



Windows to the Past

1940 – 1949

Girls Scouts was founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low. In 1911, Juliette met Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who introduced her to the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movement. Juliette brought the movement back to the United States and started the first troop on March 12, 1912. The Windows to the Past program will let your troop experience some of the activities that Girl Scouts did during the decade we are working on. Girls need to complete four activities to earn the 1940 – 1949 lapel pin that can be purchased at the council shop.





When Germany invaded Poland in 1939, World War II began, but the United States did not get involved until 1941 after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The first half of the 1940s saw Girl Scouts and their families planting Victory Gardens, rationing sugar, coffee, rubber and gasoline and 'Making-do and Mending' their clothing to preserve resources for the war effort.

To learn more about the history of Girl Scouts visit www.girlscouts.org.

What was going on in Girl Scouts during 1940 – 1949?

1940

The Curved Bar is the highest award in Girl Scouting from 1940 to 1963. The embroidered arc patch is used at first because of metal shortage during the war. The Curved Bar pin, introduced in the fall of 1947, is used until 1963. The Curved Bar is replaced by the First Class Patch and Challenge Pins in 1963.

1941

A pamphlet for Girl Scout volunteers, *Volunteers for Victory*, seeks to enlist adults as leaders and encourages them to make Girl Scouting part of their wartime job.

During World War II, program efforts are focused on skills involving community service: caring for children, communicating messages, making and collecting clothing, and preparing and preserving food within the confines of wartime restrictions.

Brownie, Intermediate, and Senior Girl Scouts tend Victory Gardens in camps, in their communities, and at home. During summer and harvest months, girls are busy weeding, cultivating, spraying, and picking crops.

1944

More than a quarter of a million Girl Scouts go to camp in 1944.

Girl Scouts sell calendars instead of cookies due to ingredient rations during World War II.

1945

Senior Girl Scouting, published in 1945, is the first complete Senior Girl Scout handbook. New projects are added, such as Occupational Therapist's Aide and Office and Library Aide.

1947

The new Girl Scout Handbook, published in 1947, is prepared with input from Girl Scouts across the country. It features a new focus on agriculture, with badges such as Poultry Raiser, Truck Gardener and Beekeeper.

1948

A three-cent commemorative stamp honoring Juliette Low is issued by the US Post Office.

What was going on in the world during 1940 – 1949?

1940

Italy declares war against France and the United Kingdom.

France falls to Germany in World War II.

The Naval Expansion Act is signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, increasing the capacity of the U.S. Navy by 11%.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is officially dedicated by President Roosevelt.

The US Congress approves the first peacetime conscription draft.

President Roosevelt wins his third presidential election, becoming the first person to hold presidential office for three terms.

The 1940 census indicates a US population of 132,164,569.

1941

The Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor.

The US declares war on Japan, Germany and Italy, thus entering World War II.

The Jeep is invented.

Mount Rushmore is completed.

Girl Scouts are urged to purchase and save 25-cent Defense Stamps. When girls had collected \$18.75 worth, they could exchange the stamps for a \$25 Defense Bond.

The Wing Scout Program begins for girls “interested in flying and wanting to learn enough about aviation to serve their country.”

The United States occupies Iceland, attempting to thwart a potential invasion by Nazi Germany.

The Atlantic Charter is issued by President Roosevelt and Great Britain’s Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Ted Williams ends the 1941 baseball season with a .400 batting average, the last player to accomplish that feat.

1942

Anne Frank goes into hiding.

The T-shirt is introduced.

Gasoline, sugar, coffee and rubber footwear are rationed in the United States.

Bicycles, typewriters, cars and tires are rationed in the United States.

The first American offensive of World War II takes place when US Marines land on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

1943

The US encounters its first major defeat in the European theater of World War II at the Battle for Kasserine Pass in Tunisia.

Processed food, meats, cheeses, canned milk and shoes are rationed in the US.

The Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. is dedicated by President Roosevelt on the 200th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth.

The US invades the island of Sicily, off the coast of Italy.

Detroit and Harlem race riots take place.

The Tehran Conference is held between US President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Churchill, and Soviet Premier Josef Stalin about a planned invasion of Europe with the code name Operation Overlord.

1944

The Invasion of Normandy, or D-Day, occurs when 155,000 Allied troops from 12 countries storm the beaches of France to begin the invasion of Europe that would lead to the liberation of Paris.

Ration coins are introduced, allowing retailers to give change back for food bought with ration stamps.

The G.I. Bill of Rights is signed into law, providing benefits to veterans.

The US military retakes the island of Guam from the Japanese.

President Roosevelt gains his fourth term as president of the United States.

Ballpoint pens go on sale.

1945

The first computer is built (ENIAC).

The microwave oven is invented by Percy Spencer.

Slinky toy hits stores.

The United Nations is founded.

The Yalta Conference with President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Premier Stalin. is held. The Soviet Union agrees to enter the war in the Pacific against Japan.

Twelve hundred and fifty U.S. bombers attack Berlin, causing Adolf Hitler to announce the destruction of his own industries and military installations.

President Roosevelt dies and Vice President Harry S. Truman becomes president and commander in chief of World War II.

Germany surrenders at Reims, France.

Hitler commits suicide.

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan takes place.

Japan surrenders.

1946

The first meeting of the United Nations general assembly occurs.

Four hundred thousand mine workers begin to strike, with other industries following their lead.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) is founded.

The Philippines are given their independence by the United States.

Bikinis are introduced.

1946

Juan Perón becomes president of Argentina.

The Nuremberg Trials take place. The trials are a series of military tribunals that hold the political, military and economic leaders of Nazi Germany accountable for crimes committed during the war. The most famous, the Trial of the Major War Criminals, tries 24 of the most important captured Nazi leaders before the International Military Tribunal.

1947

Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier.

The Dead Sea Scrolls are discovered.

Polaroid cameras are invented.

The Truman Doctrine is passed by the U.S. Congress, granting \$400 million in aid to Greece and Turkey to battle Communist terrorism.

The United Nations Security Council unanimously approves the trusteeship of Pacific Islands formerly controlled by Japan to the United States.

Jackie Robinson, the first African-American major league baseball player, debuts at first base for Branch Rickey's Brooklyn Dodgers.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is established by President Truman in North Dakota.

Secretary of State George C. Marshall proposes aid extension to European nations for war recovery. Congress approves \$12 billion in aid through "The Marshall Plan" in the next four years.

1948

The Soviet Union begins its land blockade of the Allied sectors of Berlin, Germany. A counter blockade by the west is put into effect, as well as a British and US airlift of supplies and food, known as the Berlin Airlift.

The Organization of American States is founded by 21 nations to provide a mutual security pact after World War II.

President Truman signs Executive Order 9981, ending racial segregation in the US military.

The "Big Bang" Theory of the origin of the universe is formulated.

The policy of apartheid begins in South Africa.

Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated. Gandhi helped India gain independence through peaceful mass civil resistance. His ideas inspired movements for freedom and civil rights around the world.

The State of Israel is founded.

1949

Captain James Gallagher completes the first around-the-world non-stop airplane flight.

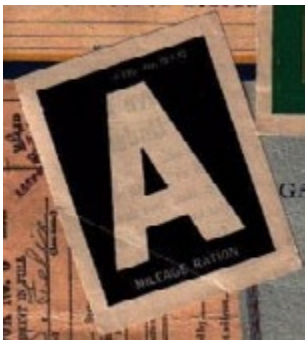
The US withdraws its troops from Korea.

The North American Treaty Organization, NATO, is formed by the US, Canada and ten Western European nations, stating that any attack against one nation would be considered an attack against them all.

Eleven leaders of the US Communist party are convicted of advocating a violent insurrection and overthrow of the US government.

China becomes Communist.

George Orwell publishes Nineteen Eighty-Four.



By the end of 1942, half of U.S automobiles were issued an 'A' sticker which allowed 4 gallons of fuel per week. That sticker was issued to owners whose use of their cars was nonessential. Hand the pump jockey your Mileage Ration Book coupons and cash, and she (yes, female service station attendants because the guys were over there) could sell you three or four gallons a week, no more. For nearly a year, A-stickered cars were not to be driven for pleasure at all.

The green 'B' sticker was for driving deemed essential to the war effort; industrial war workers, for example, could purchase eight gallons a week. Red 'C' stickers indicated physicians, ministers, mail carriers and railroad workers. 'T' was for truckers, and the rare 'X' sticker went to members of Congress and other VIPs. Truckers supplying the population with supplies had a T sticker for unlimited amounts of fuel.



Below are pictures of 1940's Girls Scout uniforms, a cookie ad and cookie box from the 1940s.





Program

Complete four of these activities to earn your lapel pin; adapt the activities to fit your age level.

1

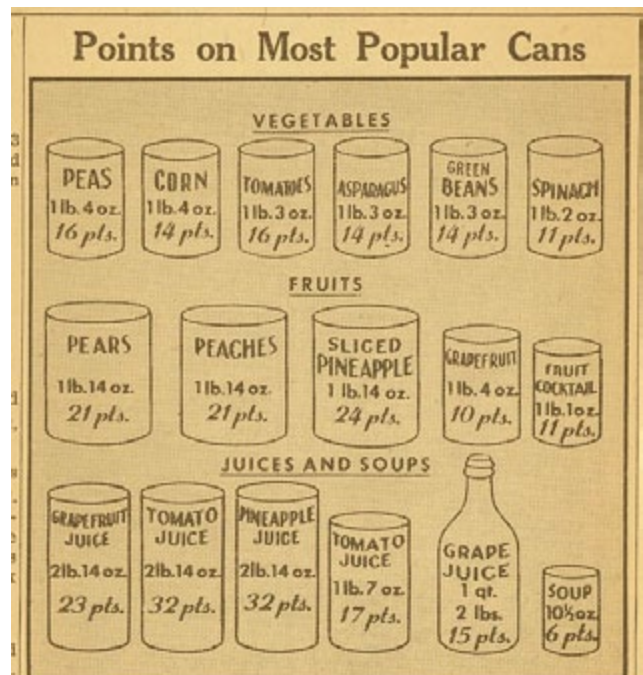
Research and grow a Victory Garden. What did they have to do with the war effort and how were they important? What types of vegetables were planted in a Victory Garden?

2

Once the United States joined World War II, many jobs that had previously only been open to men were now being filled by women. Think of an occupation that has historically been held only by men or only by women. What are the qualifications needed to fulfill that role? Is this a job you could do?

3

During the war, rationing was put into place and monitored by the Office of Price Administration to conserve resources for the war effort. Every person was issued a 'ration book' that contained stamps or coins worth so many points. Food items, shoes and gasoline were some items that were rationed during the war. Customers purchased these items with ration stamps. Using the chart below, how would you use your 48 points per month to feed yourself and your family members?



This chart, prepared by the office of price administration, shows the most widely sold canned foods with their approximate weights and point values. The sizes of the vegetables in the top row are known as No. 2 cans. If a person bought three of these cans of peas, for example, during March he would just use up his 48-points of coupons allotted each person for the month. He could then purchase no other canned, dried or frozen goods in March, but other members of the family could with their coupons.



4

Make-do and mend was a popular theme during World War II. According to Life Magazine in 1942 "...restrictions aim to save 15 percent of the yardage now used on women's and girls' apparel through such measures as restricting hems and belts to two inches, eliminating cuffs on sleeves. Exempt categories include bridal gowns, maternity dresses, vestments for religious orders." Not only were these changes implemented, but people were encouraged to go through their closets and 'mend' any worn out, or damaged clothing, rather than purchasing new clothes, in order to conserve resources. Go through your closet. Do you have any clothes that need to be "mended"? Find and repair three items of clothing so that you, or someone else, can wear them longer before replacing the items with new ones.

5

Interview someone who lived during World War II and find out what life was like during the war.

WWII ration booklets, wallets and stamps.

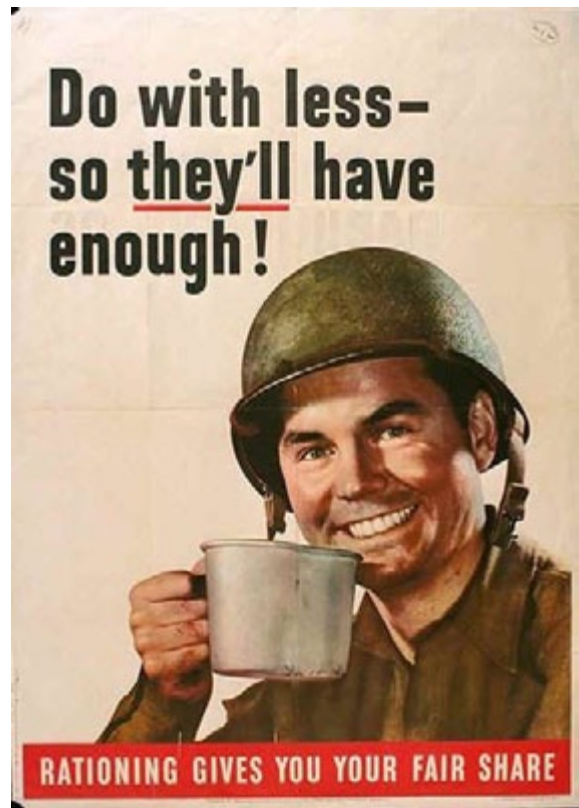


6

Learn how to preserve food. Choose one fruit and one vegetable of your choice and preserve it for usage at a later date. Prepare a meal, or a recipe, using your preserved items. If you'd like, preserve your own jam or jelly.

7

Research the restrictions that were put out during World War II. What were they and how were they beneficial to the war effort? Do you think any of these restrictions might be good ideas to implement today? Why or why not? Discuss it with the group.



Fliers and posters encouraging rationing.

Ration Stamps



girl scouts
1912-2012