

Discover Southern Alabama

For: All Girl Scout Age Levels

Objectives: This patch demonstrates to members of Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama many different educational, cultural, service-oriented, and fun opportunities available to explore in our 30-county Council area.

Guidelines: Complete the following number of activities for each level, including at least one from each category.

- Daisies complete 5 activities
- Brownies complete 7 activities
- Juniors complete 8 activities
- Cadettes complete 9 activities
- Senior/Ambassadors complete 10 activities

(Please check patch availability at <http://www.girlscoutshop.com/SOUTHERN-ALABAMA-COUNCIL> before beginning activities.)

Discover:

Find out about your hometown. When was it established, and who were the first settlers?

Find out Alabama's state tree, flower, and bird.

What is Alabama's nickname and why?

Discover where the first state capitol was located in southern Alabama.

Find out which city in Alabama served as the capitol of the Confederate States of America.

Daisies and Brownies only: Find your hometown on a map of Alabama and put a star by it. Find the Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama camp closest to your hometown and mark it. Which of the GSSA council camps is the farthest from your home?

Research two colleges in southern Alabama that you might want to attend. What are the qualifications for acceptance? Do they offer courses in your career choices? Ask whether earning the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award would increase your chances of being accepted or help with scholarship awards.

Find out where and when the first oil well in Alabama was drilled.

Alabama was the entry point for last known illegal shipment of slaves that entered the United States. Research and locate on a map this entry point. What was the name of this ship? What is the community called?



Connect:

Visit at least two state parks in southern Alabama. Our Council is home to 10 state parks.

Visit a Girl Scout camp that you have never been to before. For Daisies and Brownies, you must take a hike and have a picnic. For Juniors and older, you must spend the night there and take a trail hike. Interview the camp ranger to find out what is special about their camp.

Visit at least two historical sites in southern Alabama and find out their significance to that community. Some interesting places to visit are: USS Alabama, Fort Morgan, Fort Gaines, Bottle Creek Sites, Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Civil War Battlefields at Fort Blakely, Pratt Cotton Gin Mill in Prattville, Landmark Park in Dothan, Alabama State Capitol, or Old Alabama Town. Or learn about 2 sites of historical significance in your local community.

Alabama was the capitol of the Confederate States of America. Locate and visit the First White House of the Confederacy and the Museum of the Confederacy. Find out 3 facts about the Civil War in Alabama.

Visit at least two tourist attractions in southern Alabama that you have never visited before. Some interesting places to visit are: Bellingrath Gardens, Montgomery Zoo, Gulf Shores Zoo, Gulf Coast Exploreum, GulfQuest Maritime Museum, W. A. Gayle Planetarium, and many others.

Alabama is the home of civil rights. Visit a place of civil rights significance. For example, you could walk the path of this struggle by visiting the National Voting Rights Museum and walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, or visit the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery.

Festivals are held all over southern Alabama. Attend one and draw or paint a promotional poster for it. Some festivals that you might want to attend are: Greekfest in Mobile, International Festival in Mobile, Blessing of the Fleet in Bayou La Batre, Poarch Creek Indian Pow Wow in Atmore, German Sausage Festival in Elberta, Peanut Festival in Dothan, Alabama State Fair in Montgomery, etc.

Participate in a GSSA-sponsored trip in Alabama.

Visit and/or learn about a site that explores Alabama's Native American heritage.

Alabama is ranked second nationally in catfish farms. Visit a local catfish farm or take a fishing trip.

Alabama has many waterways: lakes, rivers and bays. Take a canoe, kayak, or boat ride with your troop or family and explore a new area you have never been before.

Research and/or visit an industry in your community. Find out when the company was started, who founded it, what products are made, and how they are used, what is used to make them, where they are sold, how many people are employed, and what this industry contributes to your community. A few points of interest are: Hyundai Motor Manufacturing offers tours (Montgomery County), Austal and Airbus (Mobile County).

Take Action:

Commit to service hours for an organization that benefits your community, such as a homeless shelter, zoo or botanical garden, or animal shelter.

Participate in an awareness walk or run for cancer, diabetes, heart health, etc. What did you learn? Why is it important to help others? Can one person make a difference?

Take part in a clean-up event in your area such as Coastal Cleanup, or hold your own clean-up event with your troop.

Volunteer at a museum or historic site to help others learn about your community.

Volunteer at a GSSA program that helps younger Girl Scouts get to know their community or camp.

Revised March 2017