



BOY SCOUTS



American
Heritage



Leader Activity Guide

Any questions or comments on this Leader Activity Guide are welcome. Contact the Director of Education at:

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Produced by the Division of Museum Services and Interpretation



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To the Leader

Scouting and the National Park Service

The Boy Scouts of America and the National Park Service have a lot in common. Both organizations have long histories, beginning in 1909 and 1916, respectively. Both organizations appreciate and preserve nature, the environment and our nation's history. Both are recognized by their distinctive uniforms, badges, and emblems. Scouting and the National Park Service have common goals and missions, particularly in educating today's youths to be responsible and productive citizens. The ideas of scouting and national parks have expanded to countries around the world.

The National Park Service offers a variety of experiences for scouts. Join us for exciting and fun-filled programs that will help your scouts earn their badges, while scouting in the national parks.

User-Friendly Format

To prepare your scouts, use the two Pre-Visit Activities in this guide before you visit the Gateway Arch Riverboat. We also suggest you use the two Post-Visit Activities after your visit.



Program Description

Throughout the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, St. Louis was one of America's premier cities. From its beginning until the 1840s it served as the center of the American fur trade. As the nation turned its focus from furs to land, and from keelboats to steamboats, St. Louis became the gateway to the unsettled lands of the west and one of the busiest river ports in the world. By the turn of the century, St. Louis, like the rest of the nation, had turned its attention to manufacturing. By 1900, St. Louis was the leading producer of shoes, stoves, and wagons and was ranked as the 4th largest city in the United States.

The important role St. Louis played in the growth of our nation is due largely to its location on the Mississippi River and its close proximity to the mouth of the Missouri River. In this program your scouts will learn about and experience St. Louis' connection to the river aboard a Gateway Arch Riverboat.

When your group completes the required Pre- and Post-Visit Activities and participates in this program aboard the Gateway Arch Riverboat, they will meet all the requirements for the American Heritage Badge. In addition, there is a Jefferson National Expansion Memorial patch available to your group, for a nominal fee, to recognize their participation in this program.

As the leader of your group, you are a positive role model and an essential part of this program. Thank you for letting us share in the responsibility of teaching your scouts to be responsible and productive citizens.



Your Community

Please share with your scouts:

According to *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition*, a community is an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location. The notion of a community can refer to a large area like your city or town, or it can refer to a much smaller area like the neighborhood in which you live. The original St. Louis community was founded in 1764 and occupied what are today the grounds of Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. Its founders, Pierre Laclede and Auguste Chouteau, chose the site because of its location on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and its close proximity to the Missouri River. With time the community grew and changed, due largely to its location along the river.

American Heritage Badge - Requirement 1c

Some members of your troop may live in very old communities or neighborhoods while others may live in a brand new housing complex. No matter the age of a community there is always a story connected with why it is where it is, what was there before and how it has changed over a period of time. Have scouts choose a relative or neighbor who can tell them about their communities. Use the questions on the following page to get them started on the interview.

Pre-Visit Activity #1 (*REQUIRED*)

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

How long have you lived in this community?

How did you come to live here?

What do you like about this area?

Is there anything you don't like?

How was this area different when you were in school? Or, what was here before they built this community?

What has changed over time?

If you could change one thing about where we live, what would it be?

Explore a Career

Park rangers take care of the national parks by protecting the animals, the environment, and natural and cultural resources. They also teach visitors like you the story of their park and how you can help preserve and protect it. Listen to the ranger's stories and messages.



The Great American West

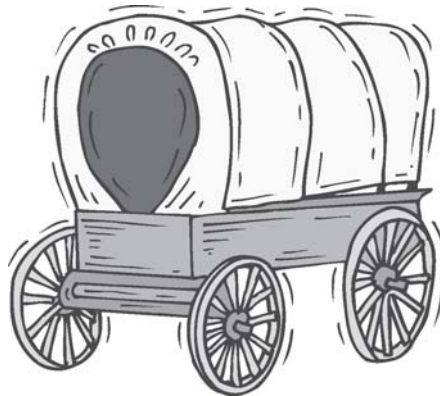
Please share with your scouts:

As most everyone knows, St. Louis is nicknamed the “Gateway to the West.” The title was earned, during the nineteenth century, when St. Louis was a reflection of national trends and events. From trading post to outfitting center to manufacturing giant, St. Louis was one of this country’s premier cities.

Investigative Learning Activity

Throughout St. Louis’ golden age, the riverfront area was a beehive of activity. Over the years, Native Americans, fur trappers, goldminers, farmers, merchants, immigrants, steamboat pilots, and many others passed through St. Louis, interacting with each other. Their stories created St. Louis’ colorful past. In this activity scouts will roleplay some fictitious people of the past. **(Please note the dialogues are fictitious but based on historical facts.)**

Copy and cut pages 14-16 in the Appendix. Assign the parts and have each small group of boys present the short narrative for the rest of the group.



Pre-Visit Activity #2

Investigative Learning Activity cont'd.

If you have more scouts than characters, have them act out each scenario more than once so everyone has a chance. After everyone has had a turn to present, have your group discuss the following questions:

What was happening in St. Louis in 1821, 1858 and 1874?

How were these events good for the city?

What can you conclude was happening nationally during these years?

How did the characters feel about what was happening to them?

If you could go back to one of these time periods, which one would it be and why?

American Heritage Badge - Requirement 3e

Did you know the Gateway Arch is a national park? National parks are not just places like Yellowstone or Yosemite. The National Park Service is also responsible for taking care of places important to this country's history. Fort McHenry National Monument and Shrine in Baltimore, Maryland gained significance during the War of 1812. Its defense against the British inspired Francis Scott Key to write the *Star Spangled Banner*. To learn more you may visit Fort McHenry at www.nps.gov/fomc.



Gateway Arch Riverboat

Boat Etiquette

Please read the instructions listed below to your scouts before boarding the Gateway Arch Riverboat.

Registering

Upon arrival, register your group with the park ranger at the boat dock and share the information on Boat Etiquette with your group.

Briefing

Your scouts should have completed the interview worksheet from Pre-Visit Activity #1. It is also advised they have some information on the nineteenth century westward expansion movement as presented in Pre-Visit Activity #2.



Did You Know?

The Museum Store at the Gateway Arch has a great selection of books on St. Louis history.

The park rangers and riverboat crew are glad we are visiting with them today. They need our help to preserve national parks and their resources and protect us—their visitors. Please pay attention to the following:

- *Refrain from running, using loud voices, pushing or shoving.
- *Stay with each other, especially chaperones.



Interpretive Program

Using photographs, living history objects and riverfront observations, the park ranger will present an interpretive program on the history and development of St. Louis in regard to the river, focusing on the steamboat era.

Investigative Learning Activity

After exploring early St. Louis and the steamboat era with the park ranger, the scouts will be divided into smaller groups and be given the opportunity to “read the river,” considering navigational tools and signals of today and yesterday.



Safety Tips

This is a U.S. Coast Guard inspected vessel. Life jackets are located on the outside decks. Donning instructions are located on all life jacket lockers. If an emergency should develop, please remain calm and instructions will be given over the public address system.

- * Be careful! The steps on the boat are steep and can be wet.
- * All the doorways have raised thresholds, be careful not to trip.
- * Remain in your group at all times. You are responsible for your behavior.
- * Soft drinks, candy, and gum or any other food, including lunches are prohibited during programming.



Preserving our Community

Please share with your scouts:

Throughout the ranger-led program you learned about a variety of people important to the history of St. Louis. Many of the names may have been familiar because they are reflected in the names of St. Louis streets and landmarks. Over time St. Louisans have chosen to memorialize these people because of their admirable qualities and the significant contributions they made to our community.

American Heritage Badge - Requirement 4

Listed below are the names of the people introduced during your program plus several other prominent St. Louisans of the past. Encourage each scout to choose one of the following people and research their subject using books or the Internet.

Auguste Chouteau

Mark Twain

John Berry Meachum

James Eads

Luther Ely Smith

Eero Saarinen

Dred Scott

American Heritage Badge - Requirement 2

While on the boat, you traveled under the Eads Bridge, completed in 1874. Because of the bridge's national significance it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been declared a National Historic Landmark. You can learn more about the Eads Bridge on the Internet. To learn more about the National Register you may visit their website at www.cr.nps.gov/nr.

Post-Visit Activity #1 (REQUIRED)

American Heritage Badge - Requirement 5b

Just like the St. Louisians you have been learning about, service to your community is an integral part of being a Boy Scout. Likewise the mission of the National Park Service is to preserve the natural and cultural resources of communities throughout the United States. To learn more about the goals and mission of the National Park Service, you may visit their website at www.nps.gov.

To complete the requirements for the American Heritage Badge, scouts are required to volunteer their time with an organization directly concerned with the preservation of local, state or national history and carry out a project which helps meet that organization's goal. To volunteer with the National Park Service at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, you may contact the park's volunteer coordinator at 314-655-1625 to discuss opportunities for individual or group service projects.

Some other local organizations who proudly preserve our community's history are the Missouri Historical Society and the St. Louis County Parks.

Did You Know?



President Gerald Ford was an Eagle Boy Scout and a National Park Service Ranger at Yellowstone National Park.



The Great American River

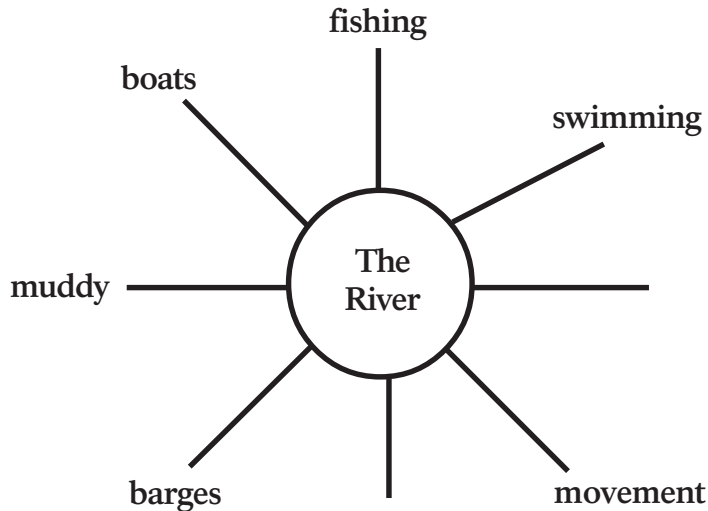
Please share with your scouts:

Throughout history people have settled along rivers. Until the twentieth century, the river system served as America's highways. Settling along the river not only provided immediate access to several basic needs, but also served as the quickest and easiest way to travel and transport goods. The nation's dependence on the river system has certainly changed. Time has brought more efficient ways of moving people and things around.

Nevertheless, there is a certain nostalgia which surrounds the earlier days of river travel.

WORD WEB ACTIVITY

Even though rivers do not play as big a role in our lives as they once did, they still conjure up some very vivid images. Use a word web activity to have the scouts brainstorm their ideas about the river.



Post-Visit Activity #2

Today's River

Even though we have been talking about rivers in the past tense, these flowing highways still play an important role in this country's economy. A variety of industries use the river in the manufacturing process as well as to transport goods. Many people have capitalized on the recreational opportunities available on the river. However, using the river for economic gain often requires changing it to suit particular needs. Locks, dams, levees, and channels are all means by which humans have tried to control the river. There are those in society who argue that controlling the river only serves to destroy that which nature intended. Changing the river interferes with wildlife and their habitats and thus is detrimental to the natural food chain and life cycle.

Divide your scouts into three smaller groups. Assign each group one of the "interests" listed below. If time allows, have the scouts research their topic on the Internet. Or simply give each group some time to develop an argument in support of their interests and have a three-way debate.

commercial interests
recreation/tourism interests
environmental interests

The following are some questions for each group to consider:

- *Why is your group's interest important to the community?
- *How would the community be different if your interest would somehow be eliminated?

Did You Know?



The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for engineering many of our rivers. To learn more about this government agency you can visit them at their website, www.usace.army.mil.



Appendix

Pre-Visit Activity #2: The Great American West

Scenario #1:

Narrator: The year is 1842, the setting is the St. Louis Levee. The characters are Joseph Johnson (ex-mountain man/guide), Jacob Austin (emigrant to California), Amelia Austin (his wife), Seth Austin (12 year old son).

Jacob: (*Austin Family talking to Joseph*) How many wagons you got heading out with us?

Joseph: Ten wagons from here. We may pick some more up at Independence.

Jacob: Well, Oregon is the place for me, lush farm ground and mild climate.

Amelia: I hope there are some other women and children included in that group.

Seth: Mother is determined to teach school on the road. You should see all the books she is taking.

Joseph: (*To Seth*) Learning is important son. (*To Amelia*) Yes m'am, there are plenty of other women and children who will want and need some schoolin' on the trail.

Jacob: Seth, some day you may want to be something other than a farmer, so learn all you can.

Joseph: We should be in good shape, we have a teacher, (*Pointing to Jacob*) your carpentry skills, I've got a blacksmith and a doctor signed up to go.

Jacob: (*To Joseph*) They say you're the best guide around, because of all your trapping days.

Joseph: Well, it is rugged territory out there and if you don't know where you're going it can be rough.

Jacob: If Oregon is everything they say the trip'll be worth it.

Pre-Visit Activity #2: The Great American West

Scenario #2

Narrator: The scene is the St. Louis Levee, 1849. The characters are John and Edward Backs (brothers), Jack Stanley (store owner).

John: *(Standing next to brother, looking out into the distant "town.")* This isn't anything like Philadelphia.

Edward: No, this is a frontier town, but it is the biggest city west of the Mississippi.

John: *(Turning and pointing to the "levee" behind him.)* Look at all those boats. You know, I read St. Louis is the third busiest steamboat port in the United States.

Edward: *(Turn to look at the levee.)* Yeah, it looks like we are not the only easterners heading west to find our fortunes in the gold mines.

John: We need to start asking around to find out where we can get some good deals on supplies and animals.

Edward: I think we need to find ourselves a company to travel with first.

(Jack Stanley walks across the "levee" a few feet in front of them.)

John: You're right. *(Pointing to man walking across "levee.")* There's Jack Stanley. I met him on the boat. He said he was part of an organized company that could use some more men. *(Shouts!)* Jack! Jack!

Jack: *(Jack walks to greet them.)* John Backs, right?

John: Right. This is my brother Edward. We would like to talk to you about joining your company.

Jack: Sure, we leave early next week. First we head to Independence by boat. After that we will use mules for the journey to the mine fields.

Edward: That's what we planned on. Once we find gold, then we can get ourselves a fancy rig.



Appendix

Pre-Visit Activity #2: The Great American West

Scenario #3:

Narrator: The year is 1867. The setting is the St. Louis Levee. The characters are Nicholas White (12 year old boy from Ohio) John White (his father) and Seth Butcher (steamboat worker).

Nicholas: *(Boy and father walking together.)* Dad, I've never seen so many boats. They go on as far as I can see.

Father: It's a busy place. I'm just glad to be on solid ground again. The trip from Ohio was long. I'm glad your mother decided to rest at the hotel.

Nicholas: Where do all these boats and people come from?

Father: Anyone wanting a new life out west comes through St. Louis. The boats bring people and supplies here. Here we will find everything we need for the trip to Nebraska, including our wagon.

Seth: *(Runs across "levee," bumping into John White.)* Excuse me. I'm heading to work.

Nicholas: Where do you work?

Seth: On that boat. *(Pointing to "boat" in distance.)*

Nicholas: You work on that boat. Wow!

Seth: Yeah, I help unload them now, but someday I want to be a steamboat pilot.

Father: You know your way around St. Louis?

Seth: Yeah, I grew up here.

Father: Can you tell me where to find a good supply store? We are heading to Nebraska day after tomorrow.

Seth: Sure follow me. *(Together they walk off.)*

(copy/cut)

For information on the cost of the
Jefferson National Expansion
Memorial patch, phone
The Museum Store at: (314) 231-
5474 or (800) 537-7962



**Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
11 North 4th Street
St. Louis, MO 63102**



Visit the Gateway Arch, Museum of Westward Expansion and
Old Courthouse on the Internet: <http://www.nps.gov/jeff>
Visit the National Park Service at:
<http://www.nps.gov>

**Help conserve our natural resources!
If you have no further need for this booklet,
please return it to the Park Ranger at the Information Desk
so another scout group can use it.
Thank you!**