



## Windows to the Past

# 1950 – 1959

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 1950 – 1959 lapel pin that can be purchased at the council shop.



Dr. Benjamin Spock's book, *Baby and Child Care*, transformed family dynamics. Television sets started to appear in every home. The "separate but equal" doctrine was applied to public education. Elvis Presley and rock-and-roll replaced Frank Sinatra and Big Band as the music of choice for teenagers. The Korean Conflict and the Cold War with the Soviet Union reminded Americans that peace was not to be taken for granted.

*To learn more about the history of Girl Scouts visit [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org).*

## What was going on in Girl Scouts during 1950 – 1959?

1950

The Girl Scout Movement is well-established, with 1.5 million girls and adult volunteers. Girl Scouting reaches out to include physically challenged girls as well as the daughters of migrant agricultural workers, military personnel, Native Americans and Eskimos.

Girl Scouts wear "Aide to Voters" armbands to identify them to parents in need of babysitters at the polls.

Girl Scouts of the USA is re-incorporated under a Congressional Charter.

Designed by the renowned Mainbocher, the Intermediate Scout uniform used between 1948 and 1959 is a button-down-the-front dress well suited to Girl Scout needs. For Senior Girl Scouts, Mainbocher designs a short-sleeved dress with action back, buttoned to below the waist and worn with a dark green cowhide belt. The overseas-style hat continued to be worn.

1951

The Intermediate Girl Scout alternate uniform is a blouse and skirt worn with the Girl Scout beret and Windsor tie. Senior Girl Scouts wear the same skirt and blouse but with the overseas-style hat.

The Brownie Scout Handbook is published. It is the first Brownies, rather than for their leaders. From its pages, girls learned how to play the game "run, sheep, run," make handkerchief dolls, and make an aquarium.

Girl Scout Cookies come in three varieties: Sandwich, Shortbread, and Chocolate Mints (now known as Thin Mints). With the advent of the suburbs, Girl Scout are also sold by girls at tables in shopping centers.

1952

The March 1952 issue of *Ebony* magazine reports: "Girl Scouts in the South are making steady progress toward uniform 1956 breaking down racial taboos."



Intermediate Girl Scout Alternate uniform 1951

1952

Rockwood, in Potomac, Maryland is dedicated as a National Girl Scout camping center.

1953

GSUSA purchases the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace in Savannah, Georgia.

The adult green dress uniform features a Shirred back, tapered sleeves, slant pockets, and a raised neckline with white pique trim. The 1956 adult green suit has short sleeves, adjustable side tabs, and buttons on the collar and lapels. Two additional new hats—a pillbox beret in fine fur felt, designed by Sally Victor, one of America’s foremost millinery designers, and a soft beret in green acetate and rayon gabardine--are developed for adults.



Girl Scout Adult Dress 1953 and Suit 1956

Site of Our Cabana is acquired by WAGGGS.

Annual Girl Scout Week celebration moves from October to March.

1954

Marjorie Daingerfield sculpts the Girl Scout statuette. From 1954-1973, the statuette is often given to adults in recognition of their service to Girl Scouting.

1956

In the 1950s, GSUSA begins significant national efforts to desegregate camps and create racial balance. Camp Shantituck in Kentucky is one of the first Girl Scout camps to be integrated in 1956. Later the same year, Martin Luther King, Jr. describes Girl Scouts as “a force for desegregation”.

The Brownie uniform skirt changes to a six-gored style.

A “Girl Scouts of the USA” identification strip is added to the uniform above the breast pocket.

The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace in Savannah, Georgia, opens as a house museum and national program center for girls.

Girl Scouts sell four types of cookies: a vanilla-based filled cookie, a chocolate-based filled one, shortbread, and a chocolate mint. Some bakers also offer an optional flavor.

Michigan hosts the first Senior Girl Scout Round-Up; 5,000 girls attend.

1957

In November, GSUSA moves its national headquarters to 830 Third Avenue, New York, staying there until July 1992.

Girl Scouts reach three million members.

The first world center for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in the Western Hemisphere, Our Cabana, opens in Cuernavaca, Mexico.



Brownie uniform 1956

# What was going on in the world during 1950 – 1959?

1958

The Girl Scout headquarters is dedicated (not the present headquarters).

1959

Our Ark moves to Earls Court, London.

10,000 people attend the second Senior Girl Scout Round-up near Colorado Springs.

1950

The Brinks robbery: 11 masked bandits steal \$2.8 million from an armored car in Boston.

The Korean War begins its three-year conflict when North Korean troops, backed with Soviet weaponry, invade South Korea. Two days later, U.S. President Harry Truman orders U.S. Air Force and Navy troops to the Korean Peninsula. On June 30, ground forces and air strikes are approved against North Korea.

The comic strip Peanuts, by Charles M. Schulz, debuts.

Two Puerto Rican nationals attempt and fail to assassinate President Truman while he is living at Blair House.

1951

The 22nd amendment is passed. This amendment sets a term limit for the President of the United States: "No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once."



Girl Scout Adult Dress and Suit 1948

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are found guilty of conspiracy of wartime espionage and sentenced to death.

The inauguration of trans-continental television occurs with the broadcast of President Truman's speech at the Japanese Peace Treaty Conference in San Francisco. The treaty would be signed on September 8 by the U.S., Japan, and 47 other nations.

The situation comedy I Love Lucy premieres on CBS, sparking the rise of television in the American home and the Golden Age of Television.

Richard Buckminster Fuller patents the Geodesic Dome. The dome building would be used in many futuristic constructions, particularly by Fuller in world exhibitions, such as his famous USA Pavilion at Expo 67, the Montreal's World's Fair.

1952

The 1952 Winter Olympics open in Helsinki, Finland with 30 participating nations. During these games, Dick Button performs the first triple jump in figure skating history. Button wins one of the four gold medals gained by U.S. athletes.

The Today show premieres on NBC, hosted by Dave Garroway. Today is the fourth longest running talk show on television.

Jonas Salk develops the polio vaccine.

The Immigration and Nationality Act is passed, restricting immigration into the U.S.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, a newcomer to politics, but popular due to his role in winning World War II as European commander, gains an easy presidential victory over Democrat Adlai E. Stevenson. The Electoral College vote is 442 to 89.

1953

British Physicist Francis Crick and American Scientist James D. Watson publish the description of a double helix DNA molecule. Watson and Crick, along with New Zealander Maurice Wilkins, are awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for their discovery in 1962.



1954

President Eisenhower is inaugurated.

The Rosenbergs are executed for conspiracy.

Fighting ceases in the Korean War. North Korea, South Korea, the U.S. and the Republic of China sign an armistice agreement.

The U.S. CIA assists in the overthrow of the government in Iran, and returns Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to the throne.

Color television sets go on sale.

The first large-scale vaccination of children against polio begins in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Ray Kroc founds the idea for the McDonald's corporation, agreeing to franchise the idea of Dick and Mac McDonald, who had started the first McDonald's restaurant in 1940 and had eight restaurants by 1954. Kroc would incorporate the entity on March 2, 1955 and open his first franchise on April 15 in Des Plaines, Illinois. He would buy out the McDonald's brothers in 1961.

The U.S. Supreme Court declares racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional in *Brown vs. the Board of Education*. The ruling states that racial segregation violates the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause. (The Monroe School in Topeka, Kansas had segregated Linda Brown in its classes.)

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at an all-time high of 382.74, the first time the Dow has surpassed its peak level reached just before the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

NBC airs *The Tonight Show*, the first late-night talk show, hosted by Steve Allen.



1950s Girl Scout First Aid Kit

1955

The U.S. government agrees to train South Vietnamese troops.

Rosa Parks, an African-American seamstress, refuses to give up her seat on the bus to a white man, prompting the boycott and NAACP protection that would lead a federal court to declare that bus segregation was unconstitutional.

The U.S. Supreme Court orders that all public schools be integrated with “deliberate speed.”

Disneyland, the brainchild of Walt Disney (whose father had worked at previous world’s fairs and inspired his son), opens in Anaheim, California, with the backing of the new television network, ABC.

Rock and roll music enters the mainstream, with “Rock Around the Clock” by Bill Haley and His Comets becoming the first record to top the Billboard magazine pop charts. Elvis Presley also begins his rise to fame.

Actor James Dean is killed in a highway collision on his way to a racetrack in Salinas, California, while driving his racing Porsche 550 Spyder.

1956

One hundred and one congressmen from Southern states call for massive resistance to the Supreme Court ruling on desegregation.

Dan Larsen pitches the first no-hitter, a perfect game, in post-season baseball history, when his New York Yankees best the Brooklyn Dodgers in the fifth game of the World Series.

Elvis Presley appears on The Ed Sullivan Show for the first time.

Marilyn Monroe marries playwright Arthur Miller.

Jackson Pollock dies in a car crash in Springs, New York

1957

President Eisenhower is inaugurated for his second term in office.

The Civil Rights Act of 1957, primarily a voting rights bill, becomes the first civil rights legislation enacted by Congress since Reconstruction.

Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus calls in the National Guard to bar nine black students from attending previously all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Faubus withdraws the troops on September 21 and the students are allowed to enter class two days later. President Eisenhower sends federal troops to Little Rock on September 24 to enforce the edict.

The Soviet Union launches the “Sputnik” space satellite and the “space race” begins.



Model of Low Birthplace

1958

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is formed as the U.S. begins ramping up efforts to explore space.

Explorer I, the first U.S. space satellite, is launched by the Army at Cape Canaveral. It would discover the Van Allen radiation belt.

The first major world's fair since the end of World War II opens in Brussels, Belgium and evokes a Cold War debate between the pavilions of the Soviet Union and the United States. Their competing visions of the world vie for the attention of the over 41 million visitors to the fair, which is also noted for the Atomium atom molecular structure that stood as its theme.

The Lituya Bay, Alaska earthquake registers 7.5 on the Richter scale, producing a landslide that causes a mega-tsunami with a 520-meter high wave. Only two people are killed, due to the desolate nature of the area involved. The wave dissipated when reaching the open sea.

National Airlines inaugurates jet airline passenger service in the U.S. with a flight between New York City and Miami, Florida.

1959

Alaska becomes the 49th state; followed by Hawaii as the 50th state.

The U.S. recognizes the new Cuban government under rebel leader Fidel Castro. Castro becomes the Premier of Cuba on February 16.

NASA selects the first seven military pilots to become the Mercury Seven, first U.S. astronauts. They are: John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepherd and Deke Slayton.

The St. Lawrence Seaway opens along the Canadian and U.S. borders, allowing increased ship traffic between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes.

The Daytona 500 stock car race runs for the first time with Lee Petty taking the first checkered flag.

President Eisenhower hosts Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev at his farm in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania during the first visit of any Soviet leader to the United States. The NBC western Bonanza becomes the first drama to be broadcast in color.

THE HISTORIC ORIGINAL PAGE

Now you can bake Angel Food Cake inspired by a favorite recipe of the Founder of the Girl Scouts

Department of Historic Sites and Monuments, Gettysburg, Pa. - 1959  
In the Birthplace of the United States of America

**Dromedary Presents A New Angel Food Mix**  
Inspired by the historic recipe used in the Birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, Founder of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America

Angel Food, indeed! Light as a feather, fluffy as a downy cloud, moist and tender as a fresh marshmallow - that's the kind of Angel Food Cake you'll bake with Dromedary Early American Angel Food Mix.

And, as any good cook knows, the secret is in the recipe. Dromedary has used its historic recipe and

is the Birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts. The inspiration for this new recipe is a faithful reproduction of the famous 1850-55 recipe in an old family cookbook. Bask in Angel Food Cake that bakes high and light and with a yummy moist and tender texture.

Dromedary is the only Angel Food Mix suggested in Girl Scout recipes. It's the only mix that's been used in the Girl Scout recipes. You, too, can make history as you mix with it. You'll be a Dromedary Angel Food Cake-maker!

Dromedary mixes of the right to the Angel Food Cake in the Girl Scout recipes. You'll be a Girl Scout and make history as you mix with it. You'll be a Dromedary Angel Food Cake-maker!

**Dromedary**  
ANGEL FOOD MIX

1956 Angel Food Cake Mix Ad





## Program

Complete four of these activities to earn your 1950-1959 lapel pin; adapt the activities to fit your age level.

# 1

Rock n' Roll is something we are used to hearing today, but in the 1950s, it was a very new kind of music. Research and listen to rock n' roll music from the 1950s and from now. What is the difference? What artists do you like from that era? Is any of today's music viewed in the same way that rock n' roll was in the 1950s? If so, which music is it? Why is it considered so 'different'?

# 2

The Civil Rights Movement in the United States began in the 1950s. What caused this to happen? Are there similar movements in other countries? What were the causes of those civil rights movements and how were they resolved?

# 3

The March 1952 issue of Ebony magazine reported: "Girl Scouts in the South are making steady progress toward breaking down racial taboos." What does this mean? Do you think this is still the case? Why or why not? If you do agree with this statement, how do you think Girl Scouts accomplishes this?



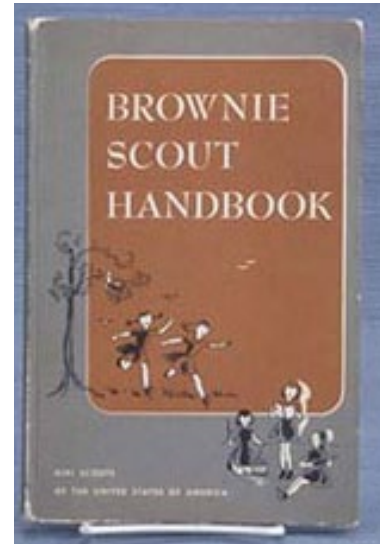
Aide to Voters Armband



# 4

The first book for Girl Scout Brownies was published in 1951. The new book included activities on arts and crafts, literature, dancing, community life, sports, the outdoors, agriculture and many more. Try a couple of these:

- a) Make and fill a terrarium.
- b) Make a list of all the nature found in a troop meeting place.
- c) Write thank you notes to friends who have done something for the troop, to parents and troop committee members, the leader of the faith community where you meet, the farmer whose farm you visited, the keeper of the zoo and so on.
- d) Plan and put on a pet show to include all kinds of pets from dogs to earthworms.
- e) Experiment with various ways to produce rainbow colors, such as blowing soap bubbles, holding a prism to the light and pouring oil on water.
- f) Learn to weave. Make potholders or dishcloths with yarn on a small cardboard or wooden frame. Visit rug weavers. Go to a museum to look at tapestry.
- g) Discuss the reasons why spiders, harmless snakes and other forms of animal life should not be killed even if you do not like them. Learn what is meant by the 'balance of nature'.



# 5

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or NASA, was formed in 1958. Many of NASA's missions have involved taking humans into space and possibly looking for a place, outside of Earth, for humans to live. Pretend you are going to live in outer space. What would you need? What would you take? What would you eat? How did the Mercury Seven prepare for space?

# 6

The 1950s saw a lot of anti-communism sentiments and the "Cold War" between the United States and the Soviet Union. What were the major opinions on each side? Do you think the United States was correct or was the Soviet Union correct? How might the Cold War have affected the relationships between the United States and other countries?

# 7

In the 1950s girls spent a lot of time outside playing hopscotch, hide and seek, kickball, jacks, pickup sticks, roller skating and hula hooping. Find some sidewalk chalk and, after you get permission, draw a hopscotch pattern on the sidewalk and play a couple rounds with your friends. Here's how:

- a) Draw the hopscotch board on the sidewalk/pavement or scratch it in the sand/dirt.
- b) The first player tosses the marker (typically a stone, coin or bean bag) into the first square. The marker must land completely within the designated square and without touching a line or bouncing out.
- c) The player then hops through the course, skipping the square with the marker in it. Single squares must be hopped on one foot. For the first single square, either foot may be used. Side by side squares are straddled, with the left foot landing in the left square, and the right foot landing in the right square. Optional squares marked "Safe", "Home", or "Rest" are neutral squares, and may be hopped through in any manner without penalty.
- d) After hopping into the "Safe", "Home", or "Rest" the player must then turn around and return through the course (square 9, then squares 7 & 8, next square 6 and so forth) on one or two legs depending on the square until she reaches the square with her marker. She then must retrieve her marker and continue the course as stated without touching a line or stepping into a square with another player's marker.
- e) Upon successfully completing the sequence, the player continues the turn by tossing the marker into square number two, and repeating the pattern.
- f) If while hopping through the court in either direction the player steps on a line, misses a square, or loses balance, the turn ends. Players begin their turns where they last left off. The first player to complete one course for every numbered square on the court wins the game.
- g) Although the marker is most often picked up during the game, historically, in the boy's game, the marker was kicked sequentially back through the course on the return trip and then kicked out.



# 8

Paper dolls were very popular in the 1950s. These came with a 'doll' that could be punched out of heavy paperboard. With the doll came pages of paper clothing that could be punched out, or cut out, and put onto the doll with small paper tabs. Find some examples of paper dolls. Make your own version of paper dolls using cardstock, paper, scissors and art supplies.

