Local Lore

Every town has a story. Every town had people and events that helped make it what it is today. How much do you really know about where you live? Find out more with these badge activities.





1. Word of Mouth
Find out about a story, legend, monument, or landmark in your community. Older residents or your librarian can help. Share your findings with others.

2. It's All on the Maps
How has your community changed? Locate a map of your town that's at least 25 years old. Your library, chamber of commerce, or planning commission should have one. Compare that map with one from today. What has changed? What has remained the same? Are all the changes for the better? Which ones would you like to undo? Why?



3. From Above
Ask someone from the Soil Conservation Service, the U.S. Geological Service, or a local college or real estate agency if you can see aerial photos of your community made over a period of time. What story do these photos tell about changes in your community?

4. Tour Your Community
Take part in a tour of your community. Look for three different examples of architecture from different historical periods. When and why were the buildings or houses built? What types of materials were used? Try sketching, photographing, or writing down information about the buildings.

5. Extra, Extra, Read All About It!
Create a one-page poster, newspaper page, or flyer that describes a past period of your community. Include news, ads, or editorials that might have appeared at that time. Share your item with others.

6. Sing Someone's Praises
Create a story, song, or poem about the efforts of one person who has had a major impact on your city or town.

7. Take a Trip
Visit a local museum, historical society, library, or town hall to learn more about the history of your city or town. What new things did you learn?

8. Take Pride
Volunteer at an event, fair, or special occasion in your area. Find an event that brings people together in a celebration of the past; for example, one that highlights important dates in history, or one that recognizes the past contributions of different cultures.

9. Walk the Talk
Pitch in on a project that will help preserve the history of your community or something unique about it. Examples would be replanting native plants, or cleaning or fixing up an historical site.

10. Focus on the Future
Given how your community has changed in the past 25 years, how do you think your community will change in the next 20, 50, or 100 years? Share your prediction for the future in a creative way—you might use charts, maps, drawings, or a skit.