

## Girl Scout Badges: Then & Now



*Girl Scouting has always been in the forefront of encouraging girls to explore the world beyond their doorstep, whether it's around town or around the world. Juliette Low included badges in her first handbook, "How Girls Can Help Their Country," that were considered quite controversial for the time. Girls had the opportunity to learn about topics from flying an airplane to playing basketball. (When girls played basketball, they had to draw curtains around the court so the public would not see them in their bloomers.) How far we have come! Check out some of the different badges from—*

### **Then (1920s) & Now (2011/2012)**

- **TELEGRAPHER BADGE:** Send 22 words per minute using a sounder and American Morse code. Receive 25 words per minute and write out messages in longhand.

**DIGITAL MOVING-MAKER BADGE:** Girl Scout Cadettes can choose to make a movie about the history of Girl Scouting in their area, in their family, or to create their own update of The Golden Eaglet, featuring a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient or Young Woman of Distinction in their community.

- **HEALTH WINNER BADGE:** Go to bed by 9:30 p.m. Do not go to parties or any other late entertainment on nights before school or work. Eat no sweets except for dessert.

**MY BEST SELF BADGE:** Girl Scout Brownies learn about healthy eating and taking care of their bodies through activities such as—*Moving helps our bodies feel happier, Draw your "feelings faces," Try three new foods that are good for you—and more.*

- **ECONOMIST BADGE:** Keep clothing in good repair. Spend allowance money on good quality stockings, shoes, and gloves.

**PRODUCT DESIGNER:** Through activities—such as *Analyzing a group of existing products, Interviewing a friend or family member and ask how they use a product, Building a prototype,* and more!—Girl Scout Juniors observe what makes a great product and about innovation that improves people’s lives.

- **CYCLIST BADGE:** Own your own bicycle and pledge yourself to offer it to the government in case of need. Know how to fix a flat tire and read a map.

**CAR CARE:** Through activities such as—*Learn which factors affect insurance cost, Which cars are safest, Learn three maintenance techniques, Drive for a greener world,* Girl Scout Seniors learn to master maintenance tips that keep a car in top form and driving skills that will help you rule the road safely for you and the environment.

- **MATRON HOUSEKEEPING BADGE:** Use a vacuum cleaner or stain and polish hardwood floors. Store fur and flannels. Clean glass, kitchen utensils, brass, and silver. Know three cuts of meat and prices of each.

**ROOM MAKEOVER:** Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors will combine color, texture, glue and paint to develop some serious DIY flair! Look around for a room that inspires you and use this badge to discover the design concepts and fix-it tactics needed to turn a simple space into a creative statement. Activities include—Shadow an interior designer or attend a decorating course, learn about Feng Shui, Build something out of wood or metal—and more!

- **ELECTRICIAN BADGE:** Learn simple battery connections and fusions. Know how to rescue and resuscitate someone who has been electrocuted. Understand about non-conducting substances and insulation.

**SCIENCE OF STYLE:** Girl Scout Cadettes can imagine farming silkworms to make raw silk, engineering a biodegradable fabric, or using chemistry to develop a cover-up that hides and heals acne scars. Activities include—testing skin care and makeup products, creating a scent, conducting a social style experiment and more!

- **SIGNALER BADGE:** Send and receive a message using Semaphone and Morse code. Be able to code more than 50 words per minute.

**PUBLIC SPEAKER:** Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors learn tips on feeling comfortable with public speaking find their inner performer as they focus on activities including—*Performing at school, Giving a speech about a cause they care about, Taming stage fright, and more!*

- **INTERPRETER BADGE:** Be able to carry on a simple conversation in another language. Write a letter in a foreign language. Read or translate a passage from a book or newspaper in French, German, Italian, or any other language not your own.

**NETTIQUETTE BADGE:** Our digital world makes it easy to stay in touch and share friendships, memories and ideas. Girl Scout Cadettes take a look at e-mail, social networking and blogging with activities that include—*Creating a great social media profile, E-mail etiquette, Learning how online communications can be misunderstood and cause hurt feelings, and more!*

*Girl Scouts have always been known for helping their communities. In each skill-building badge and legacy badge set there are Take-Action suggestions that give girls ideas for completing a Take-Action project related to their badge.*