Books in a Bag

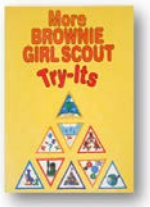
The **Books in a Bag** Program consists of two documents. One presents a series of questions to challenge girls and adults to find the answers as they have fun looking through the handbooks to compare them to the one they use today. The other shows colored images of the books with publication dates to help them become familiar with the development of the program and handbooks of their age level.

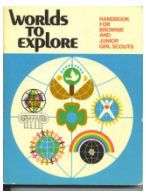
Each age level's *Girl's Guides for Girl Scouting* has a Legacy badge called **Girl Scout Ways.** Pursuing this badge will give girls the opportunity to learn the history of Girl Scouting through pictures, illustrations, traditions or activities. As the girls look through the historic resources, they will discover similar drawings and activities that are included in the current handbook. Perhaps this will inspire them to create a story to tell and a way to complete activities found in the Journey – **It's Your Story –Tell it!** The girls are part of the history of this Movement.

The Girl Scouts of Colorado History Committee has provided these resources for your use and enjoyment. Please let the committee know of your experiences with this program by telling us your story through words, pictures or videos. Send your thoughts to gscohistory@gmail.com. You can even post your stories on the Girl Scouts of Colorado Blog under – Share Your Story.

Troops are always invited to visit the History Center in Loveland to see vintage uniforms and insignia, product sale items, collectibles and memorabilia or even the many Girl Scout catalogs of the past. Other historical programs are also available.

If you have any questions, please contact the History Committee at the above email.





Exploring the World of Historic Books

These are handbooks that were used before 1963. Have the girls divide into groups and each group take a book. Have fun exploring these historic handbooks to see how Girl Scouting has changed or stayed the same over the years.

- When was the first book published?
- Are there pictures of uniforms in each book?
- Recite the Promise and Law as it is found in your book. Has it changed over the years?
- In which of the handbooks can you find one of the badges pictured below?

- Is there a badge in your book that you are not familiar with? Try an activity from it if you can.
- What is the highest award a girl can earn in the hand book of your choice?
- Is there any information about World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) in your book?

What was the most interesting thing that you found?
Did you think of any more activities that you could do with these books?

Please share your experience and findings with Girl Scouts of Colorado History committee at gscohistory@gmail.com

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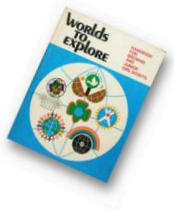

Exploring the World of Brownie Girl Scouts

Distribute the historic Brownie books found in this bag amongst your girls.

Choosing questions and activities listed below, challenge the girls to see if they can find the answers or activities.

- Which Brownie handbooks have only drawings as pictures rather than photographs?
- Which of the handbooks have a Brownie Promise? Is it the same as the Promise we say today?
- Is the Brownie pin the same or different in all the books?
  If different, how is it different than the one that is worn today?
- Can you find the Brownie story in each of the Brownie Handbooks?
- What does the Brownie uniform look like in each of the Handbooks? What are its colors?
- What are the first awards that were earned by Brownies?
- Find an activity that you would like to do from each of the Handbooks. Does this activity appear in other handbooks? Which ones?

Please share your experience and findings with these books with Girl Scouts of Colorado History Committee at gscohistory@gmail.com

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Exploring the World of Older Girl Scouts

These Older Girl Handbooks and Interest Project books are from earlier years. They were used by Cadettes and/or Senior girls. Have each girl or group of girls take a book and have fun exploring what is inside. These question/activities will help with your exploration.

- Look at the books. How are they the same and different?
- Are there pictures or photographs of the uniforms worn by girls? How are they the same or different? Which is your favorite?
- Are there new topics of interest in each of the handbooks or have some of the topics been combined?
- How do the Interest Projects differ from the Badges?
- Discover in which book you find the icons pictured.
- Find something fun to try from each book.
- Discover what new awards have been added over the time period of the books.
- How has the rank or highest award received by this age level changed? Compare the requirements as the award has changed

What was the most interesting information that you found? Did you think of any other fun activities to do using these books?

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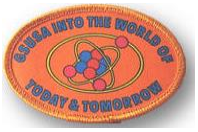
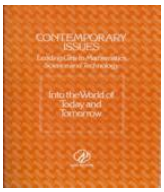


Exploring the World of *Contemporary Issues* and *Issues for Girl Scouts*

The *Contemporary Issues* series of books and activities were developed in 1985 to expand on ideas covered in handbooks or to cover topics not included in handbooks. The books were written for the leaders. The program was changed in 1997, with the phasing out of the *Contemporary Issues* books and the introduction of *Issues for Girl Scouts*. These books were written for the girls to use. If a patch was available, it was worn on the back of vests or sashes.

- Divide the books into the Contemporary Issues books and then the Issues for Girl Scouts.
- In each group, how are the activities for each age level presented?
- Are these issues still of concern to girls today?
- Are the activities similar in both sets of books?
- How do these activities compare to the Journey Programs?
- Was parental permission needed to participate in these activities?
- Read some of the books.
- Pick a few activities to do in your troop.
- Are ideas for community service included in the books?
- Is the information provided in these books relavant to issues of today?



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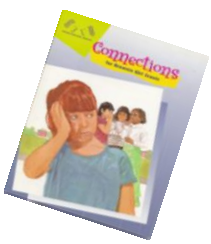

Exploring the World of Junior Girl Scouts

These are Junior Handbooks and Badge books from earlier years. Have each girl or group of girls take a book and have fun exploring what is inside. These question/activities will help with your exploration.

- Find the oldest book. Are there both program ideas and badges in the same book? When did this change?
- Recite the Promise and Law as it is found in your book. Is it the same as it is now? How many times have they changed?
- Can you find a badge that has lasted through the years?
- How has your uniform changed over the years?
- What are the different areas of interest found in each of the handbooks?
- Find something fun to try from each book.
- Find information about the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) in each book.

What was the most interesting information that you found? Did you think of any other fun activities to do using these books?

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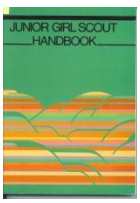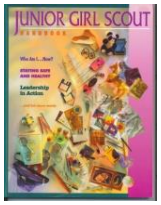
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