



Black History Month Patch Program (February)

Learn more about the history and culture of African American people.

Black History Month:

The celebration of Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976.

For Girl Scouts of all levels - Complete a minimum of two (2) activities from Discover, Connect, and Take Action

Discover

- Discover who was the first African American Honorary President of GSUSA. How was she chosen? Discuss with others why this was important.
- Learn about the first African American Troop. When was it formed? Where was it located? When did GSUSA begin to desegregate troops?
- What was the Underground Railroad? What art form did many people use to communicate with each other while traveling the Underground Railroad?
- What religion(s) influenced African Americans most? List three (3) traditional beliefs and give a brief history of their origins.
- Discover the name of one African American and one contribution they made in one of the following areas: Education, Arts, Sciences, Medicine, Theater, Sports, Civil Rights
- Learn about the Harlem Renaissance and create your own Night at the Apollo where girls can sing, dance, read, or act out works from artists of that time, or their own.
- Listen to "Lift Every Voice and Sing," often referred to as the Black National Anthem, a hymn written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) in 1900 and set to music by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954), for the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1905.
- Read about the nine historically Black Greek letter organizations (BGLOs) that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council. Collectively, these organizations are referred to as "The Divine Nine." Each of these fraternities and sororities is rich in history -- ties to one or more of these organizations may be found in many college-educated Black families in the United States.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Founded 1906, Cornell University
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Founded 1908, Howard University
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Founded 1911, Indiana University
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Founded 1911, Howard University
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Founded 1913, Howard University
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Founded 1914, Howard University
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Founded 1920, Howard University
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Founded 1922, Butler University
Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Founded 1963, Morgan State University

Connect

- Research to find three historical games of young African Americans. Play one of the games with your family.
- Learn the importance of Misty Copeland in Modern African American History. Check out the documentary, *A Ballerina's Tale: The Incredible Rise of Misty Copeland* to hear her story!
- Host a virtual movie night with films such as *Hidden Figures* (talk about original G.I.R.L.s!), *Selma*, *The Color Purple*, or *13th* (with parental discretion, of course) and have a discussion afterward.
- Create a dance using music from an African American singer-songwriter (past or present).
- Listen to a musical selection from at least one artist on the list. Below you will find a listing of some of the more prominent singers, songwriters, and musicians.

Lena Horne
Etta James
Tina Turner
Patti Labelle
Billie Holiday

Ella Fitzgerald
Chaka Khan
Gladys Knight
Nina Simone
Bessie Smith

Sarah Vaughan
Natalie Cole
Dinah Washington
Mahalia Jackson
Diana Ross

Take Action

- Have a virtual Black History Celebration with your troop to celebrate Black History Month! Share about legendary African Americans, listen to jazz, enjoy soul food, and more!
- Take a virtual tour of a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). What was the first black HBCU? Why are HBCUs important to the black community? What are the top 10 black colleges?
- Create a poster or display about a famous African American woman. Describe what you admire about her. Take a selfie and share it with GSNNJ.
- Research the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). How and why was the organization started? What is its mission?
- Read a story or poem written by poets like Langston Hughes, Nicki Giovanni, Maya Angelou, and Amanda Gorman and create your own story or poem.

References:

Curriculum adapted from Girl Scouts of Central Texas, Girl Scouts of River Valleys, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida.

This patch program is available for all Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey Members and their families. Patches will be available for purchase through Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey Retail Shops.
Shop 24/7 Online at www.gsnnj.org/Shop

