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## Foxfire House Patch

Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

### To complete this patch program, please complete the following:

- Girl Scout Juniors four *Discover*, four *Connect*, and two *Take Action*
- Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors five *Discover*, five *Connect*, and two *Take Action*

Become acquainted with the way of life of the early Pennsylvania Germans, especially in those families who settled in and near the Foxfire House. Foxfire House is Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania's early 19th century Swiss-German bank house which has been restored as a program center for Girl Scouts. It provides a place to experience rural living as many people did 100 to 200 years ago. The Foxfire House is listed on the National Register for Historic Places.

**NOTE: You must participate in a Live-In to complete the requirements for this patch. See the *Take Action* section.** Email [programdept@gshpa.org](mailto:programdept@gshpa.org) for a copy of the Foxfire House Leader's Guide if you are interested in participating in a Live-In with your group.

### Discover

Read at least one book about life on an early Pennsylvania farm. Be able to answer the following questions:

- What did an early farmhouse look like?
- How was it furnished?
- What methods were used for heating, cooking, lighting, and basic sanitation?

Discuss what you have learned with your group.

Locate on a map of Pennsylvania (as it was in the early 19th century) where various nationalities and religious groups, such as the Germans, French, and Scotch-Irish, settled. Mark the location of the Foxfire House with an asterisk (\*).

Visit at least two historic homes in your area and compare the different ways of life in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

- How would your life be different if you were considered upper class? Middle class? Lower class?
- What would your life be like if you lived on a farm or if you lived in the city?

Who were the first settlers of the south-eastern and south-central parts of Pennsylvania?

- Where did they come from?
- What nationalities were they?
- Why did they settle here?
- Which religious groups did they represent?
- Locate the area on a map of Pennsylvania.
- Mark the location of the Foxfire House.

Research what herbs, teas, and wild plants were popular home remedies for personal health, first aid, or medicine.

Learn to speak at least five simple phrases in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect.

Learn about the Amish and Mennonite communities by visiting reliable sources in your community. One example would be the Mennonite Information Center located in Lancaster County. Their Web site is [www.mennoniteinfoctr.com](http://www.mennoniteinfoctr.com). You could also invite a knowledgeable person to come talk with your group.

Do you know your heritage? Were your ancestors immigrants to this area?

- Trace your own family surname to its country of origin.
- Find out the meaning of your last name.
- Make a family tree including at least three generations.
- Share something about your heritage with others.

Select one early Pennsylvania artist, such as Robert Fulton, Charles Demuth, or Jacob Eicholtz, and learn about his life and works. Discover what materials were used in the 19th century for paints, canvas, and brushes.

Learn the basic religious beliefs of any early Pennsylvania religious sect, such as Amish, Mennonite, Dunkard, or Moravian.

- Learn how they originated.
- Compare their similarities and differences.
- Explore why they live as they do.

## Connect

Visit a person doing one of the following trades and learn about the history and techniques of his/her craft. How did he/she learn? How has it changed from earlier centuries?

Chair maker	Blacksmith	Basket weaver	Glass blower
Pretzel maker	Carriage or wagon maker	Bookbinder	Tinsmith
Flour miller	Spinner or weaver	Quilter	Beekeeper
Shoemaker	Any 18th or 19th century craft		

Write a short story, one act play, or a report on the life of a farm family in early Pennsylvania or the folklore of this area. Share with your group.

Make a costume or several articles of clothing that would have been worn by a Pennsylvania German farm family. Wear your costume when visiting the Foxfire House or show it to others. Recommended age levels are listed beside each clothing article.

- Long skirt (petticoat) - JCSA
- Kerchief - JCSA
- Apron - JCSA

- Cap - CSA
- Blouse (short gown) – CSA
- Under petticoat – CSA

Interview one or more older citizens in your community. Ask questions about their early lives and their memories of the lives of their parents and grandparents. If possible, record or journal your interviews.

Attend a festival or event at a local museum in your area depicting early life in Pennsylvania.

Make or do at least one of the following:

<b>Girl Scout Juniors</b>	<b>Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors</b>
Braid a small rug or hot dish mat	Make a corn husk doll
Make a scherenschnitte (paper cutting) picture	Make a scherenschnitte (paper cutting) picture
Stencil or cross-stitch an item	Create a piece of coil pottery
Learn the art of egg scratching and/or dyeing	Make a toy or game similar to those used in colonial times. Examples: yip-stick, flip-flop, wire puzzles, button top, ball-in-a-cup, or a doll
Stitch a small mug mat or wall hanging	Make a tin cookie cutter or candle holder
Make a period toy	Using fraktur art, design your own birth certificate or house blessing
Be able to use a drop spindle.	Make a rye straw basket or an egg gathering basket
Dip candles	Make quilt pieces
	Create a patchwork pillow or doll quilt

### Take Action

**Participate in a Live-In. (Mandatory)** Spend at least one full day and one overnight at the Foxfire House participating in a Live-in. Your stay will include a tour of the Foxfire House and the outbuildings. Prepare meals typical of the 19th century. You should plan on cooking a minimum of four meals during your stay. Girls will cook on a ten-plate stove. Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors will also bake in the squirrel tail oven.

Present a program of songs and/or folk dances such as were used by any of the early Pennsylvania communities: Moravians, Amish, Seventh Day Baptists, Hebrews, Welsh.

Demonstrate what you have learned about Pennsylvania German settlers using games, demonstrations, skits, songs, or by serving refreshments to your service unit or you can participate in our annual "Open House" at Foxfire House (last Sunday in September).

Donate at least one item from the Foxfire House Wish List to the Foxfire House program. Check with your site-aide to learn what items are needed.

Demonstrate or teach another group three songs or three singing games of early America. Include at least one hymn which would have been sung by early Pennsylvania Dutch settlers or play on an instrument a program of music from the 18th or 19th centuries.

Attend the Tour Guide Training and serve as a Foxfire House Tour Guide for at least three different groups. Girls must be 14 years old and older to be a tour guide.