Make it a team-building weekend. Take one day for your team and one day to host younger Girl Scouts working on their Outdoors or Creative Play badges.



STEP 3 Know your gear

Whether you're adventuring with equipment you've used before or trying out new gear, get to know it inside and out. What do you need to know to use it properly? What gear will be most effective on your adventure? Use one of the following to make your gear list and gather your equipment. As part of this step, put together your first aid kit, emergency plan, and list of emergency contact numbers.

CHOICES - DO ONE:

- Talk to an expert in your adventure area.** Find someone who often goes on your kind of adventure. What gear do they prefer? What are their recommendations for repairing and maintaining it? Do they have any great adventure tips to share?
OR -----
- Go to a sporting-goods store.** Find out the latest and greatest in gear for your adventure. This is a research mission! You don't have to buy new things; you can find ideas for enhancements or small additions to what you have.
OR -----
- Talk to a Girl Scout.** Find a Girl Scout sister who's been on a similar adventure. What did she pack? What did she wish she'd had? Plan accordingly, and get tips for your adventure.



Equipment Safety Check

Check your equipment against these guidelines:

- Equipment must be suitable for the age, size, experience, and ability of the user. Backpacks, for example, must be adjusted and sized to fit each individual. Safety helmets must fit properly and be rated for the particular activity. Each person must have equipment that's comfortable for her. Safety equipment must be used or easily accessible.
- Whether owned, borrowed, or rented, equipment must be in good condition. Any equipment that appears defective must never be used and must be marked for repair or disposal.
- The manufacturer's instructions for safe use and care of equipment must be read and observed prior to using any equipment. In some cases, lives depend on the quality of the equipment and the way it's used.

Tip: Be prepared for unexpected repairs, too—are there certain tools, a spare tire, extra paddle, or lots of duct tape that could help you in a pinch?



STEP 4 Plan your service to the great outdoors

Adventuring is tons of fun—help it stay that way. Combine the natural environment and service to others into your adventure, or help other Girl Scouts before or after your trip. This step adds one more level of preparation to your badge process, but an important one: making the world a better place.

CHOICES - DO ONE:

- Help the natural environment.** If you'll be in a park or wilderness, work with area managers to find a service project to help the environment. You might maintain a trail or haul out trash. What are the needs of your location?
OR
- Be a guide for younger Girl Scouts.** In their Outdoors badges, Brownies learn to hike, Juniors take a camping trip, and Cadettes backpack. Use your skills to help younger Girl Scouts become outdoor adventurers, either by going along or helping train the girls before they go.
OR
- Teach Leave No Trace principles.** There are some great LNT activities available online that will help you show kids how to have responsible fun outdoors. You might plan a workshop for other groups on your trip, or teach younger Girl Scouts or other campers how to protect and respect natural surroundings. (These principles are listed on page 2 of this badge.)

More to Explore

Try this activity from the 1963 "Senior Project: Conservation." Learn the history or "land legend" of a camp property: What was the land like originally? What kinds of trees and plants grew there? What kinds of animals, birds, and water life did these attract? What can be done to restore the land, attract the birds and animals, preserve the water life? At the same time, get the help of an expert in checking the conservation needs that you can do something about now: soil erosion, tree and plant blight, insect control, or protection of stream banks or lake shores.



STEP 5 Capture the adventure

You know your location and have your teamwork down, your gear prepared, and your service project planned. Time to set out! Choose one of these ways to capture the amazing days. Use what you make to remember details and talk with your friends about how everything went—and what you'd do differently on your next adventure!

CHOICES - DO ONE:

- Shoot a digital photo series.** When you return, make a gallery on a photo-sharing service.

FOR MORE FUN: Choose an inexpensive option to get prints for every girl, or make T-shirts or calendars of your favorite shot.

OR

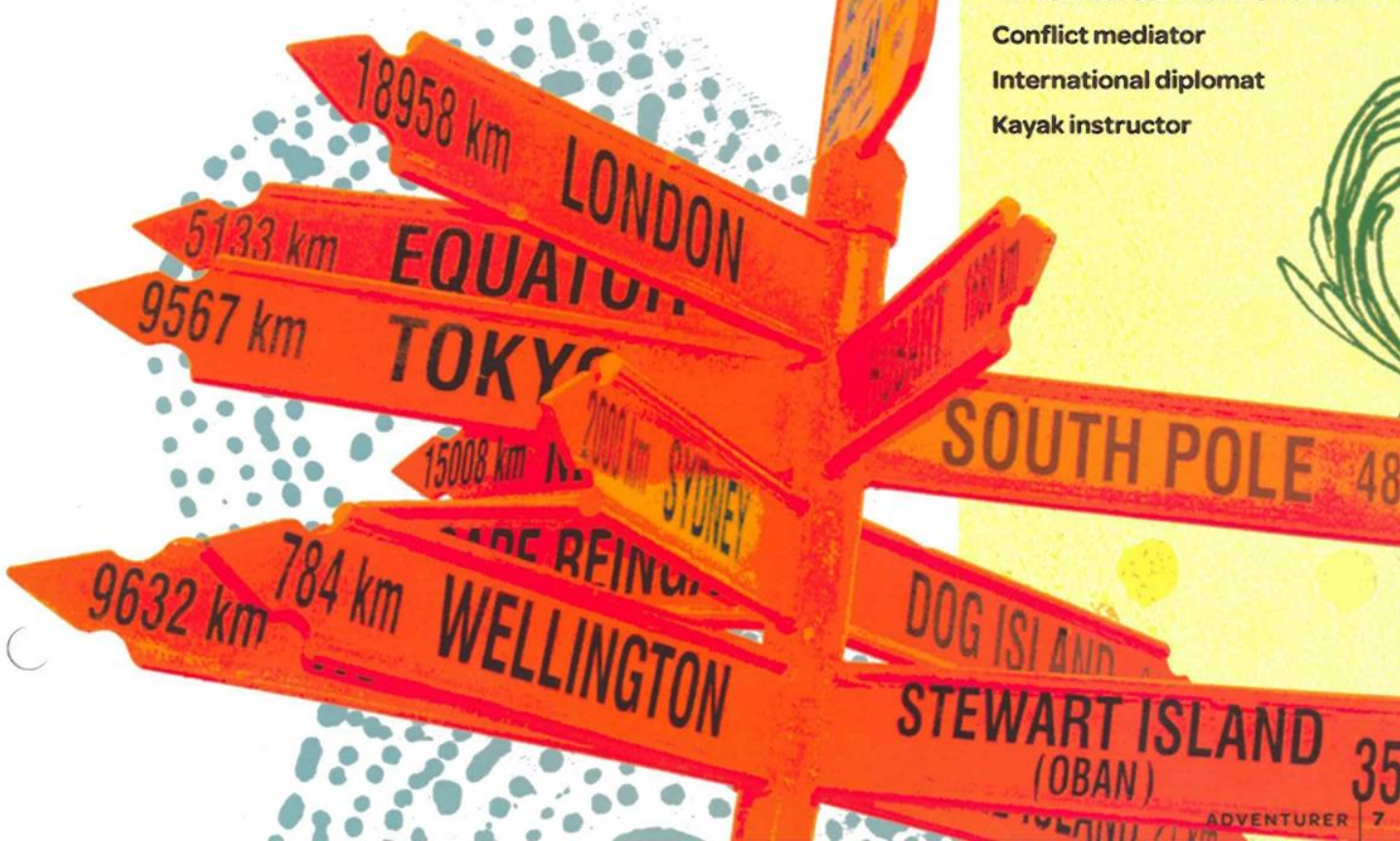
- Write it down.** Take a sketch pad, keep a journal, or put together a field diary. If you have a cell phone and can connect to the Internet, you could even blog about your adventure while you're off the beaten path!

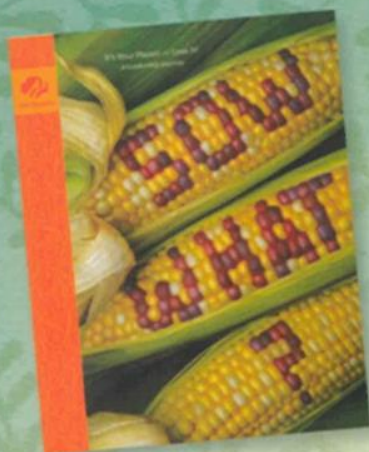
OR

- Make a video.** If you're carrying a video-enabled cell phone or camera, record highlights of your trip. If it's okay with your companions, share the video on social media when you get back.

Careers to Explore

Environmental scientist
Camp director
Mountaineer
Wildlife photographer
Farmer
Human resources specialist
Camping equipment designer
River-rafting guide
Team-building consultant
Outward Bound therapist
Ranch wrangler
Paramedic
Bike technician
Motivational speaker
Exotic animal veterinarian
Fish and game warden
Wilderness survival instructor
Conflict mediator
International diplomat
Kayak instructor



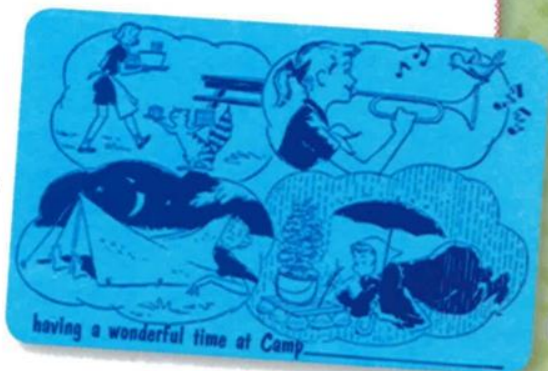


Add the Badge to Your Journey

Of course you'll have to eat on your adventure! So what will you be carrying and how will you make choices about your "foodprint"? Use ideas from *Sow What?* to plan your menu—and how you'll shop for it. Don't forget to do some research on what local and seasonal food might be available in the area you're headed to. Maybe you can even find a farmer, fisher, or other food producer to visit and interview as you head off on your adventure.

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Turning my documentation into a presentation to inspire other girls to become outdoor adventurers
- Creating team-building outdoor skills workshops for younger Girl Scouts
- Planning my Gold Award project to improve an ecological issue in the area where I adventured



I'm inspired to: