



I just love it
when people
show their
community
spirit!



Celebrating Community

Communities often celebrate what makes them special. A Brownie group is a community! Other communities—your town, state, and country—have celebrations, like ceremonies or parades. They might also celebrate by building statues or museums. In this badge, find out what your communities do to celebrate all the people in them.

Steps

1. Explore community symbols
2. Sing together
3. Follow the parade
4. Be a landmark detective
5. Join a ceremony or celebration

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how my community celebrates what makes us special.

Girl Scout Symbol Scramble

What are some symbols you already know? Your Girl Scout awards, of course! Your Journey awards are symbols of leadership, and your badges are symbols of skills you've learned. Here are some other Girl Scout symbols—do you know what they are?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____



STEP

1 Explore community symbols

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

A symbol is an object that means something special. For example, the American flag is a symbol that shows we are proud of our country. There are lots of other community symbols to find. Get ready to look!

CHOICES – DO ONE:

Go on a flag hunt. Many homes and businesses share their national pride by flying the flag—or showing a picture of it. Team up with your Brownie friends and search for all the American flags in your neighborhood. Before you go, find three cool flag facts. (You might also look for other symbols of America—like the five-pointed star or the eagle.)

FOR MORE FUN: Find out what the symbols on American money mean. You can look at either a paper bill or a coin.

OR

Draw your state's symbols. Each state has its own flag—and its own flower, bird, tree, and motto. Draw pictures of your state's symbols, and find out what your state's motto means. Do you think the motto fits your state?

FOR MORE FUN: Choose a flower, bird, tree, and motto for yourself! Tell your Brownie friends why each is a good symbol for you.

OR

Find your town's symbols. Your town might have a flag or a logo. Maybe a sports team has a mascot—that's a symbol, too! Find one of your town's symbols, and tell your Brownie group or class at school why it was chosen. If you can't find a town symbol, choose a flower, tree, or animal with special meaning in your town, and draw a town symbol to share with your Brownie friends.

ANSWERS: ① Brownie membership star; ② Brownie pin; ③ World Trefoil pin; ④ Journey award; ⑤ Arrow troop crest; ⑥ Brownie legacy badge; ⑦ Heritage Trefoil; ⑧ American flag

STEP 2 Sing together

Celebrations are often happy, but they can also be times for quiet and thinking. Music is what sets the mood. Do one choice to find celebration music that's new to you. Then have a mini celebration to listen to or sing the songs with Brownie friends. Talk about how the songs make you feel and why they fit the celebration.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- Choose national songs.** America's national anthem is often played on national holidays and at ceremonies (like before sports games or when an American wins an Olympic medal). Find three other American songs for your mini celebration. What do you like about each? Why are they great songs for America?

OR

- Pick three community songs.** They could be state songs, local songs, or school songs. You might even have a special family song. Choose three such songs for your mini celebration.

OR

- Find three celebration songs.** Many celebrations and ceremonies have their own special songs. Think of wedding ceremonies, holidays, parades, even birthdays! Choose three of these for your mini celebration.



Words

Worth Knowing

A **MOTTO** is a short saying about something important.

A **MASCOT** is a person or animal that a group chooses as their symbol.

A **LOGO** is the symbol for a business.

An **ANTHEM** is a song that a group chooses to sing or play at special times to show they're proud to belong.

The Star-Spangled Banner

The "Star-Spangled Banner" is the name of our national anthem. It is also another word for our American flag. A man named Francis Scott Key wrote the national anthem in 1814. And he originally wrote four verses! Here's the first verse—it's full of big words and ideas. Look below to find out what some of the words mean.

To HAIL means to give a special greeting

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we **hailed** at the twilight's last gleaming?

This part is talking about the stripes and stars on the American Flag.

PERILOUS means dangerous.

Whose **broad stripes and bright stars**, through the **perilous** fight,
O'er the **ramparts** we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

RAMPARTS are walls that protect a fort.

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

SPANGLES are sparkles. Our flag looks like it's covered in sparkling stars!

O say, does that **star-spangled** banner yet wave
O'er the **land of the free** and the **home of the brave**?

These are both nicknames for the United States.

STEP 3 Follow the parade

Parades started as a tradition in the military. But they're so much fun that many communities have them as a part of their celebrations. That means the parade is often meant to honor a group of people or to help spread an important message. Try one of these to understand more about parades!

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- Join a parade.** Gather Brownie friends—or other Girl Scouts—and join a parade. Before you go, find out why the parade is happening, and make a banner to carry that will help share the reason with others.

OR

- Learn to march.** Ask an experienced marcher, like someone in the military or in a marching band, to show you how. Practice different marching steps and signals for starting and stopping. Then try to march for an entire marching song!

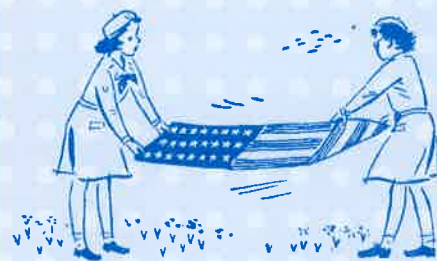
FOR MORE FUN: See if a local band will let you try marching with them during one of their practices.

OR

- See a band review or field show.** Some schools or community groups compete in parades or field shows. In these competitions, they play music and do complicated steps. Some bands have teams that do dance routines with flags! Find an event and take a field trip with an adult and your Brownie friends.

More to Explore

Know your holidays. A lot of parades take place on national holidays—often days you have off from school. With your Brownie friends, choose a national holiday and find out what the celebration is all about. It will make your day even more special when you know why it's a holiday!



Folding the American Flag

The American flag is folded carefully in seven special steps. When the steps are finished, the flag is shaped like a triangle. You could team up with an adult to find instructions for folding the flag!

Words

Worth Knowing

A **PLAQUE** is a special marker with written information about a person or place.

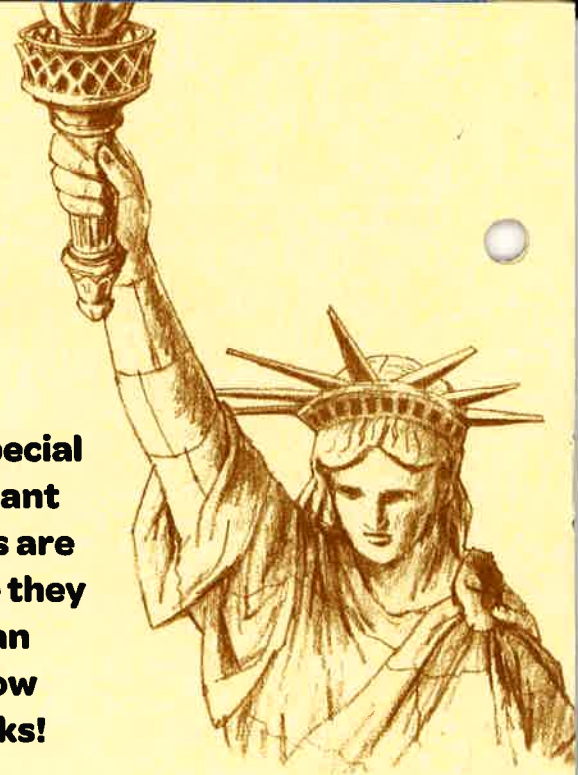
More to Explore

Support our troops. Like honoring military service with a landmark, sending a note to a serviceperson shows support for our troops stationed far away.

If you know a serviceperson overseas, you could brighten their day with a card or care package. Friends or family might also know a serviceperson who would love to get a surprise from you in the mail. There are also organizations that help you send support—an adult can help you find one online!

STEP 4 Be a landmark detective

A landmark is place that's special or where something important happened. Some landmarks are called "memorials" because they honor people who died for an important cause. Get to know your community's landmarks!



CHOICES—DO ONE:

- Follow a landmark trail.** Go on a hike to at least three community landmarks such as statues, plaques, and gardens. Find out why each one is important.

FOR MORE FUN: Organize a landmark scavenger hunt. To "find" a landmark, take a picture of yourself in front of it.

OR

- Tour a landmark that honors the past.** Visit a historic landmark, such as the place where a leader was born or an old battleground. Or visit a historical society or museum. Collect three facts you didn't know about the place, and share them with your family.

OR

- Make a landmark map.** Pretend a tourist is visiting your area, and you want to show them the special places. Choose five landmarks—historic sites, museums, statues, or any place that shows why your home is special. Mark them on a printed map or a map you drew yourself. Or take photos of the places, and make a welcome-brochure. Share your map or brochure with friends or family—or visitors!

FOR MORE FUN: On your map or brochure, include the story of how your town began.

STEP 5 Join a ceremony or celebration

You know about special symbols and music. You know about events and landmarks that share why a community is special. Now put those things together in a community celebration!

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- Join a flag ceremony.** Ask an older Girl Scout or another expert to show you how to fold an American flag and how to be a flag bearer. Then take part in a flag ceremony!

FOR MORE FUN: Use your flag skills in an indoor and an outdoor flag ceremony!

OR

- Join a town ceremony.** Sometimes new buildings open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. There are ceremonies to celebrate town events like anniversaries or the birthday of an important person. Sports games often begin with a ceremony. Find one and join in!

OR

- Make up your own!** Make a banner with a symbol, choose music, and create a ceremony for something you think is special. Invite your family and friends to join in.

FOR MORE FUN: Teach others your ceremony song so they can sing with you.



Flag Ceremony

You can show your respect for the flag in a flag ceremony. You might say the Pledge of Allegiance or sing a song like "America the Beautiful." Sometimes these special commands are used.



"Girl Scouts, attention."



"Color guard, retire the colors."



"Color guard, dismissed."

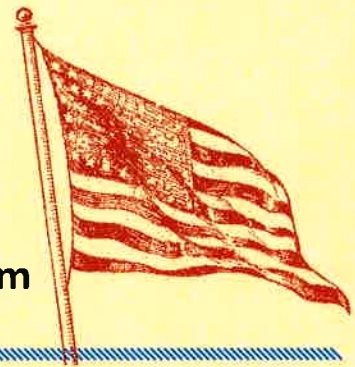


Add the Badge to Your Journeys

Your Leadership Journeys invite you to have ceremonies when you earn your leadership awards. Try adding in something you have learned from this badge when you make your ceremony. Maybe you can invite some of the people from your community who you met when you did your Take Action project. Inviting people to celebrations is a great way to build community!

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

- Helping Daisies prepare for a parade
- Showing other people how to fold the American flag
- Teaching my class about the national anthem



I'm inspired to: