



## Explore Fort Monroe Girl Scout Patch Program

Please reserve your program two weeks prior to visiting by calling (757) 690-8073 or emailing [dsink@fmauthority.com](mailto:dsink@fmauthority.com). Program includes a guided tour and time for participants to explore and complete leadership keys. Allow 2½ to 3 hours total.

**Note:** Some of the “Take Action” requirements may be completed prior to the tour.

**Rates:** \$6 per Girl Scout (includes patch). Two troop leaders are admitted at no charge, additional chaperones or siblings 5 and older @ \$3 each. Please call to make a credit card payment in advance or bring a single payment at the time of tour by cash or check payable to the Fort Monroe Authority.

**Guidelines:** Visit Fort Monroe. Based on the grid, complete the number of activities for your scouting level.

	Discover	Connect	Take Action	Additional Activities from any Leadership Key
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5

**Introduction:** The main purpose of a fort is defense. As you explore Fort Monroe, consider what it was built to defend and whether it was successful in that mission. You will also see signs of everyday life from the soldiers and their families who lived at the fort for nearly 200 years. Imagine what it would have been like to grow up at Fort Monroe.

### DISCOVER

- Discover Fort Features-Museum Entrance  
Arrive 30 minutes early for your tour to explore the exterior features of the fort near the museum entrance. As you explore talk with a partner, small group, or family member to complete at least two of the following, 1 - 3. (See also “Connect Fort Features-Museum Entrance” for follow up questions):
  - The Old Cistern: (cylindrical brick structure between the museum entrance and Bernard Rd.) What resource did the cistern hold? How many cisterns were once on the fort?
  - The Postern Gate: (follow the sally port [tunnel] to the right of the museum entrance to the bridge across the moat) The water in the moat rises and falls with the tide; what evidence can you find to support this? There used to be a gate between the bridge and the tunnel into the fort to let soldiers in; what evidence can you find to support this?
  - Ramparts/Pet Cemetery: (walk up the stairs between the cistern and the museum entrance; please discuss accessibility concerns when booking programs, alternatives are available). Explore and take turns reading the grave markers along the wall. Who do you think they belonged to?

Take a tour of the museum to learn the history of Fort Monroe. Use what you learn to the following questions, if chosen.

- Origins of Fort Monroe
  - Who were the first explorers and hunters on the land now occupied by Fort Monroe?
  - Why did John Smith call this peninsula an “Isle fit for a castle”?
  - How many forts were built on this piece of land before Fort Monroe?
  - Which war caused the United States to build a system for forts, to include Fort Monroe, along the nation’s coasts?
- Famous “Visitors” to Fort Monroe
  - Why was Chief Black Hawk brought to Fort Monroe? Chief Black Hawk was guarded by a soldier who would later become President of the Confederacy. What was his name?
  - Who was E.A. Perry? Why do you think he used a false name while in the army?
  - Why did President Abraham Lincoln visit Fort Monroe? Was his mission successful?
- The US Civil War at Fort Monroe
  - Who controlled Fort Monroe during the US Civil War, the Union or the Confederacy?
  - What two ships fought a famous battle in the waters near Fort Monroe? What were the ships made out of?
  - In May 1861, three enslaved men, Frank Baker, James Townsend, and Sheppard Mallory sought protection at Fort Monroe. Major General Benjamin Butler’s refusal to return the men became known as the “Contraband Decision.” What does *contraband* mean? Why did this action lead to Fort Monroe being nicknamed “Freedom’s Fortress?”

4. Why was former Confederate President Jefferson Davis imprisoned at Fort Monroe? Name three items in his cell.
- Discover Fort Features-Museum Exit  
After your tour, take 30 minutes to explore the features near the museum exit. As you explore, talk with a partner, small group, or family member to complete at least two of the following 1 - 3.
    1. Cannonballs: (*Located just outside the museum exit.*) How many cannonballs are in this stack? How much do you think one cannonball would weigh?
    2. Lee's Quarters: (*Located across the street from the museum exit; not open for tours. See historic marker.*) When was Robert E. Lee stationed at Fort Monroe? What was his assignment?
    3. Flagstaff Bastion: (*From the museum exit, follow the side walk to the right to the flagstaff bastion. Take the ramp to the overlook just beyond the flagstaff.*) What other fort can be seen? Why do you think this is a good location for a fort?

## CONNECT

- Connect Fort Features-Museum Entrance  
Arrive 30 minutes early for your tour to explore the exterior features of the fort near the museum entrance. As you explore talk with a partner, small group, or family member to complete at least two of the following, a-c. (*These should be completed with "Discover Fort Features on page 1"*):
  1. The Old Cistern: (*Find the cylindrical brick structure between the museum entrance and Bernard Rd.*) Discuss two ways soldiers depended on this resource held in the cistern. What actions do you think would be taken at the fort if this resource were in short supply?
  2. The Postern Gate: (*Follow the tunnel to the right of the museum entrance to the bridge across the moat.*) Why do you think Fort Monroe is surrounded by a moat? What material(s) were used to build the fort? Why do you think they were chosen?
  3. Ramparts/Pet Cemetery: (*walk up the stairs between the cistern and the museum entrance.*) Why do you think soldiers and their families would want to bury their pets on the ramparts of Fort Monroe? Draw a sketch of one of the markers you see (please do not take rubbings).
- Watch *Defender of the Chesapeake*: After your tour, or during your tour if time allows, Watch the *Defender of the Chesapeake* audio-visual program and answer the following:
  1. Why was Fort Monroe called the Defender of the Chesapeake?
  2. Where were the main sites for artillery to protect the Chesapeake Bay?
  3. What was the longest range (in miles) of a gun listed in the presentation?
- Become a Junior Ranger: After your tour, obtain a Fort Monroe Junior Ranger booklet. Complete the required activities and earn your Junior Ranger badge. Booklets and badges can be found at the museum entrance or requested from your guide. Booklets can also be downloaded from: <http://www.nps.gov/fomr/forkids/beajuniorranger.htm>
- Take a Walking Tour: Obtain a walking tour card from the stations at the museum entrance or exit. Explore the sites that you've not yet visited (some are listed under other activities). Discuss how each site would have been used by soldiers as part of military duty and/or everyday life at the fort.
- Learn about the Blue Bonnets of Fort Monroe: With a partner, small group, or family member, examine some of the artifacts and documents from Fort Monroe's Blue Bonnet Troop. A special exhibit guide can be found online at [http://www.gsccc.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsccc/documents/general-information/booklet\\_sisterhood-on-the-fort.pdf](http://www.gsccc.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsccc/documents/general-information/booklet_sisterhood-on-the-fort.pdf)
  1. What year was the troop founded?
  2. Describe the troop's activities and accomplishments. Compare them with your own troop. How are they similar and different?

## TAKE ACTION:

- Make the most of your visit to Fort Monroe and use what you've learned! Each of the take action activities should be discussed or shared with a friend or family member.
  1. Design a Tour: Write down your favorite exhibits and design a tour for your family.
  2. Be a Biographer: Research Mary S. Peake. What did she do that was illegal? Create a biography to share her story with others. Can you find the painting of Mary Peake over one of the fireplaces in the museum?
  3. Literary Connections: Read Edgar Allan Poe's poem *Annabel Lee*. Do you think Poe's time at Fort Monroe might have influenced his writing? Write your own poem or short story about Fort Monroe or a period in its history. Available online at: <http://poestories.com/read/annabellelee>.

4. Become a Web Ranger: Visit <http://www.nps.gov/fomr/forkids/index.htm> and complete the interactive web ranger activities: 1. *Protect the Harbor* and 2. *Powder Monkey*. You might want to sign up to become a web ranger while you're at it!
5. Be a Historian: Much of what we know about the Blue Bonnet troop at Fort Monroe came from a scrapbook that was kept and added onto for many years. With an adult's help, design and start a scrapbook for your troop.