



Lighthouses

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to educate Girl Scouts about the history of lighthouses, and the importance of the restoration and preservation efforts for them.



GIRL SCOUT LEVELS / REQUIREMENTS

To earn the Lighthouses patch, Girl Scouts need to 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: 3 activities
- Brownie Girl Scouts: 4 activities
- Junior Girl Scouts: 6 activities
- Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts: 8 activities

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

RESOURCES

- Useful resources can be discovered online or by visiting your local county library and museums. A resource to get you started are below.
 - <https://www.us-lighthouses.com/>
- NOTE: Many lighthouses have height requirements for making the climb to the top. Please be sure to verify these requirements before arriving to avoid any disappointment.

ACTIVITIES

DISCOVER

- **ACTIVITY #1: Why a Lighthouse?**
Find out more about lighthouses by answering the questions below.
 - What is the purpose of lighthouses?
 - Where do you find lighthouses?
 - Why are they located there?
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- **ACTIVITY #2: Lighthouse History**
Learn about the history of lighthouses and lightships. Who is a Pharologist?
- **ACTIVITY #3: Nautical Terms**
Gain knowledge of at least 10 nautical terms associated with lighthouses.
- **ACTIVITY #4: Lighthouse Lights**
Determine the different types of lenses used in lighthouses and how they function.
- **ACTIVITY #5: Lighthouse Managers**
 - In the United States, the National Park Service or the US Coast Guard maintains most lighthouses. Find out more about these organizations.
 - How many lighthouses are in the United States? How many of these are still active?
 - Now think global. Research how lighthouses are managed in other countries.

CONNECT

- **ACTIVITY #6: Build a Lighthouse Model**
Look at pictures of lighthouses near you or a lighthouse that you would like to visit. Then, do one of the following:
 - Make a papier-mâché or other type of model of a lighthouse.
 - Draw, color or paint a picture of a lighthouse.
 - Design your own lighthouse. Sketch and label key components of your lighthouse. Describe where your lighthouse would be located.
- **ACTIVITY #7: Become a Lighthouse Keeper**
Learn what a lighthouse keeper does and how to become one. Find out about at least 1 female lighthouse keeper.
- **ACTIVITY #8: Lighthouse Technology**
Discover how technology has changed lighthouses. What kind of technology is used today to operate modern lighthouses?
- **ACTIVITY #9: Lighthouse Lore**
Read stories about haunted lighthouses and lighthouse lore.
- **ACTIVITY #10: Visit a Lighthouse**
Visit a lighthouse in person or read about a lighthouse in your area as described online.



TAKE ACTION

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

- Be a Volunteer in Your Community
 - Volunteer your time with a local lighthouse/National Park Service. Discuss with the organization the possibility of creating a nautical memorial garden for the site. The garden could contain a sign commemorating a local lighthouse historical person or specific feat that occurred or any use any other idea that you might have.
- Become a Preservationist
 - Select a project that will help preserve a lighthouse, or spread the word about lighthouse preservation efforts.
- Share in Your Community
 - Create a nautical path trail at a local National Lighthouse Park. The trail could contain stations that teach nautical terms.
 - Create a display that illustrates the history of lighthouses. Share your display at your local library, school, or other community location.
 - Organize a Nautical Day in your Girl Scout community. Plan fun activities, crafts and snacks that relate to anything nautical and information about lighthouses.
- Knots
 - Learn the top ten essential knots used in sailing. Create a board that displays the knots or create a teaching board on which younger girls can practice tying the knots. Donate the board to your local Girl Scout camp or Park Service.
- Your Choice
 - Any other activity that you can create that would teach others about lighthouses and/or nautical work in your community.