

Our Own Council's

"GEORGIA'S NATIVE PEOPLE" Brownie Badge



The Georgia's Native People Brownie badge has a traditional Cherokee design, one that might have been woven onto a girl's dress using quills or beads. It is a flower and leaf design; the dark blue petal is at the top of the badge.



Did you know that the First People in Georgia were Native American Indians? The two largest groups were the Muskogee (Creek) and the *Aniyunwiya* (Cherokee.) Long before European explorers and settlers arrived in Georgia, the "First People" had their own nations with their own languages and cultures. *Ask your troop volunteers where most Cherokee and Creek people live today, and why they are no longer in Georgia.*

Steps:

1. Let's Play!
2. I'm Hungry!
3. Tell Me a Story
4. Past and Present
5. Pow Wows and More

Purpose:

When I have earned this badge, I will know what the children of Georgia's First People did long ago and what they do today.

STEP 1 – LET'S PLAY!

Cherokee and Muskogee girls today play soccer, basketball, softball, board games and video games; but they also play games very like the ones their great-great-great-great grandmothers played. Long-ago Native American girls ran races, jumped rope, played their own version of tag and circle games, and games where they stole each other's places.

- o Learn to play a running game, tag game or circle game Muskogee or Cherokee girls and women played in the past. *Find out: do they still play it today? Are boys allowed to play? Or...*
- o Learn to play a Bowl Catch game (you may have to make your own game pieces!) Long-ago girls would toss peach, plum or persimmon stones (pits) into the air from bowls or baskets. The pits or other objects were marked with numbers or designs to show what they were worth. Girls would hold the bowl with both hands, toss the pits high into the air above the bowl, then try and catch as many as possible in the bowl. They would add up the total marks on the pieces that fell face up to get their score. **Or...**
- o Cherokee and Muskogee children loved to play guessing games and games of chance. Ask a grown-up to teach you one of these games, or read the instructions yourself. Have fun playing with your friends or family.

STEP 2 - I'M HUNGRY!

In the days before supermarkets, Muskogee and Cherokee women and girls held the important jobs of growing and preparing food for their families. They planted corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers. They cooked cornbread, soups, and stews.

- o Ask an adult to help you find and cook cornbread or hominy using a Cherokee or Muskogee recipes; *or*, help you roast sunflower seeds to use in a salad or for a snack or trail mix. **Or...**
- o Ask an adult to help you find and cook fresh corn, fresh green beans or fresh squash using a Muskogee or Cherokee recipe. **Or...**
- o With your troop or other friends, plant and tend a garden that includes corn or beans or squash or sunflowers.

STEP 3 – TELL ME A STORY!

Cherokee and Muskogee children today read stories in print books and electronic books. They watch stories on TV or at the movies. But they also love to listen to stories told by their elders – parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. These stories teach important lessons.

- o Read or listen to a “why” story. This is a story that Cherokee or Muskogee people tell to explain why things happen or how things came to be. An example would be “Why the Possum’s Tail is Bare” or “How Fire Came.” **Or...**
- o Read or listen to a Muskogee or Cherokee *creation story*, a story that tells how the world, people or clans were created. **Or...**
- o Read or listen to a Cherokee or Muskogee story about the night sky. It could be a story about stars, about constellations, or about the moon.

STEP 4 – PAST AND PRESENT

How do Cherokee and Muskogee children live today? What did they do in the past?

Today they do the same things all children do--play with each other, go to school and help around the house. Many of them like to go hunting and fishing with their fathers. In the past, American Indian children had more chores and less time to play, just like colonial children.

- o Children of the past helped their parents with every-day jobs, but they also had dolls, toys and games to play with. Because corn was such an important part of their lives, there were lots of cornhusks to make dolls and balls from. Ask your family and friends to save their corn husks for you whenever they have fresh corn. Let the cornhusks dry. Now you can ask an adult to show you how to make a cornhusk doll. If you have enough husks, you can make a whole family of dolls! **Or...**
- o Cherokee and Muskogee mothers made bowls and baskets for their families, so girls made the same things for their doll families. If you live in a place where there is red or gray clay, ask if you may dig some to make little bowls or model little animals. If there is no clay you may dig, ask an art teacher or someone at a hobby store about buying natural clay to make your bowls and animals. **Or...**
- o What do you wear to school every day? To Girl Scout meetings? To play outdoors? To religious services? Muskogee and Cherokee girls of today wear the same things! With an adult’s help, use the internet* or library books to find out what Cherokee or Muskogee girls wear for dancing at Pow Wows and for traditional ceremonies. Find pictures of what the Cherokee and Muskogee people wore before the Europeans came to America, and what they wore after the Europeans came.

STEP 5 – POW WOWS AND MORE

A Pow Wow is a gathering of Native people to bring many nations together in peace and harmony. People get together to show support for one another, to display traditional wares and to dance, and to sell traditional foods.

- Attend a Pow Wow or other Native American Indian celebration in Georgia. Before you go, review Pow Wow etiquette (found in the Appendix, below.) Learn a few easy Cherokee and Muskogee words. In Cherokee, *osiyō* (pronounced oh-see-yoh) is a friendly greeting and *wado* (wah-doh) means “thank you.” In Muskogee, *hesci* (pronounced heese-chee) is a friendly greeting, and *mvto* (pronounced muh-toh) means ‘thank you.’ Practice first with your friends, then try them out at the Pow Wow. **Or...**
- Visit a museum, historic site or council ground that will help you learn more about the Cherokee and/or Muskogee People when they were living in Georgia. **Or...**
- Listen to traditional or modern Cherokee or Muskogee music. Watch a video (DVD or YouTube) showing a Pow Wow or dance competition.

Now that I’ve earned this badge, I’m prepared to give service by:

- Reading or telling a Muskogee or Cherokee story to a group of younger children, or teaching them a traditional game.
- Growing food or preparing a meal for someone who needs it.
- Making a doll or toy for a child in a homeless shelter or in the hospital.

What are you inspired to do with your new skills?

I’m inspired to:

Sign here

*Always read and use the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge:
http://www.girlscouts.org/help/internet_safety_pledge.asp



RESOURCES

- Your local **public library** will have age-appropriate materials, often shelved in a separate children's section.
- The **internet** has great resources, but not all of them are legitimate and not all are appropriate for children. Research with care and skepticism!
- The **Chieftain's Museum/Ridge Home** in Rome, Georgia participates with the National Park Service as a site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. At the core of the house is a two-story "dogtrot" log cabin that once served as the home of prominent Cherokee leader Major Ridge and his family. Today Chieftains Museum / Major Ridge Home is open to the public as a historic site and interpretive museum. They are usually willing to tailor a tour or activity session for Girl Scouts. They are located at 501 Riverside Parkway; call 706-291-9494 for information and to reserve a workshop; info@chieftainsmuseum.org; <http://www.chieftainsmuseum.org/>.
- **Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site** preserves temple mounds built by Paleo-Indians in prehistoric times and includes a small museum. Etowah also has programs on Cherokee and other Southeastern Indian cultures. (Check www.gastateparks.org for a calendar of special events.) 813 Indian Mounds Rd., Cartersville; 770-387-3747.
- **Indian Springs State Park** – The Creek (Muskogee) Indians used the springs for centuries to heal the sick and impart extra vigor to the healthy. A seasonal museum highlights Creek Indian and other park area history. There are usually spring and fall Native American cultural celebrations. Call 770-504-2277 for more information or check the Georgia State Parks web site. Indian Springs is located off I-75 in middle Georgia outside the town of Flovilla.
- **New Echota State Historic Site** - In 1825 the Cherokee national legislature established a capital called New Echota. It became the government headquarters for the Cherokee nation that once covered north Georgia, western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee and northeastern Alabama. Today, visitors can see several original and reconstructed buildings as well as a film in the site's museum. Located outside Calhoun at 1211 Chatsworth Hwy. NE; 706-624-1321. www.gastateparks.org.
- **Red Clay State Historic Park** became the council grounds of the Cherokee after they were removed from Georgia but before the Trail of Tears. Located in Bradley, TN just over the Georgia state line outside Cohutta. The park includes a small museum, farm buildings, Blue Hole Spring, and commemorative eternal flame. "Cherokee Days of Recognition" are held the first Saturday and Sunday in August. This event includes authentic Cherokee crafts and food, Cherokee storytelling, music and dance. 1140 Red Clay Park Road, Cleveland, TN; 423-478-0339. www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/redclay.
- **Funk Heritage Center**, Reinhardt College, Waleska (Cherokee Co.) – A museum focusing on the history of Southeastern Native peoples and Appalachian settlers. Includes interactive exhibits, a film, contemporary art by Native people. Group tours available: 770-720-5970. (www.reinhardt.edu/funk)
- **Chief Vann House Historic Site** was the home of James Vann, a Cherokee Indian leader and wealthy businessman. He established the largest and most prosperous plantation in the Cherokee Nation, and in 1804 he completed construction of a beautiful brick home, the most elegant in the Cherokee Nation. Today the Vann House survives as Georgia's best-preserved historic Cherokee Indian home. A guided tour allows visitors to see the house which features beautiful hand carvings, a remarkable "floating" staircase, a 12-foot mantle and fine antiques. Call (706) 695-2598 or go to www.GeorgiaStateParks.org/ChiefVannHouse to find out about special events. 82 Ga. Highway 225 N, Chatsworth, GA 30705.

APPENDIX

"I will to my best to be responsible for what I say and do and to respect myself and others"

-The Girl Scout Law

When you are talking about Native American Indians, please don't say:

- Squaw – This is a word that has been used to refer to Native American women for many years, but its original meaning is very vulgar; we can't even print the direct translation!
- Redskin - Originally, "redskin" referred to the bloody scalps of Native People, including children and women, that were sold for bounties with animal skins. Bounty hunters would come to the trading post with their deer-skins, raccoon-skins and red-skins.
- Brave – This word has been used for many years to refer to Native American men. It comes from an old stereotype of Native people as "noble savages." Native people are not wild animals or savages, and each man has his own personality. No one likes to be a label instead of a person!
- Chief (unless a person *is* a chief!) - This is a word commonly used as a nickname which incorrectly labels men who are Native People. It would be like calling all white men "Prez" or "King" or all Catholics "Pope." Very few Native people ever earn the prestigious title of Chief of a Nation – and not all chiefs are men!
- "Stop acting like a bunch of wild Indians!" – This comes from a long-held stereotype that Native people are "wild." Often, anything white (European) people did not understand or that was different from their culture was labeled "wild." You can also fight stereotypes by not using expressions like, "Sit Indian style," or, "Walk Indian file." Just say, "Sit with your legs crossed" or "Walk single file."

AND... PLEASE DON'T ASK:

- "Are you a **real** Indian?" – It is extremely rude to ask personal questions such as "How much Indian are you?" or "Or you a full-blood?" Or to make comments such as "You don't *look* Indian."
- "May I touch you?" Touch your own skin – it feels the same!

POW WOWS

"We know them as ceremonies, because we are celebrating something. We are celebrating the birth of a new Grandbaby, crops were good...everybody's happy. All of these ceremonies go along with our lives. They are family oriented."

-Abe Conklin, Ponca/Osage (1926-1995)

These ceremonies, commonly known as pow wows, have evolved from a formal ceremony of the past into a modern blend of dance, family reunion, and festival. Pow wows are famous for their pageantry of colors and dance, which have been adapted and changed since their beginnings into a bright, fast, and exciting event geared towards Native people and visitors alike.

AT THE POW WOW...

Arena – dance circle. This area is blessed before the dance and must remain pure throughout the Ceremony. There is a single entrance to the arena, facing East; you should not enter the arena unless invited, and this is the only entrance that should be used to enter. This invisible boundary should not be broken at any time by any one.

Regalia – attire worn by dancers (NOT a costume.) The development of a dancer's regalia is a very personal process. Often items have taken years to create or may be gifts and have deep meaning.

Master of Ceremonies – (MC) officiates over Ceremony proceedings; guide to the events – pay attention to his announcements.

The Drum – the heartbeat of Mother Earth. The drum acts as an agent to bring harmony and balance to participants and to spectators. The drum acts as an intercessor to the spiritual realm.

Grand Entry – opening processional of officials and dancers.

Head Man Dancer – lead dancer, he will begin and guide the other dancers through the dance.

Head Woman (or Lady) Dancer – lead dancer, she will begin and guide the other dancers through the dance.

Intertribal Dance – social dance; open to visitors to come join the dancers in celebration.

“Princesses” - Among Native people, a princess is not royalty like a European princess. She is more like a good-will ambassador. Her nation or organization elects her to represent them at pow wows all around the country. Usually a “princess” is a young woman between 15 and 20 years old.

Pow Wow Etiquette for Visitors and Newcomers

- **Bring your own seating** when attending pow wows, because public seating is the exception rather than the rule!
- **Do not sit on the benches around the arena.** These benches are reserved for the dancers only. You may set up your chairs directly behind the benches, but it is usually good courtesy to ask the permission of the dancer whose bench you are sitting behind, as he/she might have family who are going to sit by him or her.
- **Do not touch dancers’ regalia.** It is not a costume, and may have been in the family for many generations. Do not pick up loose feathers from the ground; show a pow wow official where it is and they will pick it up (feathers are sacred to some Native Americans.)
- **Donate money to the Drum.** This is done during a blanket dance, when a blanket will be laid out on the ground and a song or songs will be sung. It is customary to place a dollar bill (or more if you wish) on the blanket and dance the rest of that song, whether you are dressed or not. If you don't want to dance, you should ask a dancer to place the money on the drum for you. The drum has probably traveled a great distance to give you the beautiful songs you hear, and count on this to help pay their expenses.
- **Always stand during special songs.** This includes Grand Entry, Flag Songs, Veteran Songs, Memorial Songs, Prayer Songs, or any other song that the M.C. designates. *It is also customary to remove your hat during that song.*
- **Always listen to the M.C.** He will give all of the information you need, as well as entertain you and keep you posted on news. He can answer any questions you have.
- **Remember you are a guest.** Have fun, ask questions (but avoid interrupting, especially elders) and meet people. Everyone there is welcome!



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