



Explorations

We're excited to share these wonderful community organizations and area businesses that love to work with our girls. These programs will give your troop the chance to learn from experts. GSHNC staff will not be present at these locations. Please contact these organizations directly and remind your girls to be well-behaved, kind and courteous! We want to continue to make a great impression on our community.

Alexandriana Historical Site - All

On May 20, 1775, our founding fathers gathered at Alexandriana to sign the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Visit this site to learn about this historical event for our area.

WHERE: 9921 Old Statesville Rd, Huntersville, NC

CONTACT: 704-896-9808

Almosta Farm - All

Work toward your horsemanship patch at Almosta Farm. Individual or small group workshops are available. The clinic will combine lecture, handouts, demonstration and "hands on" civilities with and all about horses. Clinics will be customized to the activities individuals or troops choose in order to meet requirements.

WHEN: Appointments necessary

WHERE: Almosta Farm, Landis, North Carolina

COST: \$25.00-35.00/participant, depending on the program (includes snacks and beverages)

CONTACT: Holly Stromberg (Rockwood Services) 704-279-6264

American Historical Trails - All

The Hornets' Nest trail consists of a 4-mile hike in uptown Charlotte and a driving tour of the battlefields of the American Revolution in North Mecklenburg County. Highlights of the trail are the Federal Reserve, the McIntyre Farm site, the Davidson Monument, and various sites in Charlotte. Hikers can earn a patch and medal for completing the trail. The trail is available to Girl Scout troops/groups, individuals, families, and anyone else interested in history. American Historical Trails promotes trails in Charleston, Raleigh, Washington D.C., Boston, Philadelphia and a number of other cities.

CONTACT: American Historical Trails, P.O. Box 769, 1902 Plyer Mill Rd, Monroe, NC 28111, 704-282-1339; visit www.thecarolinatrader.com for more details.

American Red Cross Babysitting Class - C, S, A

The American Red Cross can offer babysitting certification classes to groups of 6 or more 11-15-year-olds. To arrange a class, contact the local American Red Cross in your area. You can also visit www.redcross.org and enter your zip code for locations.

Art Space Studio - All

Art Space Studio in River Gate Center (Hwy 49 and Hwy 160 in Steele Creek) is the perfect creative outing for Girl Scouts, offering paint-your-own pottery, glass fusing, mosaics and clay for you with special troop pricing. Packages include all supplies, firing and creative assistance.

COST: Prices range from \$7 to \$15 per girl

CONTACT: Hillary Moulliet, 704-504-9310; Visit the website at www.artspacestudio.com

Aw Shucks! Corn Maze - All

Aw Shucks Farms offers a 6-acre corn maze, hayrides, Animal Barn, pumpkin patch, haunted trail, forts and picnic areas, and a General Store with scout patches.

New for '09: An all new Animal Barn, Duck Races, an old fashioned soda fountain, a tree house, and a pond with fishing lessons for kids. Don't forget our new location in Monroe just off 200 S. Keep up-to-date on the web at www.AwShucksCornMaze.com or www.AwShucksFarms.com

WHEN: September-November Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sundays (and some weekdays)

WHERE: 3718 Plyer Mill Rd. Monroe 28112

COST: varies depending on activity

CONTACT: 704-709-7000 office or email bonnie@awshuckscornmaze.com

Baskets of Yarn - All

Baskets of Yarn is a knitting supply and teaching company that offers exciting programs for girls of all ages! From a fundamental lesson that will get beginners off to a good start, to workshops for more advanced knitters, we can design programs around your troop's interests. Baskets of Yarn creates terrific programs for your girls to learn a productive new hobby, develop creativity, even make gifts for friends and loved ones!

WHEN: Anytime!

WHERE: 648-D Griffith Rd in Charlotte, 28217 - Programs can be held in our teaching studio, or at your location.

COST: \$17 per person for a beginner class, including one pair of bamboo needles, one skein of yarn, instructions and a boa pattern OR \$35 per person for a beginner class including same as above plus a copy of Kids Knitting and a knitting basket OR Prices for custom programs would depend on materials needed and time required. (Minimum 6)

CONTACT: Visit the website at www.basketsofyarn.com or call 704-561-0911/1-877-BSKTYRN or email betsey@basketsofyarn.com

Bead Lady - All

This is a full service bead shop offering beads from around the world. Jewelry making classes are offered. Girl Scouts can come in to make a bracelet while earning a badge or two! Call for reservations & store hours.

WHERE: 1 Union Street North, Concord, NC

COST: \$20 room fee; \$12 per girl to make a bracelet

CONTACT: 704-782-5699

Books, Badges, and Barnes & Noble - All

Barnes & Noble is committed to supporting the values and leadership skills of Girl Scouts. We look forward to working with your troop in any of the following ongoing capacities:

Review books for us. We are always on the lookout for great age-appropriate books for girls. If you read a good book, write a short review about it and send it to us. We will keep a Girl Scout book reviews notebook and share your reviews with our readers. Call us to schedule a store tour. Come to our author signings, poetry readings, workshops and children's events. Or, we can develop a special event just for your troop or service unit. Two months' lead time needed for these events. Ex: Native American and Spanish events, Astronomy, Science with Dr. Fun, Writing Workshops, Knitting Events.

COST: Depends on the event chosen. Contact store directly.

CONTACT: Location nearest you:

Arboretum: 704-341-9365

Birkdale Village: 704-895-8855

Carolina Place Mall: 704-544-9985

Sharon Corners: 704-3640626

Bost Grist Mill - All

Built in the early 1800s, the mill was the source of flour and cornmeal for southern Cabarrus County residents. On the National Register of Historic Places, the restored mill is filled with original milling equipment and artifacts. Step back in time, enjoy the antiques and watch corn being ground into cornmeal and grits. Special tours are available by appointment only. Call for fees and schedule.

WHERE: 4701 Highway 200, Concord, NC

CONTACT: 704-782-1600, bostgristmill@netzero.com, or www.bostgristmill.com

Build-A-Bear - All

Visit the Build-a-Bear store and learn the history of the teddy bear. Girls will also visit work stations to build and personalize their own bear and receive a special patch. Additionally, all Build-A-Bear stores will do badge workshops in conjunction with parties Mon-Thurs at any location if it is arranged when the party is booked. There is no extra cost for the badge workshops. Ask about specifics for each program level.

WHEN: Call to reserve a time

WHERE: Concord Mills Mall, Concord, NC

COST: \$10 per person (includes bear and patch)

CONTACT: 704-979-0328 or www.buildabear.com

Cake Decorating - J, C, S, A

Cake Decoration I - Have fun learning simple cake decorations.

COST: \$9 per participant, includes supplies (Min 10 / Max 15)

Cake Decoration II - Want to learn more? Take the skills you've learned in Cake Decoration I and enhance them!

COST: \$9 per participant, includes supplies (Min 10 / Max 15)

CONTACT: Lillie Taylor at 980-225-3995

Carolina Panthers' Stadium Tours - All

Group tours (10-100 people) of Bank of America Stadium for the general public are offered. Please call for more information on times and prices.

CONTACT: 704-358-7538 to make a reservation for a group tour or if you have questions about tours.

Carolina Raptor Center - All

A non-profit organization that provides public education on environmental issues about the importance of raptors to our environment and to care for sick, injured and orphaned raptors such as owls and hawks. See various species along a ¾ mile nature trail and catch one of our live bird or flight presentations. Please check our website for season programming and admission rates.

WHERE: 6000 Sample Rd, Huntersville, NC

COST: \$10 adults; \$8 Seniors, Active Military and Educators; \$6 Students; Groups of 15 or more - \$6/person; Children 4 and under are FREE.

CONTACT: 704-875-6521 or www.carolinaraptorcenter.org

Carolinas Aviation Museum - All

Great place to visit for kids of all ages! Calendar of events is available on museum website. Check out the Passport to History patch program in your FYI featuring this museum.

COST: Groups of 5 or more are \$4 per girl; 1st paying adult is \$11, all other adults accompanying group are free. All groups of five or more should be pre-arranged.

WHERE: Charlotte Douglas International Airport

CONTACT: 704-359-8442 or www.carolinasaviation.org

Carvel Ice Cream Adventure - All

Tour the facility and learn first-hand how ice cream is made, and answer trivia questions about Carvel's ice cream. Then see if you can guess the flavors of the ice cream you sample. Right or wrong, you'll have fun trying! Tours can be customized to suit your group's interests or needs.

COST: FREE!

CONTACT: Christa Lehosky at 704-844-8868; 111508 Providence Rd in Charlotte

Catawba Cultural Preservation Project - All

Located on the reservation of the Catawba Indian Nation, the Catawba Cultural Preservation Project offers invaluable educational experiences to the community. A visit to the center provides the opportunity to explore Catawba heritage through archaeology, ecology, language, storytelling, and native dance and crafts. Visit offers a well-rounded look into the past of a people that have contributed much to the heritage of this region. Group tours available.

WHERE: Catawba Indian Nation, York County, SC

CONTACT: 803-328-2427; Visit the website at www.catawbaindiannation.com

Center of Scottish Heritage at Rural Hill - All

Originally the plantation home of Major John Davidson, one of the original signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence; now a historic preservation, farm and museum with animals, Scottish heritage events by Catawba Valley Scottish Society Clans and Families Scottish Cultural Center, tours and educational programs for all ages. Restrooms and gift shop onsite.

COST: Adults \$6, Students \$4; Group tours (approx. 2 hours) must be scheduled in advance or register online at www.ruralhillfarm.net. You can also visit without taking a formal tour.

CONTACT: 4431 Neck Rd, Huntersville, NC, 704-875-3113, or office@ruralhill.net

Charlotte 49ers - All

The Charlotte 49ers Athletic Program will offer several events during the year at different women's sporting events. On each Girl Scout Day all girls will be free of charge. Girl Scouts must sign in at each of the events to receive badges and extras. Please watch Leader Update for information related to the current season's sports at UNCC! For a complete calendar of 49ers events, visit <http://charlotte49ers.cstv.com>.

WHEN: All year

WHERE: UNC-Charlotte

COST: Depends on sporting event.

CONTACT: Tekeisha Pennington at 704-687-6203 or tpennington@uncc.edu

Charlotte Checkers - All

Come see a Checkers hockey game! Visit the website at www.gocheckers.com for game schedule & details. Discounts for groups of 15 or more, ticket sales online.

WHERE: Time Warner Cable Arena, Charlotte

COST: Discount tickets only available if purchased in advance

CONTACT: Charlotte Checkers Front Office at 704-342-4423

Charlotte Coalition for Social Justice - S, A

The mission of the Charlotte Coalition for Social Justice is to build community and advance the cause of social justice by developing leaders who will work to dismantle all forms of prejudice, discrimination and oppression and create positive social change. The CCSJ delivers year-round leadership development programming and outreach to equip and empower youth and adults to address issues of diversity, equity and inclusion in our community. For more information on youth programs or how you can get involved, visit their web site at www.charlottecoalition.org.

CONTACT: 704-334-0053, www.charlottecoalition.org

Charlotte Historic Trolley Museum - All

The museum features photos, exhibits and trolley rides. There are several options & prices for group outings. Also, see Passport to History patch program in your FYI to enhance your visit.

WHERE: 2100 South Blvd, Charlotte

CONTACT: 704-375-0850 or www.charlottetrolley.org

Charlotte Knights Baseball Club - All

Groups of 20 or more are discounted, so check out the Charlotte Knights baseball team.

WHERE: 2280 Deerfield Dr, Fort Mill, SC

CONTACT: 704-357-8071 ext. 2001 or www.charlotteknights.com (for prices and schedule)

Charlotte Lady Eagles Soccer - All

Join the Charlotte Eagles Soccer Club for an action-packed night at the Lady Eagles game! With excellent female role models, Girl Scouts will enjoy a wonderful evening of family fun and great soccer. Troops will have the opportunity to meet the Lady Eagles after the game or participate as ball girls. Charlotte Eagles Soccer Girl Scout patches given to all participants.

WHEN: May to August

COST: \$8 per adult or \$5 per student; or \$6/\$4 (groups)

CONTACT: Allan Courtright, 704-841-8644 ext 30 or www.charlotteeagles.com

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fire Museum Education Center- All

The Museum offers displays that include memorials to fallen firefighters, a history of African-Americans & women in the Charlotte Fire Department. Focus is on interactive education for the public in fire safety and accident prevention.

WHERE: 420 West Fifth St, Charlotte

CONTACT: 704-338-7233

Charlotte Nature Museum - All

This museum is a small, urban nature center that features live animals, nature trail and Puppet Theater in a hands-on learning environment. See the Butterfly Pavilion, Insect Alley, and more. Groups of 15 or more receive a discount.

WHERE: 1658 Sterling Rd, Charlotte (adjacent to Freedom Park)

CONTACT: 704-372-6261 ext 300

Charlotte Museum of History - All + Families

Four galleries lead you through Charlotte's history, from early settlers and 18th century freedom fighters to gold mines, slavery, the Civil War, and the rise of textiles, transportation, and commerce. Walk back in time while exploring the 8-acre site, which includes the oldest structure in Mecklenburg County, the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander House, as well as the American Freedom Bell, the Backcountry Patriot statue, and historic Native American and Colonial gardens.

WHEN: Tues-Sat: 10 am-5 pm; Sun: 1-5 pm; Homesite Tours: Tues-Sun: 1:15 and 3:15 pm

WHERE: 3500 Shamrock Dr, Charlotte

COST: \$6 per adult, \$5 per senior or student, \$3 per child; free admission every Sunday for "Family Day"

CONTACT: All program dates and details, call the Front Desk at 704-568-1774. Groups of 10+ people, ask for Regan Brooks. Directions, program information, educational resources, upcoming exhibits and more are available at www.charlottemuseum.org. Reservations not required unless otherwise noted below.

-Haunted Homesite - All

An evening at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite and Museum including a tour, pumpkin cookie decorating, apple bobbing, fall craft activities, scarecrow stuffing, scary stories around a bonfire, and more! Call for rates & reservations. Max 100

-Civil War Lantern Tour - J, C, S, A

An in-depth look at the conditions, hopes, and fears that common foot soldiers of the Civil War experienced. As you progress through different camp settings on the grounds of the Homesite, you will see the campfires, smell the cooking, and listen to the stories from the period. Call for rates & reservations. Min 10 / Max 250

Charlotte Museum of History - All + Families (cont.)

-Twelfth Night - A Scots-Irish Holiday Tradition - All

Open-house tours of the 1774 Rock House, bonfire storytelling, colonial crafts, dancing at the Twelfth Night Ball, and open-hearth cooking demos. We'll cut the Twelfth Night cake and learn about traditions like the holly toss and musket firing! Call for rates.

-WWII Encampment - All

Experience an Allied encampment of soldiers and visit their tents, command posts and gun emplacements. Help plant a victory garden and conduct a scrap metal drive.

Charlotte Symphony - All + Families

Seven memorable Charlotte Symphony concerts for 2009-2010 selected for Girl Scouts, their families and friends to attend at very special prices. Girls will have an introduction to the Symphony as they work on their "Music Fan" or "Making Music" badges, "Making Music" Try-It, or the "On a High Note" Interest Project patch.

- LOLLIPOPS FAMILY CONCERTS

For young listeners ages 3-9 & their families; Belk Theater, Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

COST: Tickets \$10

WHEN: Concert at 11:00 am, Pre-Concert Festival at 10:00 am

CONTACT: Call Joan Foley, Charlotte Symphony Group Sales Manager, at 704-714-5119 or email

joanf@charlottesymphony.org

DEADLINES: TWO WEEKS BEFORE CONCERT (Best seats available early in season)

Charlotte Youth Ballet - All

This holiday season see local professional talent from around the Carolinas choreographed with professional, international guest artists as they join Company dancers from across the region in the Charlotte Youth Ballet's The Nutcracker! Experience this magical, family friendly, ballet classic with your troop.

WHEN: Friday, December 3 and Sunday, December 5

WHERE: Dale Halton Theater on CPCC's main campus

COST: \$12 for Girl Scouts, free autograph sessions and backstage tours upon request for a small additional fee. Parking is free.

CONTACT: Special \$12 Girl Scout tickets will be available through the Charlotte Youth Ballet website

www.charlotteyouthballet.com or by calling 980-522-3322.

Watch for announcements of the spring Storybook ballet scheduled for March 2011. Don't miss this opportunity to see your favorite characters come to life in an original setting!

The Charlotte Youth Ballet enriches the community through a non-profit, innovative, regional ballet company that provides dancers an opportunity to perform in professional level productions. By merging youth and professionals, the Charlotte Youth Ballet introduces ballet to diverse audiences to foster life-long support of the arts.

Clay Creations - B, J, C, S, A

Girls ages 7 and up will learn the proper way to use pottery tools, how to apply underglazes and create a clay craft by hand. Work on completing requirements for pottery and clay related badges. Programs are available most evenings and Saturdays. Please call ahead to arrange a time and meeting place for your troop's activity.

COST: \$15 per participant (minimum 10), includes bird house or piggybank and a small pot thrown on a wheel.

CONTACT: Pam Dolin at 704-545-7735 or 704-550-7270

Crowders Mountain State Park - All

The north side of the mountain, located north of Freedom Mill Road offers many hiking trails, scenic overlooks, picnic areas, water fountains, and restrooms. The south side offers hiking trails, camping, canoe rentals, fishing, scenic overlooks, picnicking and more. Follow Safety Wise when engaging in these activities. Be sure to check out the new 7-mile trail running from the King's Mountain Pinnacle to the state line.

WHERE: 522 Park Office Lane, Kings Mountain, NC (about 45 minutes from Charlotte)

CONTACT: 704-853-5375, www.crowdersmountain.com

Dan Nicholas Park - All

WHEN: Based on facilitator availability. Most programs scheduled between 10 am & 3 pm, but there is some flexibility.

WHERE: Dan Nicholas Park, Salisbury, NC

COST: FREE!

CONTACT: Dave Jones at 704-636-2089 bringlde@co.rowan.nc.us

Nature Center Programs

-Animal Program - A closer look at some of the smaller animals. Discuss differences between reptiles, birds, and mammals, individual adaptations, and their way of life in the wild. About ½ hour.

-Trail Walk - Discuss ecology, habitats and plants along the trail. Can also be done at Eagle Point Nature Preserve (5 miles from DNP), but you must provide transportation. Weather dependent program. 1-1½ hours

-Tree Leaf Identification - Discuss value of plants, plant communities and succession. Then use a simple dichotomous key to identify local tree leaves. Weather permitting; take a short walk (optional) to look at more trees. 45 min - 1 hour (3rd grade & older)

-Poisonous Plants/Venomous Animals - Discuss poisonous plants and venomous animals. Live examples of nonvenomous snakes will be used for comparison and discussion, as well as preserved specimens of other animals. About 45 minutes (3rd grade & older)

-Stream Walk - Sample macro-invertebrate stream life from a stream in the park. Creatures collected will be identified and used to discuss water quality and habitat quality. Be prepared to get wet! Program held outdoors and limited by weather. 1 hour. (3rd grade & older)

-Raptor Program - Discuss birds of prey, using articles and live examples of various types and species of raptors. Owl pellet dissections can be a part of the program but participants must bring their own owl pellets or coordinate with the Center to buy them in advance. ½-1 hour (2nd grade & older)

-Reptiles program - Discuss adaptations and natural history of the reptile class using live examples. Participants may have some hands-on experience with the animals if desired. ½-1 hour (1st grade & older)

-Bear or Deer Program - Play a game relating to bears and their habitat. Dress a volunteer up like a bear and discuss their adaptations, and then go see the bears. Play a Project Wild game to discuss bear natural history further. With advance notice program can be adapted to raptors or other animals. 1½ hours. Must be approved by Nature Center Staff before signing up. (2nd grade & older)

Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens - All

Part nature preserve, part showcase for the best of Southern horticulture, DSBG features the 13,500 sq ft Robert Lee Stowe Visitor Pavilion topped with a magnificent stained-glass dome; 9 gardens with themes like the four seasons, the tropics, perennials (full of ideas for home gardens) & conifers; 12 delightful fountains; and Woodland Trail programs. Visiting Tips: Bring a camera, insect repellent, sunscreen, and a picnic! Drinks and snacks are available in the Garden Gift Shop, but picnics and coolers are welcome. Seating on the terrace is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Artists are welcome to bring art supplies.

WHEN: 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

WHERE: 6500 South New Hope Rd, Belmont, NC (just west of Charlotte at the NC/SC state line)

COST: \$10 per adult, \$9 per senior 60+, \$5 per child 4-12; Fees for classes and tours must be pre-paid.

CONTACT: Education Department at 704-829-1257 or go online at www.dsbg.org to arrange classes, guided tours and self-guided visits. Program schedule is listed online.

Davidson College Girl Sports - All

The Athletics department at Davidson College will offer several sports programs throughout the year. Focus sports include: Women's Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball and more! Watch the weekly Leader Update for more information and full details.

WHEN: All year

WHERE: Davidson College

COST: Depends on sporting event.

CONTACT: Morgan Clark at 704-894-2374

Discovery Place ScienceReach - B, J

Fulfill your Girl Scout badge or try-it requirements with Discovery Place. ScienceReach, Discovery Place's museum-on-wheels will bring programs to your troop meeting.

-You Are What You Eat - B, J

Learn how to make healthy, nutritional choices about your diet. Interpret nutrition labels and examine a fast food meal to measure its energy and nutritional content.

-Urban Wildlife - B, J

Investigate the wild world that lives right in your backyard! Discover ways to safely attract and support wildlife through hands-on activities.

-Starry, Starry Night - B, J

Step inside the inflatable StarLab Planetarium and learn how to navigate the nighttime sky as you discover the constellations and the stories behind them. Notes – access to electricity is required as well as available set up space of 14 feet in height x 28 feet in width. Maximum capacity inside the small dome is 30 and inside the large dome is 50.

Discovery Place ScienceReach - B, J (cont.)

-Animal Explorations - B, J

Travel across the planet to discover unique creatures and their habitats. This experience includes the opportunity to meet live animals from Discovery Place.

-Rocks and Minerals - J

Through exploration, participants employ the methods of geologists to identify minerals and will have the opportunity to handle and observe many rock and mineral specimens from Discovery Place's collection.

COST: \$125.00 per program. Each program completes all requirements for one Brownie Try-It or Junior Badge.

CONTACT: Register by phone 704-372-6261 x309 weekdays from 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Full payment must be made at the time of registration, Visa or MasterCard are accepted. Email teriw@discoveryplace.org for more information.

Duke Power EnergyExplorium - All

Located at McGuire Nuclear Station, Duke Energy's EnergyExplorium offers educational and fun activities for everyone interested in learning more about electricity generation and Lake Norman. Visitors can: take a virtual tour of McGuire Nuclear Station, play interactive games and learn to use energy wisely, convert their own energy into enough electricity to power a television, watch a movie about Lake Norman and the community and walk a mile-long nature trail along the shore of Lake Norman and explore the wonders of the Piedmont's environment. Admission and parking are free.

WHEN: Monday-Friday: 9 am-5 pm, Saturday: 12-5 pm and closed Sunday & major holidays

WHERE: 13339 Hagers Ferry Rd, Huntersville, NC

CONTACT: For more information, or to schedule a group visit of 10 or more people, call: 704-875-5600 or 1-800-777-0003; or go online at <http://www.duke-energy.com/visitor-centers/energyexplorium.asp>.

EdVenture - D, B, J

The South's largest children's museum, located in Columbia, SC where kids 12 and younger can talk to a skeleton, anchor the news, drive a fire truck, build a house, climb on a camel and explore the inside of "Eddie" – the world's largest child!

COST: Children: \$6.95, Adults: \$8.95 to tour the museum only. Group rate for 15 or more: \$6.50 per person (2 hours)

CONTACT: Theresa Dozier, 803-400-1151, tdozier@edventure.org to make reservations for groups, overnights or badge workshops. Reservations for overnights or badge workshops: 803-400-1151

-EdVenture Overnights - B, J

Evening snack and breakfast provided. Complete a Try-It or badge Friday. Saturday museum admission is included in overnight package. Check in no earlier than 7 pm Friday; check out no later than 8:30 am Saturday.

COST: \$35 per girl, \$15 per adult (1 free chaperone per 7 girls)

Min 50 / Max 150

-Badge Workshops at EdVenture - B, J

Each girl receives an EdVenture patch upon completion. 2-hour workshops

COST: \$11.50 per girl, \$6.50 per adult (1 free chaperone per 7 girls)

Min 12 / Max 25

Ed-Zoo-Cation - All

Looking for a way to spend some wild time with your **non-school group or organization?** Let the Zoo provide a unique and fun learning opportunity through one of its Ed-Zoo-Cation programs. Through exciting hands-on materials and interesting activities, the professional education staff at the NC Zoo will introduce your group to interesting topics ranging from habitats and adaptations to our very own chimpanzee troupe. Participants will connect with animals, discover the need for healthy habitats, and actions they can take to help protect and preserve the Earth's precious natural resources. Check out what your area zoological parks have to offer. Special onsite events and programs will give you a new zoo experience. Group events are listed on their website at

<http://www.nczoo.org/education/EdZooCaTion.html>.

WHERE: 4401 Zoo Parkway, Asheboro, NC

CONTACT: www.nczoo.org or toll free 1-800-488-0444

-Girl Scout Patch Program

Learn about the Zoo in an integrated way while earning a Zoo Girl Scout Patch. Please use the educational activities found in the Girl Scout Patch Program, as well as other scavenger hunts, fact sheets and activities found on the Edzoocationsite, in a way that will enable troop members to have a more positive Zoo experience. Reduced admission for Girl Scout troops working on their Zoo Patch. (See Patch Programs in your FYI)

Field Trip Factory - All

Field Trip Factory is your resource for free, fun, community-based field trips. For more than 10 years, Girl Scouts around the country have enjoyed the educational experience of our field trips. These field trips foster hands-on learning and may help fulfill badge requirements. Field trips are offered on Nutrition, Healthy Living, Animal Welfare, Fitness, Careers, Auto Safety and Creative Problem Solving.

CONTACT: 1-800-987-6409 or www.fieldtripfactory.com

F.I.L.M. Finding Inspiration in Literature and Movies - C, S, A

Encourages youth to see featured films and read the associated books, participate in activities from free, downloadable activity guides, and complete service projects related to central themes. F.I.L.M. has the power to influence Hollywood to create more movies with positive messages. Information about the overall F.I.L.M. project, access to activity guides, and updated news can be found at www.youthfilmproject.org.

GAP Kids Fashion Show - C, S, A

Visit a participating GAP Kids to learn all about fashion merchandising and create and hold your own fashion show in the store! This program will help you complete your entire Fashion Design IP. (It is suggested that your troop complete #6 of the skill builders prior to the event. This will allow you to be current on fashion trends and see how they relate in the fashion business.)

WHEN: September, January, April or May (call to schedule)

WHERE: Your local participating GAP Kids store

CONTACT: Northlake Mall GAP at 704-596-0112; all troops will go through this contact to schedule any sessions.

Great Wolf Lodge - All + Families

Craving some uninterrupted, quality time with your family and friends to unwind and reconnect? If so, then now is the perfect time to clear your calendar, pack the swimming suits and head to Great Wolf Lodge. Just imagine a HUGE indoor waterpark, spacious rooms designed like northwoods cabins, and an animated clock tower show followed by pajama story time. Take advantage of this exclusive offer and book an unforgettable getaway for your troop today! Be sure to ask about earning the Great Wolf Lodge Girl Scout Patch or participating in the Girl Scout Wolf Lodge Scavenger Hunt.

WHERE: 10175 Weddington Road Ext., Concord, NC 28027

COST: For special Girl Scout rates use the promo code "Scout" to book your reservation.

CONTACT: Call 1-866-925-wolf (9653) or visit www.greatwolf.com

Hall Family Farm - All

Girl Scouts will get a chance to take a tour of a working farm, learn about farming, and pick strawberries. Troops will also have the opportunity to earn one of the following Petals, Try-Its, or Badges:

Daisies - Green, Rose, Orange, Spring Green, and/or Yellow

Brownies - Eco-Explorer, Earth and Sky, Movers, and/or Science in Action

Juniors - Business Wise, Food Power, Finding Your Way, Outdoor Creativity, Outdoor Fun, Drawing & Painting, Math Whiz, Making It Matter, and/or Science Discovery

WHEN: Tours booked by appointment from August to during strawberry season and are only held during April & May.

WHERE: 17314 Providence Rd West, Charlotte, NC 28277

COST: Cost for basic tour (includes picking 1 pound of strawberries, one 8 oz slushie, a coloring book, and fun patch) - \$6 per person; Daisy Petal program is \$5 per person (Petal is not included); Brownie Try-It or Junior Badge program is \$5 per person and includes the Try-It or Badge earned. Program groups may add strawberry picking for an additional \$2 per person.

CONTACT: Lara Hall at 704-540-0367 or info@hallfamilyfarm.com or www.hallfamilyfarm.com.com

Hannah's Room - All

Be beautiful inside and out! Hannah's Room offers seminars for girls to build self-esteem, integrity and confidence through etiquette and learning about inner beauty. Using fun techniques such as songs, dance, stories and group activities, girls will learn the fundamentals of courtesy and tools they can use to safely navigate the worlds of school, family and friendships. Special Girl Scout troop pricing and badge workshops are available.

CONTACT: 704-906-4756 or www.hannahsroom.net

Historic Brattonsville® - All

Step into an 18/19th century village to learn about the lifestyles and skills of early settlers and the workings of a southern plantation.

WHEN: Open year round except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas and New Year's Day; hours are Mon-Sat 10 am - 5 pm and Sun 1-5 pm

WHERE: 1444 Brattonsville Rd, McConnells, SC

COST: \$6 per adult, \$3 per student, free up to age 5. Admission to Walt Schrader Trails included.

CONTACT: 803-684-2327 or hbratton@comporium.net, <http://chmuseums.org/brattonsville/>

Historic Rosedale Plantation - All

Tour the 1815 manor house, beautiful grounds and gardens on this old plantation. This National Register Landmark is tucked into the woods beside Tryon Street, 3 miles north of uptown Charlotte. See Passport to History patch program information in your FYI to enhance your visit.

WHERE: 3427 North Tryon St, Charlotte

CONTACT: 704-335-0325

Hollywild Animal Park - All

Hollywild Animal Park offers a badge program for Girl Scout troops in the surrounding areas. Participate in one of over forty Try-Its and Badge programs and leave the park having earned a badge of your choice. Girl Scouts will find acres of animals from continents around the world that help each girl to earn their badge. The program also focuses on conservation, the environment, rainforest, endangered species and recycling.

WHEN: March 1st thru October 31st; Sunday – Saturday: 9 am – 3 pm

WHERE: 2325 Hampton Road, Wellford, SC (north of Greenville, SC; off of I-85)

COST: \$6.00 per person (including adults and tag-a-longs); \$5.00 per program participant (includes a patch)

CONTACT: Linda Poole, Program Director at 864-472-2038 or visit www.hollywild.com.

Home Depot Kids' Workshops - B, J, C

Kid's workshops are free and designed for children ages 6-12. Information is available on the Website:

www.homedepot.com or, you may contact your local store for information & dates of upcoming workshops.

Inner Peaks - C, S, A

Rock climbing is one of the fastest growing sports in America and offers an exciting & challenging mental and physical workout emphasizing strength, flexibility and endurance. At Inner Peaks you will learn to set goals improve your risk taking skills and increase your mental sharpness. All this while honing your body and enjoying new friendships built on the foundation of a shared experience. Let your girls get the most they can out of their climbing experience. Follow Safety Wise guidelines.

WHERE: 9535 Monroe Rd, Charlotte

CONTACT: 704-844-6677 or www.innerpeaks.com

James K. Polk Memorial - All

See Passport to History patch program in your FYI to enhance your visit to this NC Historic Site, the reconstructed home of the 11th U.S. President. Free exhibits and tours of the historic building.

WHERE: 308 South Polk St, Pineville, NC

CONTACT: 704-889-7145, www.nchistoricsites.org/polk/

Kannapolis Intimidators Minor League Baseball - All + Families

WHEN: April to September - call for schedule of games

WHERE: Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium, located off I-85 at exit 63

COST: Call for ticket prices

CONTACT: 704-932-3267 or www.intimidatorsbaseball.com

Kids Voting - All

Kids Voting is an innovative, non-partisan nonprofit program educating K-12 students about citizenship, civic participation, government and the election process through classroom lessons, community civic activities, interaction with public officials and authentic election experiences. It prepares children and youth for a lifetime of active civic engagement, and is available to all students in Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties.

CONTACT: Charlotte/Mecklenburg Region- 704-343-6999 or info@kidsvoting.org; www.kidsvoting.org

-Experience elections - Students can visit real polling sites to cast ballots on real candidates. While the votes don't count officially, they are tabulated and reported in the media. Youth may also "adopt" and staff Kids Voting booths in election precincts and early voting sites.

-Civic activities - Mecklenburg Youth Civics 101, Mecklenburg Candidate Forum for Youth, Mecklenburg Youth Voice and more.

-Civic education materials - Kids Voting has a variety of age specific activities that are perfect for youth leaders. Topics include local government, elections and voting, civic participation, history of democracy, media literacy, service-learning and more.

-Kids Voting Speakers - arrange a visit from a public official or journalist, or visit government meetings, newsrooms, etc. Kids Voting will help with arrangements, information, etc.

-Leadership Roles for High School Students - including Election 2009 Precinct Captain, Kids Voting Mecklenburg Youth Coordinators and Mecklenburg Youth Voice; **Gold Award opportunities also available.**

-General volunteer opportunities exist through the year, including helping with Kids Voting mailings and other office tasks, internships, web and technology projects, helping prepare election materials and more.

Kings Mountain National Military Park - All

Commemorates a pivotal and significant victory by American Patriots over American Loyalists during the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War. The battle fought on October 7, 1780 destroyed the left wing of Cornwallis' army and effectively ended Loyalist ascendance in the Carolinas. The victory halted the British advance into North Carolina, forced Lord Cornwallis to retreat from Charlotte into South Carolina, and gave General Nathaniel Greene the opportunity to reorganize the American Army.

-Visitor Center: Features a 27-minute film, Battle of Kings Mountain, museum exhibit area, cooperating association sales outlet.

-Battlefield Trail: 1.5-mile self-guiding loop trail around battlefield site. The trail is the site of Ferguson's Cairn, the burial site of British Major Patrick Ferguson; the U.S. Monument and other markers; and wayside exhibits.

-Hiking and Horse Trails: Kings Mountain National Military Park and adjacent Kings Mountain State Park offer 32+ miles of hiking and horse trails.

WHEN: Mon-Fri 9 am - 5 pm, Weekends 9 am - 6 pm (Memorial Day to Labor Day). Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

WHERE: 2625 Park Rd, Blacksburg, SC (SC Hwy 216 - exit #2 off of I-85)

COST: No admission fees. Donations accepted at Visitor Center.

-Lodging and Camping:

Lodging available in Kings Mountain and Gastonia, NC and Gaffney, SC. Within the park there is one designated backcountry campsite. Kings Mountain State Park has a 116-site developed campground open year-round. No reservations taken for camping. Be sure to follow *Safety-Wise* guidelines.

CONTACT: 864-936-7921

Kings Mountain National Military Park - All + Families (cont.)

-Adjacent Visitor Attractions

Kings Mountain State Park offers picnicking and camping year-round. Seasonal activities include swimming and carpet golf. It also offers programs at a reconstructed late 18th-century farmstead. Cowpens National Battlefield, where the Patriot army camped the night before Kings Mountain, and the site of the famous Daniel Morgan 1781 victory over Banastre Tarleton, is 28 miles southwest.

Latta Equestrian Center - B, J, C, S, A

Let us help you plan a troop outing! Enjoy trail rides, pony rides, arena rides, bonfire, food, drinks, roasted marshmallows and a tractor drawn or horse drawn hayride.

WHERE: 6201 Sample Road, Huntersville, NC (in Latta Plantation Nature Preserve)

COST: Prices vary based on activities

CONTACT: 704-992-1550

Latta Plantation - All + Families

In addition to "Discover Latta Day", Girl Scouts can participate in Latta Plantation's ongoing year-round programs. See Passport to History patch program information in your FYI to enhance your visit.

WHEN: Anytime except Sundays or during special events (Schedule at least 3 to 4 weeks in advance)

WHERE: Latta Plantation, 5225 Sample Rd, Huntersville, NC

COST: \$5 per participant (minimum 15)

CONTACT: Blair Elder at 704-875-2312 ext 303 or belder@lattaplantation.org

-Plantation Life: This program explores the dynamics of a 19th century backcountry plantation. Included in the program is a tour of the house, kitchen and a slave cabin.

-Life on the Farm: This program looks at the life of a yeoman farmer. Yeomen represented the majority of North Carolinians during the 19th century. Includes a tour of the barns, outbuildings, cabin and animals.

-Civil War Soldier's Life: This program examines the times and lives of the American soldier during the American Civil War from 1861-1865. A costumed interpreter will demonstrate the life of a Civil War soldier through a living history presentation that includes camp life, military equipment, uniforms, medicine, food and military tactics.

-Back of the Big House: This program, centered around the African American Experience Cabin, teaches students about slave life in the Carolinas through the stories of enslaved African Americans who lived at Latta. Students will make an herb bracelet to take with them.

Lazy 5 Ranch - All

Animal ranch with more than 600 animals. A 3-mile safari ride in your own car or horse-drawn wagon. Petting, picnic and play areas. Travel time is approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour from uptown Charlotte.

WHERE: Highway 150 East, Mooresville, NC

CONTACT: 704-663-5100 or www.lazy5ranch.com

Leg Up Equestrian English Riding Academy - J, C, S, A

Topics include proper care of horses, stable management, grooming and tracking. English riding horse show demonstration followed by guided pony rides! Participants complete all requirements to earn Horse Fan Badge. More advanced Horse Rider Badge program, which includes extensive riding and horse care, is also offered throughout the year and during summer camps. Inquire for details.

WHERE: 6238 Johannes Lane, Fort Mill, SC (near Ballantyne)

COST: \$150 per troop (up to 10 riders; \$15 each additional rider)

CONTACT: 803-230-8121 or www.legupeequestrian.com

Levine Museum of the New South - All

See Passport to History patch program in your FYI.

WHEN: Mon-Sat, 10 am - 5 pm. Closed Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve/Day and New Year's Day.

WHERE: Charlotte's Uptown Cultural District, corner of College and 7th Streets. 90 minutes free parking available weekdays in the 7th Street Station next to the Museum. Parking is free in 7th Street Station on weekends.

CONTACT: Youth & Family Programs Manager at 704-333-1887, www.museumofthenewsouth.org

Lowe's Motor Speedway Tours - All

Tour the super speedway most drivers call home, in the heart of stock car country. Your grand tour of LMS includes a close-up look at areas that are usually off-limits during the battle for points and position.

WHEN: Non-event days Mon-Sat, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm and Sun 1:30-3:30 pm.

COST: \$5 per person Group Tours available by reservation.

CONTACT: 704-455-3204

Marbles Kids Museum - All

Formerly "Exploris Camp Programs." An interactive museum with hands-on exhibits on drama, art and music.

COST: Groups of 10 or more: \$4 per person (IMAX and other films are an added fee.)

WHERE: 201 East Hargett St, Raleigh, NC

CONTACT: 919-857-1049, groupvisit@marbleskidsmuseum.org or www.marbleskidsmuseum.org

Martial Arts University - All

Formerly King Tiger Academy Specialized martial arts, self defense and safety programs teach children life skills, leadership, commitment and self-control in a fun, exciting way. Other programs include fitness training, leadership training, team building, and personal mastery/life skills. We can develop a special event just for your troop or service unit.

WHERE: 5660-A International Dr, Charlotte

WHEN: Generally Fridays 4-7 pm and Saturdays 11 am - 3 pm, depending on availability. Each class will take 45 minutes to 1½ hours. Call ahead to schedule.

COST: \$4 per girl or \$50 for up to 20 girls

CONTACT: Instructor Davis at 704-364-1880

McDowell Nature Preserve - All

A 956-acre park featuring interpretive displays, environmental programming, and 8 miles of hiking trails. Brownies and Juniors, check out Ecology Days at McDowell Nature Preserve and Reedy Creek Environmental Center.

WHERE: 15222 York Rd, Charlotte

CONTACT: 704-588-5224

Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament - All

Annual Girl Scout Appreciation Day. Girl Scouts wearing a sash/vest or showing their Girl Scout Membership Card will receive a Medieval Times Patch. Call for details on date and ticket price. Min 20 / Max 55.

WHERE: 2904 Fantasy Way, Myrtle Beach, SC

CONTACT: 843-236-4647 www.medievaltimes.com

Mecklenburg Soil & Water Conservation District - B, J, C, S, A

Soil and water are some of our basic natural resources. The way we manage these and their products (plants and animals) is important in determining our present and future welfare.

WHERE: Basement of 700 North Tryon St, Charlotte

CONTACT: Anganette Byrd, Education Coordinator at 704-336-2455 or www.mecklenburgconservation.com

-Enviroscape: A hands-on activity for children in grades 2-6. Enviroscape is a 3-D model of an imaginary town that demonstrates the effects of runoff and everyday human activity on our water supply.

-Jeopardy: A fun way to learn about soils. Teens in grades 7-12 will receive some background information on soils, and then test their knowledge with our fun portable Jeopardy board.

-Envirothon: The Envirothon competition is an annual environmental competition for middle and high school students. Students compete in teams of 5 to test their knowledge of the natural environment.

-Poster & Essay Contest: The poster contest is for grades 3-6, while the essay contest is for 6th-grade students. The theme rotates each year, focusing on an aspect of soil & water. Visit website for this year's theme and more information.

-Resource Conservation Workshop: Held in Raleigh in June, the Resource Conservation Workshop offers high school students from all over North Carolina a chance to spend a week of in-depth study on issues related to natural resources. Students are housed in NC State campus dorms with guidance of live-in counselors. Cash prizes awards and scholarships are awarded at the end of the workshop. Each year the Mecklenburg SWCD sponsors at least one high school student's attendance. The workshop is not available to high school seniors.

Meg-art Pottery - All

Paint-your-own-pottery studio. Call to reserve a time.

WHERE: Northcross in Huntersville

CONTACT: 704-896-5211

-Option 1

Bring your creative bunch to paint pottery. Girls can choose from a variety of pottery items like dinnerware, frames, boxes, figurines, seasonal items, banks, etc. We carry more than 500 items. A great teambuilding experience where they can create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. We can let the girls take a look at the kilns and give them a brief discussion of the firing process.

COST: Pottery ranges \$6 & up - ask about group rates.

-Option 2

Troops can make a coil pot and a pinch pot from clay, and then return at a later date to paint their creation. Up to 20 girls can make two pots out of clay, and then we will fire the clay pieces. The girls will come back two weeks later to paint one of their pots (20 pots maximum) and have it glazed and fired. We also let the girls take a look at the kilns and give them a brief discussion of the firing process.

COST: Both visits included for \$150

Mint Hill Country Doctor's Museum - All

Visit a period in time when herbs and whiskey were typical home remedies, the doctor was paid with eggs and vegetables from the garden, and children wrote on black painted boards in a one room school house. See Passport to History patch program in your FYI to enhance your visit.

WHEN: Office is open Tues through Sat 10 am – 2 pm. Hosted tours are available at 11 am. Private tours are available upon request.

WHERE: 4311 Hillside Dr (beside the Scottish Bank), Mint Hill, NC

COST: \$5 per adult; \$1 per child

CONTACT: 704-573-0726 or info@minthillhistory.com, www.minthillhistory.com

Mint Museum Tours - All

Discover works of art are windows to history and culture at the Mint! Interactive tours of both locations are designed to engage girls in observation techniques, critical thinking skills and the expression of personal ideas. Tours may be guided or self-guided and must be scheduled in advance. Self-guided tours can accommodate a maximum of 30 in one hour. One chaperone per 10 girls is required.

WHERE: Mint Museum of Art, 2730 Randolph Rd, Charlotte; Mint Museum of Craft + Design, 220 North Tryon St, Charlotte

COST: Contact the museum for admission prices. A purchased ticket is good for admission to both the Mint Museum of Art and the Mint Museum of Craft + Design on the same day. Admission to the Mint Museum of Art is free on Tuesday from 5-9 pm. Admission to the Mint Museum of Craft + Design is free on Tuesday from 10 am-2 pm and the third Thursday of the month from 5-8 pm.

CONTACT: Tour Coordinator at tours@themintmuseums.org, www.themintmuseums.org

Miss Manners - All

Girls learn manners and confidence in social situations during this fun and active program. Girls learn skills and increase self confidence and group unity by participating in games and role plays. Topics include table manners, meeting others and choosing good friends, respect for others, telephone manners, and more. Troop leaders may choose from a menu of topics the ones that best suit their particular group of girls. We can also include manners instruction during a snack, luncheon or tea party.

COST: \$6 per girl

CONTACT: 704-560-3657, mannersandmore@gmail.com, www.mannersandmore.net

Museum of York County - All

The Museum of York County offers visitors a varied and eclectic experience, including exhibit halls, tours and a planetarium.

WHERE: 4621 Mount Gallant Rd, Rock Hill, SC

CONTACT: 803-329-2121 or <http://chmuseums.org/myco/>

Nature Center - Allison Woods - All

Allison Woods is an extensive hardwood forest, covering more than a thousand acres straddling the South Yadkin River, and includes examples of nearly every Piedmont habitat. An Iredell County landmark and treasure trove of natural and cultural heritage worthy of preservation and enhancement, Allison Woods is designated as a National Historic Place and as a Natural Heritage Site of Regional Importance. Troops/groups can learn from interactive field trips led by accomplished outdoor educators. Allison Woods is located next to our new property, Oak Springs.

WHEN: Open by appointment any time of the year

WHERE: Allison Woods is located next to our new property, Oak Springs.

CONTACT: Keith Parker at 704-507-5813 or www.allison-woods.org

North Carolina Dance Theatre - Behind the Scenes Tours for Girl Scouts - All

Are you curious about what goes on behind the scenes in preparation for a ballet? Visit the North Carolina Dance Theatre Studios to learn how dancers, choreographers and costume designers prepare for a performance. Tour the studios, watch a rehearsal, visit the costume shop and maybe even meet a dancer or two to get an insiders look at professional dance while working toward the requirements for the Brownie Dancercize Try-It and Junior Dance Badge.

WHEN: December 5, 2009; 12-1pm: Nutcracker - All

February 27, 2010; 12-1pm: Cinderella - All

May 8, 2010; 12-1pm: Director's Choice - C, S, A

WHERE: 622 East 28th Street, Suite 113, Charlotte (corner of North Davidson and 28th St.)

COST: \$4 per participant

CONTACT: NC Dance Theatre Director of Education and Outreach at 704-372-0101 x 109

- Performances – All

Exciting dance performances available to Girl Scouts and troop leaders at a special group rate. Girl Scouts will see a diverse group of professional dancers perform both classical and contemporary choreography. Attending the performance will fulfill part of the requirements for the Brownie Dancercize Try-It and Junior Dance Badge.

WHERE: Belk Theatre inside the NC Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, 130 N. Tryon St., Charlotte.

COST: Special \$10 admission rate for Girl Scouts and accompanying adults.

CONTACT: NC Dance Theatre Patron Relations Associate, 704-372-0101 x 226

North Carolina Page Program - S, A

Do you have an interest in government? If so, why don't you apply to serve as a Page in the Governor's Office during Girl Scout week? You will join Girl Scouts from across North Carolina to see first hand how laws are made and learn about government functions and current events by participating in the legislative process. Girls are selected through an application process and good academic standing. Applications are available through the GSHNC Service Center and are due to the Program Department by December 1, 2009. Due to North Carolina law, principals are required to approve student requests for time off to participate in this program.

North Carolina State Capital Tours - All

The Capital Area Visitor Center in Raleigh offers a variety of services. Staff can provide information about Raleigh sites; give directions and maps; offer brochures for many Triangle area sites, hotels, and restaurants; show a 15-minute slide show of Raleigh history, major attractions, and the Executive Mansion. The Center is surrounded by many of North Carolina's unique attractions: The North Carolina Museum of History, The State Legislative Building, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, The State Capitol, The Executive Mansion and The Museum of Art.

Scheduling a Tour:

As a free public service, the Visitor Center schedules tours of sites in the state government complex. Due to heavy scheduling at certain times of the year, you will benefit from the center scheduling your tour, even if you only plan to visit one site. This will guarantee a guide for your group at certain sites and give your group priority over unscheduled groups.

WHERE: 4624 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC

CONTACT: Call 866-SCH-TOUR (866-724-8687) or email jackie.parrish@ncmail.net at least one month in advance to have a better chance of getting scheduled for the sites and times you want. Visit www.ncstatecapitol.org for more information.

North Carolina Transportation Museum - All

Located on 57 acres of what was once Southern Railway's primary servicing facility for steam locomotives. One of the country's premiere resources on the history and science of transportation: exhibits highlight major forms of inland transportation in NC history. Variety of ways for groups to experience the museum, either self-guided or through pre-planned activities. Once your reservation is made, you will be sent a confirmation letter, schedule and further museum and area information. See Explore the N.C. Transportation Museum Program Patch in your FYI to enhance your visit.

REGISTRATION: Groups must be pre-registered with 2 weeks' advance notice. A group reservation will be made for groups of 15 or more. Tours are limited and scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

COST: Prices vary, so be sure to check the website for details

CONTACT: www.nctrans.org, or 704-636-2889/ 1-877-628-6386 to plan a group visit.

Paper Crafts with Tricia's Foolproof Fun - All

Card-making, scrapbooking and more! We will custom-design a fun activity for your troop based on your interests and grade levels. We can cover all elements of scrapbooking, from journaling to photo safety and different techniques. We can cover making cards and different stamping techniques. The activity will be designed around your interests and budget.

COST: Call for group pricing information, starting at \$5 per person

CONTACT: 704-541-1625 or TriciasFoolproofFun@gmail.com

PEAK (Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids) - All

A partnership between REI and the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics - the PEAK program consists of an REI backpack stuffed with essential gear for outdoor adventure, as well as games, activities and lessons, and is presented as a convenient and fun way to teach young people environmental ethics. Through this hands-on, interactive program children are taught to have fun outside while practicing responsible outdoor recreation. To learn more, visit the Leave No Trace website at www.lnt.org.

CONTACT: Outreach Specialist - REI Pineville, 704-341-7405

Patterson Farm Market & Tours, Inc. - All

Several opportunities for Girl Scouts to learn about and experience farm life. Participants will learn about crops grown, do a seasonal hands-on activity, take a wagon tour of the farm, pick produce and earn a patch.

WHEN: Tours booked by appointment during each season (listed below). Individual programs scheduled during the off seasons.

WHERE: 10390 Caldwell Rd, Mount Ulla, NC

COST: Prices vary depending on tour

CONTACT: 704-857-5242, tours@pattersonfarminc.com; www.pattersonfarminc.com

Pen Pal Network - B, J, C, S, A

Is your troop interested in making new friends and learning about Girl Scout experiences from other areas of the country? The Pen Pal Network can provide that opportunity. Grade level, number of girls, area of the country and availability of links in other councils are considered when linking troops. This is a one year commitment between troops (not individuals). It may take several months to make a link, but the experience will be worth the wait! Forms are available at the GSHNC Service Center or on our website. Submit requests to the Program Department.

CONTACT: Program Department for more information; 704-731-6610.

Plaster Creations - All

Plaster Creations is a paint-it-yourself plastercraft shop and has over 700 different pieces to choose from to paint and take home same day! Girls will choose their own colors and create their own masterpiece. They will learn painting techniques and how plaster pieces are made. Field trips are booked for one hour to one and half hours and can be held anytime during the day, evening or weekend. We can also add pizza and a drink at your option. Lots of fun for all!

WHERE: 1010 Cloverleaf Plaza, Kannapolis, NC (Next to CiCi's Pizza.)

COST: \$7 per girl for anything on the party wall (over 400 choices). Prices include plaster piece, paint, glitter and you take it home the same day. We also have Plaster Creations patches for \$3 each.

CONTACT: Barbara at 704-721-0003 or visit www.plastercreations.com

President's Environmental Youth Awards - All

The PEYA program honors a wide variety of environmental projects developed by young individuals. Regional certificate program applications can be submitted at any time. All qualified applicants will receive a certificate signed by the President honoring them for their efforts to protect human health and the environment. Regional award program applications due December 31st. Ten award winners receive a presidential plaque at an EPA-sponsored award ceremony in Washington, D.C. Visit www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya/index.html for more information.

Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County - B, J, C, S, A

High-quality, creative programs designed to encourage discovery, exploration, and the love of books and reading. All library programs fill quickly and most are free. Contact local branch to find out specific program offerings and registration requirements.

CONTACT: 704-336-2725 (Main Library), www.plcmc.org or Cheryl Brinkley, Teen Librarian, at 704-973-2718 or cbrinkley@plcmc.org

Reed Gold Mine - All

Special events held throughout the year. Panning for gold offered April-October for a small fee. Guided tours of the underground tunnels are offered each hour, and stamp mill tours are available several times each day. Instructors are available to assist. Must be 8 yrs or older to pan. See Passport to History patch program in your FYI to enhance your visit.

WHERE: 9621 Reed Mine Rd, Midland, NC

COST: No fee for admission or tours of the mine. Gold panning is \$2 per pan. Group rate of \$1.50 per pan is available.

CONTACT: 704-721-4653 or www.reedmine.com

Reedy Creek Nature Center - All

Small, remote nature center located on a 700-acre nature preserve. Featuring hands-on exhibits, 10-mile nature trail, naturalist-guided walks, naturalist lab, environmental programs and science workshops. Brownies and Juniors, check out Ecology Days at McDowell Nature Preserve and Reedy Creek Environmental Center.

WHERE: 2900 Rocky River Rd, Charlotte

CONTACT: 704-598-8857

Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies - B, J, C, S, A

Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies Try-It, Badge, and IP Workshops.

WHEN: Call for dates.

WHERE: Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, 88 River Rd, Gatlinburg, TN

COST: Call for group pricing information.

CONTACT: 865-430-8808 ext 2142, or education@ripleys.com

Safety Awards - B, J, C, S, A

Girl Scout Troops/Groups may earn Safety Awards by completing activities outlined on pages 11-13 in Safety Wise. These activities reinforce the importance of safety in everyday life and in everything we do in Girl Scouting. Also check out the Lifesaving Awards on page 148 in Safety Wise. These pins may be ordered from Promise Provisions Girl Scout Store.

Schiele Museum of Nature History and Planetarium - All

Enjoy the area's largest natural history museum - 10 minutes from uptown Charlotte. Visit exhibition galleries featuring North American habitats and wildlife. Take a new look at the universe in the state-of-the-art planetarium or walk the nature trail to an 18th century backcountry farm and Native American Village. Check out the Passport to History patch program in your FYI that features this museum.

WHERE: 1500 E. Garrison Blvd, Gastonia, NC

CONTACT: 704-866-6900 or visit the website at www.schielemuseum.org

Sew Fun - All

This is a unique approach to parties and gatherings that not only provides fun, but offers a life-long skill for girls. Children and adults can learn to design and sew various projects such as pillows, bags, memory boards, and gifts on one of our 15 machines located in our studio. Sew Fun has chosen special sewing machines to use with the youngest of sewers and all machines are speed adjustable: from beginner to advanced speed. Parties are specially catered to individual age groups and can include badge work if desired.

WHERE: 163 South Trade Street, Griffin Square, Matthews, NC

CONTACT: Wendy@sewfunparties.com or 704-254-9111

Skin Care Basics - C, S, A

Enjoy great girl fun while learning about skin care basics. Hands-on training using products specially formulated for young skin. Each girl will leave with an adorable sample gift bag filled with face cleanser, moisturizer, cream-to-powder eye shadow, fragrance and lotion. Will come to your location!

COST: \$8 per girl (Min 10 / Max 30)

CONTACT: Heather Muldowney, 704-618-3131 or hmuldowney@hotmail.com

South Carolina Aquarium - All

WHERE: 100 Aquarium Wharf, Charleston, SC

COST: Ask about discounted group rates

CONTACT: 800-722-6455 or www.scaquarium.org

South Carolina Child Safety - All

The SC Internet Crimes Against Children website, www.sckidsonline.com, has a lot of information and useful links for all ages to learn more about protecting children online. A parent's guide to children's internet safety is available (click on the parent's link). FREE Public Awareness materials may also be requested on this website (click on the distributed materials link).

South Carolina Governor's Mansion - B, J, C, S, A

Built in 1855. Tours are free and available by appointment only. Visit the website at www.scgovernorsmansion.org.

WHERE: 800 Richland St, Columbia, SC

CONTACT: Nancy Bunch at 803-737-1710 or nbunch@gov.state.sc.us

South Carolina Page Program - S, A

10th-12th graders may apply by having GSHNC endorse your completed Page application and submitting it with \$5 processing fee to Girl Scout Legislative Page Program, P.O. Box 200, Irmo, SC 29063.

COST: \$80 per girl (if accepted)

Tap into the Energy - J, C

Kidnetic.com is an educational resource - a healthy eating and active living site for kids ages 9-12 and their families. It is intended to encourage them to begin the process of behavior change toward healthy lifestyles. Badge, IP and charm requirements can be linked with activities.

Tennessee Aquarium - B, J

Immerse yourself in the aquatic wonders of the Tennessee Aquarium, have an unforgettable film experience at the IMAX 3D Theater, and be amazed by Rock City. Splash Badge program available. Visit website for more details.

WHERE: Chattanooga, TN

COST: Prices vary

CONTACT: 1-800-499-9877 or visit the website at www.tnaqua.org

Timberline Four Season Resort - C, S, A

Go on a high adventure weekend which includes skiing, lodging at the Sitzmark Village Bunkhouse, ski rentals, introductory ski lessons, meals and more. Girls must be in 7th grade or older. Call the GSHNC program department for a brochure or visit www.timberlineresorts.com for more information.

WHERE: Timberline Four Seasons Resort in Davis, West Virginia

COST: Complete weekend trip with slopeside lodging as low as \$99 plus tax per person, transportation not included

CONTACT: Call 1-800-392-0152 or email biggroups@timberlineresort.com

U.S. National Whitewater Center - All

The U.S. National Whitewater Center is the world's premier outdoor recreation and environmental learning center. Alongside mountain-biking trails, a climbing center, running trails and camping areas, the park's unique feature is a multiple channel, customized Whitewater River for rafting and canoe/kayak enthusiasts of all abilities.

WHEN: Call for hours of operation, which change according to season

WHERE: 10 minutes from downtown Charlotte on the Catawba River

COST: Special Girl Scout rates available. Call for details.

CONTACT: 704-391-3900

Walk Through Bethlehem - B, J, C, S, A

Imagine being transported from the quaint suburb of Matthews to the Town of Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago. There are dirt roads and animals used for transporting people and goods from town to town. Witness the story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus in a stable. Brownies may work on the Around the World and Listening to the Past Try-Its. Juniors may work on the Global Awareness, Jeweler, Sew Simple, Theater, Toymaker, Traveler, World Neighbors and Yarn and Fabric Arts badges. Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors may work on the Artistic Crafts, Fashion Design, Folk Arts, Just Jewelry, Leadership, The Performing Arts, Textile Arts, Travel and Understanding Yourself and Others IPs. See Community Service listing for ways you can help.

WHEN: December 2009

WHERE: Matthews United Methodist Church

CONTACT: Ineke at 704-846-6512 or ineke@alltel.net

Uwharrie National Forest - All

Uwharrie National Forest is over 50,000 acres of natural resources located in Montgomery, Randolph and Davidson Counties in North Carolina. There are clean rivers and streams, wildlife habitat, and a wide variety of recreational activities such as camping, picnicking, hiking trails, fishing and more. Holt's Picnic Area is an excellent day use site equipped with tables, fire grates and toilet facilities located along Badin Lake. Fishing is easily accessible and a short trail (Denson's Creek) less than a mile long has marked areas for plant life, trees and wildlife areas. Overnight sites are available for bring-your-own tent camping.

WHERE: 789 Highway 24/27 East, Troy, NC

COST: Free for entry or day use. Various fees apply for use of overnight campground areas.

CONTACT: 910-576-6391; Visit www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc for more information.

Waterworks Visual Arts Center - All

Nonprofit organization offering exhibitions, education and outreach that inspires and educates kids and adults to explore contemporary art through hands-on and visual means.

WHERE: 123 East Liberty St, Salisbury, NC

WHEN: Free, docent-led tours available Mon-Sat, 10 am - 4 pm, and Thursdays until 7 pm

CONTACT: 704-636-1882 or assistant@waterworks.org. Visit the website at www.waterworks.org to schedule a tour date/time and discuss specific group needs & parking.

Weddington Activity Center - All

Offering a variety of activities such as gymnastics, cheerleading, art, pottery, acting classes, music, and birthday parties.

WHERE: 13601 Providence Road, Weddington

COST: Prices vary depending upon program, contact center directly.

CONTACT: Center Director at 704-847-0785

Wet'n'Wild Emerald Pointe - All

The largest water park in both the Carolinas is the place to cool off, get sun & have fun. Over 36 rides and attractions, so there's something for everyone. Family friendly, including Splash Island and Happy Harbor, our two large children's areas. Offers an abundance of lounge chairs and shaded areas when you're ready to relax. Groups of 15 or more get discounted tickets, reservations required.

WHERE: 3910 South Holden Rd, Greensboro, NC 27406

CONTACT: Sales Department at 800-555-5900 www.emeraldpointe.com

What is Radio? - J

Learn about the different kinds of radio (commercial broadcast, public service, and hobby radio), as well as how radio waves travel through space, the different frequencies allocated for different types and uses of radio waves, and modes of communication (voice, digital, morse code). Learn about Amateur (Ham) radio - who Hams are, what they do, and why they get involved with public service or emergency communications. Also presented is what radio waves "look like" with the various modes and types (AM, FM, Digital) of signals. Participants are then encouraged to chat with some local Hams using Ham radio. Please call at least 2 weeks in advance. Session time is 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Minimum 10 / Maximum 20

CONTACT: John White at 704-366-5375 or wb2nhq@arrl.net; Jeff Blythe at 704-577-3619 or ka4wyc@gmail.com

World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) - All

More than 140 countries, including the United States, are part of this great organization. WAGGGS not only unites all of its member organizations, but also promotes and establishes Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting organizations around the world. The goal of WAGGGS is to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world. Check out www.wagggsworld.org to learn more and get ideas about how to teach your troop about Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world.

World Cultural Center - All

The World in Our Backyard shares an interactive presentation and cultural experience about the places, faces and native costumes of different cultures. The one hour program will allow girls to explore and experience the arts, crafts and lifestyles of world cultures. Try-It, badge and IP requirements can be covered. Programs offered on Africa, Australia, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Italy, Native Americans, Netherlands, Mexico and Peru.

COST: \$4 per girl. Minimum charge of \$100 for any program.

CONTACT: Ineke der Meulen at 704-846-6512 or ineke@alltel.net, www.worldcc.org

WTVI Television Station Tours! - All

You've seen it on TV - now see what happens behind the scenes of our local Public Broadcasting Station. Plan a tour of WTVI television station's broadcast studio, control room, satellite tour, and more.

WHEN: Monday-Friday, 9 am - 4 pm

CONTACT: Beverly Dorn-Steele at 704-371-8840 or bds@wtvi.org

Young Chefs Academy - All

Young Chefs Academy, a cooking school for children, offers monthly memberships, after-school classes, private classes for homeschool groups or field trips, summer and holiday camps, Girl Scout troops, birthday parties, and much more. They teach children the skill and joy of cooking in a fun, educational and safe environment! Girls will learn basics in kitchen safety, proper food handling, preparation and presentation, cooking and baking techniques, nutrition, table setting and manners.

WHERE: 4455 Highway 49, School House Commons, Harrisburg, NC

COST: Call for prices; Classes run 12-15 girls.

CONTACT: 704-455-2122

Zoo Atlanta - All

The zoo plans many activities, including overnights, for Girl Scouts.

WHERE: 800 Cherokee Ave SE, Atlanta, GA

COST: Discount coupons available for \$10 admission instead of \$17

CONTACT: www.zooatlanta.org/education_scouts/htmtraining