

Our Own Troop's Badge and Our Own Interest Project

Ten Hints for a Successful Our Own Troop's Badge or Our Own Interest Project

1. Girls should work on several national badges or interest projects before attempting to do an Our Own Troop's Badge or Our Own Interest Project.
2. The topic or subject for the badge or interest project should be one that is not covered in other badges or interest projects. A badge on the general topic of textiles and fibers, for instance, would not be appropriate, but a badge on knitting or embroidery would. This is because knitting and embroidery are only touched upon in the Textile and Fibers Badge. A knitting badge could be more specific and go into great detail. An interest project on music would not be appropriate because there is a nationally developed Music interest project. However, an interest project on guitar would be all right, since there is no nationally developed interest project on this topic.
3. An Our Own Troop's Badge or Our Own Interest Project should resemble as closely as possible the format and components of those developed nationally. It should contain:
 - skill development
 - choices to reflect diverse needs or interests of girls
 - service possibilities related to activities
 - career awareness opportunities where appropriate
 - activities that lead to increased appreciation and leisure time pursuits
4. Activities should reflect the cultural diversity of the community.
5. Activities should be written in an open-ended manner with opportunities for individual problem solving: e.g., "Learn six knots and what they are used for. Demonstrate and explain," rather than "Learn the clove hitch, sheepshank, lark's head, bowline, square knot and half hitch."
6. There should be an opportunity for evaluation of the badge or interest project after completion.
7. After the girls have selected the topic and begun to consider the activities, the leader should see that the purpose and topic are submitted to the troop consultant for approval. If the topic involves any controversy or high risk, the activities should also be submitted to the program department.
8. After approval, girls complete the badge or interest project. This should take approximately the same amount of time that completing a national badge or interest project would take. Girls should not have the idea this is an easy way to get a badge or interest project.
9. Girls decide on the design and the method they will use for placing it on the blank badges or interest project patches. The badges could be embroidered, appliqued or textile-painted.
10. A leader's role is to see that the activities reflect all the girls' interests, are safe (see *Safety-Wise*), reflect concern for the environment where applicable, are not so expensive that they eliminate some girls from the activity, do not duplicate activities in *Junior Girl Scout Badge Book*, *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*, *Cadette and Senior Girl Scout Interest Projects*, or *Cadette and Senior Girl Scout Handbook* and are not written by adults.

Troop Consultant Responsibility for Our Own Troop's Badge and Our Own Interest Project

The troop consultant handles Our Own Troop's Badge and Our Own Interest Project requests. The responsibilities of this person are:

- Approve badge and interest project topics submitted by Girl Scout troops, making sure that both topic and purpose are in line with GSUSA standards and policies. The council should be able to endorse any Our Own Troop's Badge or Our Own Interest Project publicly.
- Make sure that badge subject matter is not already included in the badges in *Girl Scout Badges and Signs* or *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*, or that interest project subject matter is not already included in the interest projects in *Cadette and Senior Girl Scout Interest Projects* or *Cadette and Senior Girl Scout Handbook*.
- Check the activities proposed by troops. Use the information on pages VIII and IV in the *Junior Girl Scout Badge Book* as a guide. (The same guidelines are called for in an Our Own Interest Project.) Also, see "Writing Your Own Interest Project" in *Cadette and Senior Interest Project*, page 7. "Ten Hints for a Successful Our Own Troop's Badge or Our Own Interest Project" may be used for additional guidance.
- Check to be sure the badge or interest projects meets safety, security and program standards set forth in *Safety-Wise*.
- Approve insignia symbol designs proposed by troops. Symbols that are in violation of copyright materials should not be approved.
- Keep a file of each Our Own Troop's Badge and Our Own Interest Project activities and insignia.
- Send a copy of the symbol and activities to the council program department for filing:

Our Own Troop's Badge/Interest Project Files
Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council, Inc.
1231 Upas Street
San Diego, CA 92103-5199

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Our Own Troop's Badge/Interest Project Approval

Bring this to the council store to order badges/interest projects.

Leader's name _____ Troop number _____

Address _____ Service unit _____

_____ Number of patches purchased _____

Phone number (____) _____

Subject of badge/interest project _____

I have reviewed this badge/interest project using the guidelines found on Our Own Troop's Badge and Our Own Interest Project form PG-0081-. and it meets with my approval.

Signed: _____

Troop Consultant

Date _____