



Exploring Theatre

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to encourage Girl Scouts to explore the art of storytelling through Theatre. In addition to performance, girls will have the opportunity to explore various elements of theatrical design and production.



LEGACY

This program was developed by Ambassador Girl Scout Linda S. from Troop 20570 in 2022 to encourage Girl Scouts to explore all that theatre has to offer.

GIRL SCOUT LEVELS / REQUIREMENTS

To earn this badge, Girl Scouts must complete a Take Action Project along with the following requirements. They are encouraged to complete at least one activity from each section: Discover and Connect.

- Daisy Girl Scouts: complete 3 activities
- Brownie Girl Scouts: complete 4 activities
- Junior Girl Scouts: complete 6 activities
- Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts: complete 7 activities

Please review the [Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for All Girl Scouts](#).

RESOURCES

Resources have been linked throughout this packet for different activities.

ACTIVITIES

DISCOVER

- **ACTIVITY #1: Research the history of Theatre!**
Did you know that Theatre dates all the way back to ancient Greece? As far as we can tell, the first actor was a Greek man named Thespis, which is where the term “thespian” comes from! Research the history of theatre by starting with these eras:
 - Shakespeare
 - Restoration
 - Golden age
 - Ancient Greece
- **ACTIVITY #2: Research styles of Theatre**
Did you know there are many different types of theatre? Explore at least three unique types of theatre. Here are some examples to get you started:
 - Feminist Theater
 - Musical Theatre
 - Straight plays
 - Farce, Comedies
 - Devised Theatre
 - Adaptations
- **ACTIVITY #3: Female Playwrights**
Research at least three female playwrights! You can read or watch snippets of their plays to become familiar with their work and style of writing! Here are some names to get you started:
 - Mary Zimmerman
 - Ntozake Shange
 - Lillian Helman
 - Caryl Churchill
 - Timberlake Wertenbaker

Here are some playwrights with their own websites:

- Lauren Gunderson - <https://www.laurengunderson.com/>
 - Sarah Ruhl - <https://www.sarahruhlplaywright.com/>
 - Lynn Nottage - <http://www.lynnnottage.com/>
- **ACTIVITY #4: Careers in Theatre**
Learn about at least three different careers in theatre! There are many different career paths you can pursue in the world of theatre, here are a few to research to get you started:
 - Director



- Actor
 - Lighting Designer
 - Scenic Designer
 - Costume Designer
 - Properties Designer
 - Sound Designer
 - Audio Engineer
 - Production Stage Manager
 - Dramaturg
- **ACTIVITY #5: Theatre Terminology**
Learn about theatrical terminology! Become familiar with the terminology that members of a production know to understand where they are in the theatre. Here are some terms to begin researching:
 - Downstage
 - Upstage
 - Stage left
 - Stage right
 - Center
 - Proscenium Arch
 - Apron
 - Places
 - Off Book
 - Designer Run
 - Preview
 - Opening
 - Closing
 - Strike

CONNECT

- **ACTIVITY #6: Scenes & Monologues**
Study a scene/monologue! One of the best ways to become connected to theatre is by studying a scene or monologue that speaks to you! If performing doesn't interest you, that's ok! Choose a scene from your favorite performance and study it from the perspective of one of the following:
 - Actor
 - Think about the motivation of the character you're playing in the scene (what does your character want and what actions will they take to get it?)
 - Director
 - Look at the scene and decide how you would direct an actor. Would you tell them to move to a different place on the stage?



Sit down? Stand up? Play out the scene in your mind and decide how you would explain it to an actor to see your vision come to life!

- Lighting Designer
 - Consider what lights you would like to see in this scene. What color are they? Are they flashing? You decide!
- Sound Designer
 - What sound effects would you add to this scene?
- Set Designer
 - Decide what set you would need for the scene. Would you incorporate chairs? Tables? A door? You decide!
- Costume designer
 - Are the characters in the scene wearing dresses? Pants? Skirts? What colors are their costumes? Do the colors represent a deeper meaning?

- **ACTIVITY #7: Watch a Performance**
Watch a theatre performance!
 - Go see a live show in your area!
 - Look online for recorded productions to watch!

- **ACTIVITY #8: Theatre Professionals**
Reach out to a professional in your community! Here are some ideas of who you could reach out to:
 - Director
 - Actor
 - Lighting Designer
 - Scenic Designer
 - Costume Designer
 - Properties Designer
 - Sound Designer
 - Audio Engineer
 - Production Stage Manager
 - Dramaturg

TAKE ACTION

Share what you've discovered while doing this program by completing a Take Action Project. Some suggestions are listed below:

- Put on a performance!



- Your troop can be both cast and crew for your very own production, or you can find another way to get involved!
- Audition for a local theatre company or go to a theatre summer camp!
- Use what you've learned to accomplish one of the following!
 - Write a scene.
 - Design costumes.
 - Design a set.
- Volunteer at a local theatre or at your school's next performance.