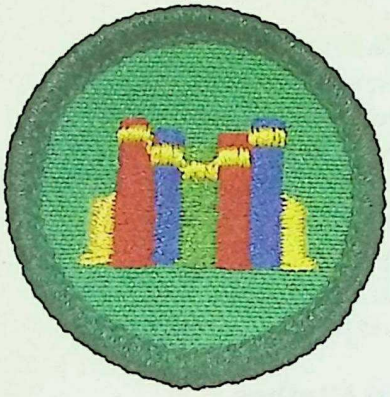
Books



What would the world be like without books? How else would you find out about the past, visit distant places and planets from your armchair, or become involved in a good story? Read on.

1. It's a Wide World

Read two folk tales, stories, or poems from a culture other than your own. Share what you have learned in any of the following ways:

- Act out one or more of the stories or folk tales.
- Learn more about one or more of the writers.
- Read one of the stories, poems, or folk tales to your Girl Scout group or another audience.
- Create puppets and put on a puppet show, based on one of the stories, for a group of younger children or Girl Scouts.

2. Picture This!

Select one or two picture books and do one of the following:

- Read the books to younger friends or Girl Scouts. Ask what they like about the illustrations and the stories.
- Create two book covers to go with your selected books.
- Create your own picture book in the same style.

3. Be a Tape Worm!

Make an audiotape of a book, short story, magazine article, joke or riddle collection, play, or poetry collection that you can give to someone who cannot read. You could, with your troop or group, make tapes at a local agency that serves people who are blind or visually impaired. Practice reading aloud so that your tape will sound polished and smooth.

4. Be a Reading Helper

Some children and adults have trouble reading. Find out from a reading specialist, teacher, librarian, or another adult about different types of reading difficulties or disabilities. Then, with the help of adults as needed, do one of the following:

- Put together and distribute a list of places to go in your community for reading help. This information is available at most libraries.
- Be a reading buddy. Find out if there is a place where you can help a younger child who is having reading trouble. Check with your teacher or leader, or ask your librarian if there are literacy or reading organizations in your community. Volunteer to spend at least one-half hour a week for at least a month with your reading partner.

5. The Living Past

When you read about something that happened a long time ago, you make the event come alive again in your mind. Read a story, poem, or folk tale that reflects past life in the United States.

6. Read and Review

In a newspaper or other source, read reviews of new books for your age level. Check one of the books out of the library, read it, and decide if the review was right.

7. How To? Read On!

Become an expert in a subject by reading about it. You might read about the subject matter of another badge in this book. For example, read a book about dance, music, the life of a famous woman artist or sports hero, horses, cooking, the environment, or an historic event. Review the book in writing or discuss it with your troop or family.

8. Build a Library

Share your love of reading with others in your community in one of two ways:

- Set up a schedule with other Girl Scout members to bring library books in large print, in Braille, or on tape to someone who will enjoy them.
- With the help of an adult, collect books and magazines for specific age levels and donate them to a library, camp, nursing home, youth shelter, pediatric office, clinic, day-care center, or other facility.



9. Books for Life

Find out about careers for people who like books. If you can, visit with an author, poet, illustrator, editor, librarian, bookstore owner or book publisher, or invite any of those professionals to visit your troop or group.

10. Your Library's Treasures

Explore your local library's resources. Prepare a poster to encourage greater use of the library, or an advertising flyer to let the community know about all the library's treasures. Some libraries sponsor readings by local poets and authors, or concert series. What kinds of classes or lectures are available at yours?