

Ambassador Photographer Badge

In this badge program you and your Ambassador Girl Scout will learn how to capture your vision of the world in photographs. By following the steps below your Girl Scout will earn her Ambassador Photographer badge.

1. Have a conversation about photography and get familiar with your camera. You can use whatever kind of camera you have—anything from a digital camera to the camera on your smartphone.

Talking Points:

- What different kinds of photography are there? Explore the difference between digital photography and film photography.
- Review some of the “rules” of photography and get comfortable with the terminology. Check out this website for a good starting place:

bit.ly/introtphoto

- Rule of thirds
- Leading lines
- Depth
- White balance
- Aperture
- Shutter Speed

2. Explore the power of photography by visiting a virtual gallery. As you and your Girl Scout look at the photographs, jot down notes of what you observe as a reference for when you start taking your own photos. Here are a couple of online galleries to check out:

- <https://www.womenphotograph.com/>
- <https://www.worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards/winners-galleries>
- <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>

Talking points:

- What photos do you find the most emotionally evocative?
- What makes these photos powerful and compelling?
- What different techniques to photographers use to capture emotion or action?
- What subjects do you find the most interesting?
- Are there any photographs that surprise you? What about them is surprising?

3. Now it's time for your Girl Scout to try her hand at photography! Focus on composition by choosing one object (or landscape) and shooting five different pictures of it. Try changing the way you photograph the subject and see how it changes the outcome. Here are a few different ways you can try, but be creative and experiment with it.
 - Shoot from afar
 - Change the angle you photograph from (instead of shooting it while standing try squatting down, etc.)
 - Change the aperture to blur or focus the background
 - Look for leading lines to direct the eye

4. After you and your Girl Scout have mastered composition, focus on light. Try the same kind of exercise and capture an object in five different kinds of light. This might take all day as you shoot in the morning light, afternoon, and evening, or if you are inside you can use lamps and flashlights to create different variations of light.
 - How does the light affect shadows and shapes?
 - How does light change the way textures and colors interact?
 - Try playing around with shadows—the same way you would make shadow puppets, see what kind of shadows you can create with different light sources.
 - Experiment with using flash, natural light, using flash indoors vs outdoors, and using different light sources.
 - What adjustments do you have to make with your camera based on the light? Are some lights harder to photograph in?

5. Now you and your Girl Scout are going to explore motion in photography. The shutter speed controls how much light comes into your camera—the faster the shutter speed, the crisper and sharper your image will be. Try changing your shutter speed and see how different settings affect capturing motion. (Quick tip: if you are using a smartphone camera you can usually change the shutter speed by going into advanced or pro settings on the camera!)
 - Try taking photos of different objects in motion: a driving car, a falling leaf, a basketball, whatever you can find.
 - You can also try taking photos of a face in motion—capture someone making five different expressions, like a nod, a headshake, or a blink.

6. Using the skills your Girl Scout has learned, tell a story with photography. The story can be anything that is important or means something to you—be creative! Once you have created your photo story share them with your own digital gallery. Here are a couple of secure photo hosting sites you could use:

- Google Photos
 - Imgur
 - Flickr
 - Dropbox
7. Congratulations, your Girl Scout has earned her Ambassador Photographer badge!
- Review what you have learned together. Here are a few talking points.
 - What did you learn about photography?
 - What was your favorite activity?
 - What part of photography was the most challenging?
 - Do you think you will continue to learn more about photography?