ARIZONA INTEREST BADGE for JUNIORS

Our state’s heritage, parks, national monuments, plants, animals and out-of-doors are unique to Arizona. Taking care of our state is important to all of us. What better way to appreciate the great state of Arizona!

The Arizona Interest badge expands to new areas within the history, geography, and culture of our state. Girls are to complete one activity in each of the five categories. **At least one activity chosen must have ★ by the choice to complete the badge.**

ARIZONA’S ECONOMY

1. Arizona’s economy was traditionally known for the 5C’s (citrus, cotton, cattle, climate and copper). Which of the five C’s are important sources of employment in the area where you live? Are the 5C’s still important in Arizona’s economy? Explore other important economic resources in the Arizona economy. Share what you have learned with others.

2. Transportation in Arizona has changed over many years. Give examples of modes of transportation used in Arizona prior to 1840, 1840-1912, and 1912 to present. Write a brief story on a mode of transportation that was once common but is no longer widely used. Explain why this style of transportation is no longer popular. OR Write about a form of transportation that has been present in Arizona for generations, and how this mode of transportation and its routes have evolved over the years. Share your findings.

3. Select three cities from a rural, a mid-sized and an urban area in Arizona. Using resources such as Census data, document the populations of these cities or towns approximately every 30 years from 1950 to present by organizing this information into a graph or timeline. Did the populations for each town increase, decrease or remain the same? If there was a noticeable change in population, what was the reason for this change?

ARIZONA’S ENVIRONMENT

1.★ Visit a wildlife park, zoo, refuge, sanctuary or rehabilitation center in Arizona. Give examples of four endangered wildlife species that live or migrate in Arizona. What are the causes of their endangerment? What is being done to protect these endangered species in Arizona? Are these efforts successful?

2.★ Plants that need little water are native to Arizona because they can live in a desert environment. Visit the Desert Botanical Garden, Sonoran Desert Museum, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Saguaro National Monument, Organ Pipe National Monument, or other Arizona location that specializes in desert plants. What is special about these plants that helps them to survive with little water? Which of these plants are found mainly or only in Arizona? Share what you have learned.
3. Arizona has little rainfall. Xeriscape is a way of landscaping with plants that need little water. Visit a nursery or gardening department near your home. What plants do they have that need little water? Find examples in your community where xeriscape is used. What are things you can do to conserve water where you live? Share what you learned with others.

PEOPLE OF ARIZONA
1. Give three examples of traditional Native American dwellings used by tribes in Arizona. Illustrate all three or make models of two examples and share with others. What type of housing do Native American tribes in Arizona live in now? How were/are these homes appropriate for the environment and lifestyle of the people who call them home?
2. Women played an important role in settling Arizona. Learn about a woman who has made a difference in her community in Arizona. Find out about her life, her community, her family and people she worked with to reach a goal. Share what you discover about her life and the changes she caused.
3. Immigration is an ongoing process in Arizona. Who were the first people to settle in Arizona? Where were they from and why did they come here? Who were the early settlers (1700-1912) who came to Arizona? Where were they from and why did they come here? Who are the new people currently moving to Arizona and why do they come here? Which trends stay the same? Which trends have changed?

ARTS AND CULTURE
1. Western movies often glorified life in the Old West and life for early settlers in Arizona. Watch a classic western movie. Some Western movies were filmed in Monument Valley in northern Arizona or Old Tucson. Stars of classic western movies include Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Rex Allen, the Lone Ranger, Tom Mix and later, Clint Eastwood. Was the movie realistic? How do you think settlers moving to the Arizona territory affected people who had lived in Arizona prior to their arrival?
2. Explore local cooking in Arizona. Collect five recipes special to the Southwest. Which ingredients or techniques are unique to the Southwest? Prepare two recipes to share.
3. Visit an Arizona museum or attend a special event to learn about the following crafts: beading, pottery making, rug weaving, making baskets or silver jewelry. Observe how these crafts are made. Determine the amount of time it takes the artist to complete a project. How long does it take this artist to become proficient in their skill? Make two small projects using techniques you observed of artists making these crafts. Share what you made and what you have learned with your troop.

ARIZONA HISTORY AND CHANGE
1. Find an old photo of a building or landmark in your Arizona community (at least 50 years old). Take a picture of this building or landmark at approximately the same viewpoint from where the old photo was taken. Compare the two photos. How has this landmark changed? How has it remained the same?
2. Since the U. S. government first established early forts, the military has had a presence in Arizona. Name and locate four military installations past or present in Arizona. What is/was the purpose of each military installation? Have the reasons for their presence changed over time?
3. Name four people who played a role in Arizona’s history in the 1900s. What did they do to change Arizona? How many of the four people you selected were women? Write a brief biographical story of one of the people you selected and share what you learned.
RESOURCES
- Phoenix Then and Now by Paul Scharbach (2005, 2008)
- U. S. Census Bureau website (for population statistics): www.census.gov