



Newport News, Virginia, is an exciting city with a fascinating history. Located on the shores of the James River, Newport News has much to offer, both culturally and historically.

GUIDELINES: Visit Newport News. Based on the grid, complete the number of activities for your grade level.

	DISCOVER	CONNECT	TAKE ACTION	ANY ACTIVITY UNDER ANY KEY	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0	3
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2	5
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3	6
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4	7
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5	8

DISCOVER

- Looking at a Virginia map, where is Newport News located? What rivers or oceans is it near? What is the current population? What other interesting facts can you find about the city? Use the Internet, your local library, or the Census Bureau website for additional research (census.gov/).
- Research the history of the city. Can you find why Newport News was given its name? What historical events occurred in Newport News? Did any historically significant people live in the city?
- What branches of the military are in Newport News? What is the name of the base? If there is more than one branch represented, list each.
- Investigate several political facts about Newport News. What county is it a part of? Which congressional district of Virginia is it a part of? Who is currently the House Representative of the district? How many terms have he or she served?

CONNECT

- Try to meet a troop from Newport News. Plan a visit to their troop meeting, invite them to yours, or take a trip together to one of the locations listed below.
- Visit Newport News City Park. Before you go, click here www.nngov.com and take a look at everything they have to offer. You might want to have picnic lunch, play frisbee golf, go fishing, or participate in a nature program or class.
- Visit the Virginia Living Museum (524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd., Newport News, VA 23601), an interactive museum which has numerous indoor and outdoor exhibits, a planetarium, and many plants and animals to see. One of the primary goals of this museum is to promote environmental awareness and teach others about ecosystems. For more information, call 757-595-1900 and take a look at their website: thevlm.org/.
- Take a trip to the Mariners' Museum, one of the largest historical maritime museums of its kind. Consider going on a group tour and take note of the historical and regional significance present. Which artifacts are displayed and from which time period are they from? How did Newport News affect and influence the Confederacy during the Civil War? How does the displayed artwork represent the region? Prior to your visit, check out their website by clicking here: marinersmuseum.org/.
- Go to one of the following historically significant landmarks. What happened here? Why was this place significant? Why was it preserved into a cultural landmark?

1. **Newsome House**—The Newsome House honors the legacy of Joseph Thomas Newsome by engaging the public in an ongoing study and remembrance of African American history and culture. Newsome established a law practice and prospered as part of the postwar South's new urban, black middle class. He led the fight for social justice within the commonwealth. (newsomehouse.org/index.php).
2. **Endview Plantation**—Built in 1769 by William Harwood, the house was renamed Endview in the 1850s and served as a Confederate hospital during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign. Learn about why the land was so attractive to the Harwood family, as well as many Native American tribes before that, and the important role both the plantation and the Harwood family played during the Civil War. (endview.org/calendar-of-events.php).
3. **Lee Hall Mansion**—Built between 1851 and 1859, Lee Hall Mansion was home to affluent planter Richard Decauter Lee, his wife Martha and their children. Lee Hall offers visitors a step back to the mid-Victorian period. Girls can learn about the history of the site, and the important role it played in the Civil War. You can also see hundreds of artifacts from the time period, on display in the Peninsula Campaign Gallery. (leehall.org/about-us.php).

TAKE ACTION

- While visiting Newport News, take photos and notes. Write a slogan to represent Newport News, and use it as part of a booklet, poster, or flier you create for potential visitors. Share your work with local museums you visited or other Girl Scout troops to encourage them to visit the city.
- Research the many community services available in Newport News. Volunteer through a non-profit organization in Newport News to benefit the community. Use the Peninsula Youth website (peninsulayouth.org/) to research these organizations. Discuss what you have done and how it has benefited the community with your troop or family.
- Choose your favorite community partner or historic site in the city to find out what help or supplies they may need. Organize a drive to gather supplies or recruit volunteers. Remember you cannot raise or donate money to any outside organization.
- Create a presentation for your Girl Scout troop on one of the historical sites in Newport News you visited. Incorporate pictures you took, interesting facts you learned, and share your overall experience.

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