



Explore Newport News

GUIDELINES: Visit Newport News, Virginia. 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	4	7
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4	7
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	4	8

DISCOVER

- Before your visit, look up information about Newport News. Can you find it on a map of Virginia? What is the current population? What colleges or universities have a campus in Newport News?
- 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.
- What is the geography of the area? What rivers or oceans is it near? What natural spaces or parks can be found in the city? Can you find the size of the smallest and largest parks?

CONNECT

- Visit Newport News City Park. You might want to have picnic lunch, play disc golf, go fishing, or participate in a nature program or class.
- Visit one of these sites in Newport News, which also have their own Explore patches:
 - Virginia Living Museum, an interactive museum which has numerous indoor and outdoor exhibits, a planetarium, and many plants and animals to see. (thevlm.org/)
 - 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. (marinersmuseum.org/)
 - Historic Endview (formerly Endview Plantation) 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. (<https://newportnewshistory.org/historic-endview/>)
 - 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. (<https://www.visitnewportnews.com/listing/the-newsome-house-museum-%26amp%3B-cultural-center/170/>)
- Go to one of the following historical landmarks or museums. What happened here? Why was this place significant? What artifacts are being preserved?
 - Lee Hall Mansion offers visitors a step back to the mid-Victorian period. 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.

(<https://newportnewshistory.org/lee-hall-mansion/>)

- Lee Hall Depot was built circa 1881 on the Chesapeake & Ohio rail line and offers exhibits highlighting the impact of the railroad on Warwick County and the City of Newport News as well as information on railroad history and Lee Hall village. It includes an interactive children's area as well as a fully restored Chessie caboose. (<https://newportnewshistory.org/lee-hall-depot/>)
- James A. Fields House was the law office and residence used by Fields, who was a teacher, lawyer and member of the Virginia House of Delegates. It later housed the first Black hospital in Newport News. (<https://www.visitnewportnews.com/listing/james-a-fields-house/167/>)
- Take in some local art. What piece is your favorite and why?
 - Ferguson Center for the Arts has a mission to culturally engage the community by providing access to the finest artists in the world. Enjoy classic theater hits, new emerging shows, and more! (<https://www.fergusoncenter.org/>)
 - The Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center at Christopher Newport University cultivates extraordinary encounters with the visual arts. Consider viewing an exhibition, taking a class, or attending a lecture or gallery talk. (<https://thetorggler.org/>)

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. 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 money for any outside organization while representing Girl Scouts.)
- 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.