

California Badge for Junior Girl Scouts

The California Badge for Junior Girl Scouts helps girls learn about the state and what makes California unique. It also builds on what the girls have learned earning the California Brownie Try-It. Girls must complete at least eight of the following activities.



1. Locate on a map of California a town or city other than your own. Learn the meaning of the town's name. Write to the town's Chamber of Commerce or visit their website for information.
2. Visit a fort or mission in California to learn about their importance in California history. Who were the Padres (not the baseball team)? Who was Fr. Junipero Serra?
3. Learn the names of at least four Native American tribes who live in California. How are they the same? How are they different? How do the geographical areas in which they live affect their culture both in the past and in the present? Attend an event where you can learn about their culture.
4. Learn how Mexican or Spanish culture has influenced the state. Prepare a Mexican food or make a Mexican craft. You may also learn a Mexican song, game, or break a piñata at a Girl Scout meeting. Translate the names of a three California towns or cities that are in Spanish.
5. There are many other cultures that have influenced California other than Mexican/Spanish and Indian. Find out about one other culture. Try one of the foods, learn a song or dance or visit a grocery store that specializes in their type of foods. Learn about why they came to California and where they settled. Did California's location on the Pacific Ocean have an influence on this?
6. Learn what industries are important to California. Which are important to the coastal areas? The mountains? The deserts? The cities? The Central Valley?
7. Locate on a map at least five National Park Service areas such as a National Park, Monument or historic site. Find out why they were protected. Visit a National Park Service site or a state park. Take a hike in the park, talk to a ranger about the park or visit a visitor center that provides information on the area.
8. Color a map of California that identifies each county. Be able to locate the following:
 - a) The State Capital
 - b) Three major cities
 - c) The Sierra Nevada Mountains
 - d) The San Joaquin Valley
 - e) Mojave Desert
 - f) The Pacific Ocean and one major bay
9. Learn about California's natural history. Be able to identify:
 - a) 3 trees
 - b) 3 shrubs
 - c) 3 cacti
 - d) 3 wild flowers
 - e) 5 mammals
 - f) 5 birds
 - g) 5 reptiles
 - h) 5 ocean animals
10. Take a hike or a drive in California that passes through two or more life zones or ecosystems. Learn the name of the life zones and how and why they are different.
11. Visit the ocean, a sea park or an aquarium. Learn about the ocean environment, such as plants and animals that live in and near the ocean.

12. Visit the state capital in Sacramento, or write or talk to the state legislator from your community. What does she or he do? What is the job of the governor? Who is she or he?
13. Participate in an activity that helps keep California beautiful, such as picking up trash or planting trees or flowers.
14. Learn about earthquakes and what causes them. Find two major faults on a map. Learn three ways to prepare for a quake and three things to do (or not to do) during a quake.

*This badge is based on the Arizona Junior Badge developed by Junior Troop 92 of Townsend Service Unit and adapted by Vickie Danton.