



NETWORKING

A GS NORCAL COUNCIL'S OWN BADGE PROGRAM

CADETTES, SENIORS & AMBASSADORS

TO ENCOURAGE AND INSPIRE GIRLS TO EXPLORE THE
AMAZING WORLD OF NETWORKING.



PURPOSE

Did you know that as a Girl Scout in the San Francisco Bay Area Council, you are part of a group of over 46,000 girls and volunteers? You are part of a family of 3.5 million members in the United States. Have you ever wondered in the 95 years Girl Scouting has been around, how many women were once Girls Scouts? Discover what it means to be an alumna, how past alumni connect, and work towards building stronger networks for alumni of the future. Completing this Badge allows you to explore one of the largest and potentially most powerful networks of women in the United States. Just imagine the possibilities.

REQUIREMENTS

To earn an Badge patch, you must complete at least seven activities as follows:

- Two Skill Builders activities
- One Technology activity
- One Service Project activity
- One Career Exploration activity
- Two activities from any category that you choose

All members of Girl Scouts are eligible to earn the Networking Badge.

The Networking Badge is an official award and should be worn on the front of the vest or sash.

ORDER INFORMATION

To order the Networking Badge please visit www.girlscoutsnorcal.org and purchase the items online. Please note that shipping and handling will be added to all online orders.

Members of Girl Scouts of Northern California will not be charged for shipping and handling if they use the GS NorCal Council's Own Order Form and have badges shipped to the closest GS NorCal store in their area for members to pick up.

ORDER PATCHES ONLINE AT WWW.GIRLSCOUTSNORCAL.ORG
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PATCH PROGRAMS CONTACT PATCHES@GIRLSCOUTSNORCAL.ORG

NETWORKING BADGE FOR CADETTE, SENIOR & AMBASSADOR GIRL SCOUTS

SKILL BUILDERS

1. Look up the word networking and discuss its definition. Are there different types of networking? How does the Internet play a role? How does being a Girl Scout alumni fit into this definition? Use keywords like communication and connecting to help define what it means to be alumni.
2. Interview Girl Scout Alumni. Find out what their favorite experiences were. What does being alumni mean to them? Are they still in contact with members of their troop? How did Girl Scouting prepare them for the career they have chosen?
3. It is important to understand how much of an impact online networking has made. Design a troop/girl account on a popular online networking site such as MySpace or Facebook. Use this account specifically for Girl Scout related activities. Be sure to include links to your local council, local alumni, and GSUSA.
4. Obtain a copy of a council newsletter that is sent to alumni or donors. Read it over and find all about the alumni in your area. Do you know any of the alumni?
5. Ask all adult women in your area if they were Girl Scouts such as teachers, coaches, businesswomen, friends, relatives, etc. Identify alumni who then can help you identify another and so on until you have identified five or more. If you are unable to connect all five, look for as many alumni as you can.

TECHNOLOGY

1. What are other councils doing to attract alumni? What is your council doing? Check out five different council websites for the alumni happenings. Do they produce newsletters? Are their events? Get informed on the happenings in your area.
2. How have advances in technology made networking easier? Harder? Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of the growing online social networking communities.
3. Calling all Girl Scout Alumni! Get your journalistic cap on. Create a flyer that can be sent out to all friends and family via e-mail. Include a form that can be sent back or mailed-in that includes their contact information. Get as many alumni contacts as you can.
4. Do an internet search or library search for famous/prominent Girl Scouts. Find two names that are unfamiliar to you and do more research on them. Who are they? What do/did they do? When were they Girl Scouts? If possible/applicable, try to conduct an interview with those women.
5. With the help of your council, create an organization chart or Excel spreadsheet showing the financial impact that alumni's support can provide. Create different charts that display what the financial situation would be like with lots of alumni financial support and no financial support. What would Girl Scouting be for you if there was no alumni support? Would it change? Would it be the same?

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NETWORKING BADGE FOR CADETTE, SENIOR & AMBASSADOR GIRL SCOUTS CON'T.

SERVICE PROJECTS

1. Design a website that has information for alumni in your area. Include information on what Girl Scouts in your area are up to, as well as links for what the alumni in the area are up to. What is the council doing for alumni? Keep them updated!
2. Volunteer at an upcoming alumni event. Work with the event coordinator.
3. Design a flyer or postcard that can be given out to any alumni that you find. The card should have spaces for alumni to put their contact details, mention the Girl Scout alumni website, and can possibly be distributed with the product sales or troop/girl activities.
 - a. Design thank you notes that can be sent out to all alumni who have volunteered their information for our alumni database.
4. It's important to build connections now while you're still an active Girl Scout. Adopt a younger troop as your sister troop or contact a troop from another state and become troop pen pals with them. Discuss what networking means to you and how you'll stay in touch even after you're done with Girl Scouting.
5. Create a contract that you'll sign, saying when you are no longer a girl member or active Girl Scout, you will do your best to make sure the council has your contact details so you can become a Girl Scout alumni.
6. Write a newspaper article about a Girl Scout who is making a difference in your community or a former Girl Scout who is in a position of power/prominence. Do a full profile story and submit it to a local newspaper, and include information for reaching out to Girl Scout Alumni.

CAREER EXPLORATION

1. Facebook, MySpace, Classalumni.com, and Yahoo Groups are all examples of networks. Can you think of other popular networking companies? Investigate careers that are possible through networking, both online and social. Try looking at careers in marketing, sales, advertising, or communications. Identify at least five careers that involve networking and explore what the requirements are for going into their fields.
2. In the past five years, how has the Internet revolutionized the way society networks? What did groups do before MySpace? What did groups do before e-mail and the internet.
3. Get going, get involved! Find out when the next Service Unit meeting is in your area. Join in on the networking process and help the search for alumni continue.

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