



Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

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Badge Standards and Guidelines

Keep in mind the following quote, "A Girl Scout proficiency badge is a symbol that a girl has done the thing it stands for often enough, thoroughly enough, and well enough to be prepared to give service in it."

1. *Who may sign?* The leader may sign off on badge activities or she may delegate this job to her assistant. Girls may not sign badge books. However, Girl Scout Teens do complete and sign their Challenge preps.
2. As much work as possible should be displayed, demonstrated, and shared. There are many times when displaying work is not required for a badge. However, it is a good idea to do it anyway with the whole group, a patrol, or a badge group.
3. Badge work should be performed (completed in some physical way) not written up in report form, unless specifically requested.
4. Once completed, all badge activities should be compiled in a neat, attractive, and orderly form for display or at least presented to badge record-keeper for verification of all activities completed as required.
5. Some badge activities that seem impossible to achieve can be substituted, but never dropped!
6. Although some badges may be done as a group or individually, many can be done in small groups outside the troop meeting (small group meaning two or more girls). Be sure to utilize all the talent around you (a neighbor, mother, sister or anyone who has a particular talent). Don't be afraid of working on a badge because you don't know anything about it - ask around, someone does!!
7. Very few, if any, badges can be done properly in a day or two (except possibly at camp). It will probably take three or four weeks, sometimes more.
8. All activities must be signed individually with a date and name or initial.
9. Do not count one activity for more than one badge. Activities should be repeated if possible, unless conditions make it impossible to duplicate. If, for instance, activities for different badges are the same or similar, they should be done separately for each badge (i.e., two badges require that you learn a new song - then girls should learn two new songs, not one new song and count it for both badges).