American History Film Project

The American History Film Project (AHFP) is a fun way for Girl Scouts to earn badges and get additional recognition for “Celebrating Community/Playing with the Past/Truth Seeking” while making short 3-10 minute digital films. Girl Scouts can create short films as an individual, troop/group, or family multigenerational project that tells the story of a local event or legend. It can be a mini drama, re-enactment, interview with a historian or family member. All films will be archived representing your hometown on a digital U.S. map found on our website.

In addition to Girl Scout badges, girls may earn medals and recognition from AHFP and local leaders. There is no cost to participate; just email a link to your film. Parent permission forms are found on our website.

Troops are encouraged to host their own local film screening for parents and community at a Girl Scout meeting or local museum (either in person or virtual). Then AHFP holds annual and regional online exhibitions as well as show the film at the Angelika Film Center near Washington, DC. In previous years, students from Nebraska, California, New Jersey, Florida, and Illinois have traveled to the Washington DC area to get the “red carpet treatment” and watch their films on the big screen. We’ve also Skyped students from Arizona and Indiana to observe audience reactions, answer questions, and meet other junior historians. In 2020, we began film exhibitions and screenings via webcast and Zoom. Watch Girl Scouts in action at exhibitions here.

While AHFP is not a competition, and all K-12 student work get posted to our site, your film may also qualify for National History Day (NHD) 2021 competition if done in a documentary format, citing research sources, and with “communication” as one of the themes.

Who: Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, Families, Adults

When: The deadline for submitting a film is April 1 each year.
Cost: Free

Recognitions:
- Brownies: Celebrating Community badge
- Juniors: Playing With The Past badge
- Cadettes: Digital Movie Maker badge
- Seniors: Truth Seekers badge

Registration: Every girl who participates in the film must submit a Parent Permission Form. Complete rules are included on our website and the deadline each year is April 1.

Chaperones: Follow Safety Activity Checkpoints.

Questions: Contact Martha Barnes via email.

Note: Because the American History Film Project is not a competition, we encourage adults and families to have a role in the film. However, please list in your film credits everyone who helps with the film, including family members.

Click here to visit the American History Film Project website.