

# Girl Scout Patch



## **Purpose:**

When I've earned this patch, I'll know more about a famous author and how she lived as well as how the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society preserves her heritage.

**1** Visit the Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Homes and take the guided tour. Make sure to plan your trip carefully and call ahead so that the museum can plan special activities for your troop. If you come alone with a parent or grandparent be sure to tell your guide you are working on the Girl Scout Patch.

**2** What is a museum?

CHOICES – DO ONE

- Learn about the special things a museum does to preserve items for a long time.
- Research museum jobs. What does an interpretor do? What about a curator? How many differ ent museum jobs are there?
- Look online for rules about museum etiquette. Follow the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge when looking online. What are some common rules that museums enforce and why? What are some things that you can do in advance of your visit to a museum to be considerate of the museum and other visitors?

**3** Show Your Historical Knowledge

CHOICES – DO ONE

- Write a short report on the historic facts that you learned during your tour of the historic homes. Include things that surprised you as well as observations you made about how life used to be.
- Create a timeline of Laura Ingalls Wilder's life. Include her birth date, her moves around the country, her marriage, and death.
- Complete the Historical Knowledge worksheet. (page 4 of this document)

4 Do some reading. Laura Ingalls Wilder became famous for the book series she wrote about her childhood as a pioneer. Depending on your age read or be read one of the following.

CHOICES – DO ONE

- Read “By the Shores of Silver Lake”
- Read “Little Town on the Prairie”
- Read a “My First Little House” book or a chapter of one of the books above. (for early readers only.)

5 Try some pioneer life! Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote about many things in her life that we may have never tried. Step out of the 21st century and back into the 19th (1800s) by trying some old fashioned music, food or games. Or try them all!

CHOICES – DO ONE

- Sing a song. Pa played his fiddle and sang songs in all of the “Little House” books and it was one of Laura’s fondest memories. Sing some of these historic songs with your family or Girl Scout Troop.
  - Camptown Races
  - Oh, Susanna
  - Buffalo Gals
  - Pop Goes the Weasel
  - Star Spangled Banner
- Hard tack was a popular food when traveling in the 1800s because it required easy to find ingredients and it did not spoil easily. Make some hard tack, with the help of an adult if necessary, and give it a try. Would you like to eat this for a month or two while your family traveled across the country in a covered wagon?

### RECIPE FOR HARD TACK

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups of flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup water
- $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon of salt (optional)

1. Mix all the ingredients into a dough and press onto a cookie sheet to a thickness of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.
2. Bake in a preheated oven at 400°F (205°C) for half an hour. Don’t cut now
3. Remove from oven, cut dough into 3-inch squares, and punch four rows of holes, four holes per row into the dough (a fork works nicely).
4. Flip the crackers and return to the oven for another half hour.

- Play some old fashioned games. Try your hand at Hopscotch, Hide the Thimble, Drop the Handkerchief, Blind Man’s Bluff, Checkers or Cat’s Cradle.