



## Explore Portsmouth

Portsmouth is one of several cities included in the Hampton Roads area. It has a large military presence and contains relevant historical value to the establishment of Virginia.

GUIDELINES: Visit Portsmouth. 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

- Locate Portsmouth on a map and make a note of the surrounding cities. Which bodies of water are closest to Portsmouth? What is the current population of Portsmouth?
- Investigate the history of Portsmouth. How was the city established and when? How did Portsmouth get its name? What is the significance of William Crawford? When was Portsmouth recognized as an independent city?
- Conduct some research on Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. What is the primary purpose of the shipyard? How many military personnel are stationed out of the shipyard? To start your research, take a look at [navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/portsmouth/default.aspx](http://navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/portsmouth/default.aspx).
- Research what has currently been occurring in Portsmouth's local politics. Find three current events pertaining to the political nature of Portsmouth. What does this imply about the city's political atmosphere?

### CONNECT

- Visit Portsmouth's Olde Towne Historic District and participate in the Historic Walking Tour, which will take you to forty-five sites within the district. This area is especially important because it preserves antique homes, dating back 300 years ago. In order to participate in this self-guided tour, stop by the Visitor Information Center and call prior to your visit (757-393-5111).
- Take a trip to the Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve (4510 Twin Pines Road) in order to learn more about Portsmouth's environment. This preserve includes 142 acres of wilderness and fosters a curiosity for environmental education. During your visit, you can explore the hiking trails, observe the wildlife, or rent a kayak. To schedule a visit, call 757-686-8684 or check out their website at [hoffer creek.org](http://hoffer creek.org).
- Visit Cedar Grove Cemetery, Portsmouth's oldest cemetery owned by the city and also recognized as a historic site by the state of Virginia. During your visit, make a note of the religious and military leaders who are buried there and their impact on the area as a whole. The cemetery is located between Effingham Street and Fort Lane in Olde Towne. If you need any assistance, call 757-465-2900.

## **TAKE ACTION**

- Once you have visited at least one of the sites listed in the CONNECT section, create a collage or flyer of the photos you took. Share your work with your family and your Girl Scout troop. Be sure to explain what you learned and which part of the trip was the most educational.
- Research any volunteer opportunities within the Portsmouth public library system. Call 757-393-8501 to receive more information regarding volunteering and visit the library website to learn more: <https://www.portsmouthpubliclibrary.org/>.
- During one of your visits to a location listed on the CONNECT section, ask to see if your Girl Scout troop can assist in any way. Be sure to ask if there is a specific project your troop could become involved in.
- Request to volunteer with Oasis Social Ministry, a food bank located in Portsmouth. Donate your time or supplies to the food bank. To learn more about this opportunity, call 757-397-6060 or visit their website [oasissocialministry.org](https://oasissocialministry.org).