girl scouts of central texas

Patch Program

I Heart the ‘90s

Step back in time to discover the '90s! Explore the culture, technology, fashion, music, and major historic events of the decade. Then share your favorites and take your family and friends on a blast from the past.

Grade level requirements:

- **Daisies (grades K-1).** Choose one activity from each category.
- **Brownies (grades 2-3).** Choose two activities from each category.
- **Juniors (grades 4-5).** Choose two activities from each category.
- **Cadettes (grades 6-8).** Choose two or more activities from each category.
- **Seniors (grades 9-10).** Choose two or more activities from each category.
- **Ambassadors (grades 11-12).** Choose two or more activities from each category.

When you’re done, submit photos and a story to inspire other Girl Scouts to earn this patch, too.

Purchase patch by December 31, 2026. Or reserve the entire 2026-2027 Featured Patch collection with one easy purchase if you order by November 30, 2026.

Discover

Dive into the events, technology, and culture of the 1990s to discover how American life has changed in a generation and what remains the same.

- **Print and color this ‘90s American History Reader** for Daisies/Brownies or Juniors/Cadettes.

- **Write a text message using a '90s cellphone number pad.** Today's phones have touch screens, but '90s cell phones used number buttons to type letters. Since typing took a long time, people used shortcuts like JK for "just kidding," OMW for "on my way," and <3 for "love."
- **Learn about the Hubble Telescope that launched in 1990.** Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors could additionally learn about its connection with Nancy Grace Roman who NASA's latest space telescope is named after.
- **Learn about the beginnings of the World Wide Web.** In 1990, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland launched an online computer system that linked documents and media from various servers. This was the very beginning of what we now know as the "web."
- **Learn how to play Pogs**. Make your own set of Pogs out of heavy cardboard. Then, play it with a friend. The game Pogs was played in Hawaii in the 1930s but became so popular in the '90s that kids in mainland United States played it, too. Pogs is named after the Passionfruit-Orange-Guava juice whose bottle caps were the original playing pieces. Make your own set by cutting 1.6 inch (4 cm) circles out of heavy cardboard and drawing designs or pictures on one side. Glue two circles together to make a heavier piece to be the slammer. Now, you're ready to play!
- **Gotta catch 'em all...with Seek.** In 1996, the first Pokémon games were released on the Game Boy. The creator was inspired by his childhood hobby of collecting insects and tadpoles. He wanted to give kids the thrill of catching, training and trading creatures. Instead of catching Pokémon, go outside and use a mobile phone and the Seek app to photograph and identify as many insects and wild animals as possible in 30 minutes. Make a trading card for one of them and list its powers.
- **Upcycle an old CD or DVD into scratch art.** DVDs (Digital Video Disc), which became available in the late '90s, gave people better picture and sound than bulky VHS tapes. Instead of going to a local video rental store, people could pick out movies online from a new company called Netflix that mailed DVD rentals straight to their house. Now that streaming services exist, people don't need CDs and DVDs as much as they used to. Upcycle old CDs and DVDs into this fun scratch art project by covering the shiny side with acrylic paint, letting it dry, then scratching it with a metal item like a fork, jumbo thumbtack, or safety pin.

- **Watch a movie or TV show that came out in the ‘90s or is set in the ‘90s.** Films released in the ‘90s that are part of the National Film Registry include *Home Alone (1990), Beauty and the Beast (1991),* and *Toy Story (1995).* Popular kids television shows included *Arthur*, *The Powerpuff Girls*, *Hey Arnold!*, *The Magic School Bus,* and *Popular Mechanics for Kids.* Family TV shows from that time such as *Full House* and *Boy Meets World* had modern spin-offs in the mid-2010s starring some of the original cast continuing their characters’ stories 20 years later. Fun Fact: Callie Haverda who starred in *That ‘90s Show* (TV-14) which is a spin-off of *That ‘70s Show* (premiered 1998) was a Girl Scout in Austin until she moved to Los Angeles to film the show.
- **Use Scratch to create or play a Mario- or Sonic the Hedgehog-style video game.** The Super Nintendo Entertainment System (SNES) and the Sega Genesis were the major home video game consoles in the early ‘90s. Nintendo games such as *Super Mario World* and *The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past* featured characters created in the ‘80s. Sega’s Sonic the Hedgehog made his first appearance in 1991 as a direct competitor to Nintendo’s Mario. Both Sonic and Mario are still popular today and have expanded beyond games into movie franchises.
- **Make or try a trendy ‘90s food.** Look for old recipes or ask someone who lived in the ‘90s what their favorite snacks, foods, and beverages from that decade are.
- **Create a ‘90s-inspired outfit.** Learn about iconic fashion styles and accessories from that decade such as colorful track suits, layered grunge style, bold hip hop streetwear, preppy plaid skirts with matching blazers, denim-on-denim, snug choker necklaces, and chunky Doc Martens. Which one is closest to your modern-day personal style?
- **Style your hair with a ‘90s look.** “The Rachel” based on actor Jennifer Aniston’s hairdo in the TV show *Friends* was an iconic ‘90s look. You can try a ‘90s style without cutting your hair. Wear multiple butterfly clips to pull sections of hair back from your face for a whimsical look. Make a ‘90s ponytail with a banana clip. Or use a claw clip to pull thick hair into a quick updo or messy bun. Use a scrunchy to create a high ponytail or wear it around your wrist like a bracelet. Create a zig-zag pattern in hair with a crimping iron to add flair.
- **Decorate something in the style of Lisa Frank.** If you like bright colors, cute animals, happy vibes, and sparkles, then you probably would have chosen Lisa Frank school supplies back in the ‘90s. Find examples of Lisa Frank’s style. Then

use stickers and Mod Podge to decorate an item—phone case, butterfly clip, picture frame, whatever—to create your own Lisa Frank-inspired look.

- **Make a vision board of your favorite ‘90s era aesthetic.** Perhaps you’ve heard of aesthetic styles such as steampunk or cottage core. Look through these examples of mainstream ‘90s aesthetic styles. Make a vision board of modern day items you could use to bring ‘90s style to your own space. Bonus: Create a collage on poster board as you would have in the ‘90s rather than doing it digitally.
- **Try a sport introduced at the 1996 Olympics by completing ‘90s Try-It requirements.** The 1996 Olympics were held in Atlanta, Georgia. The International Olympic Committee realized that women needed more opportunities to compete. New women’s events were added including the women-only sports of softball, rhythmic gymnastics, and artistic swimming. In honor of having more women at the Olympics, do two activities of your choice from the Brownie Ready, Set, Go Try-It introduced in 1997. You don’t have to be good at it, just try-it. This was a Brownie badge, but any Girl Scout level may do this activity to earn this featured patch.
- **Do a Pet Care badge activity from the ‘90s.** Start a scrapbook of animals. Collect pictures of animals, articles or funny stories about animals, animal laws, animal problems, advertisements for animal movies, or animal cartoons. Share your scrapbook with others. You can do this ‘90s-style on paper or as a modern, digital scrapbook. This was a Junior badge, but any Girl Scout level may do this activity to earn this featured patch.

Connect

Connect with people from the ‘90s to find out what life was like 30 years ago and consider how our world may change in the next 30 years.

- **Interview at least two people who were kids in the ‘90s**. Ask them about their daily life. What are their favorite memories? What do they wish stayed the same? What are they glad has changed? What are their hopes for the future?
- **Read a book that was published in or set in the ‘90s.** Ask someone who was a child in the ‘90s what were their favorite books from that time or find your own book from that era to read. Amazon began in 1995 as an online bookstore

with a huge selection. At the time, the internet was mostly used for information sharing and not e-commerce. Books were a starting point for Amazon becoming a store selling everything anybody could want. People could buy books over the World Wide Web and have them shipped to their homes instead of being limited to what their local bookstore carried.

- **Make and share a playlist of '90s songs**. Try asking an adult with similar musical tastes as yours what their favorite '90s songs are. Then, listen to a few of those songs. What about the musical style do you like? Not like? Napster launched in 1999 as a way for people to share digital song files with each other. It shut down a couple of years later after recording companies sued it for copyright infringement. Now, many artists—especially unknown bands, singers, and musicians—embrace digital music apps like Spotify to reach more people.
- **Make a poster for your own all-woman music festival that lists all the performers that you would invite.** Lilith Fair was a groundbreaking music festival in the late 1990's. It only had female artists or bands led by women. Sarah McLachlan started it because concert promoters and radio stations didn't want to play two female acts in a row. They thought people wouldn't like it. Olivia Rodrigo's Daisy Chain Fields music festival in August 2026 was inspired by Lilith Fair, and she invited McLachlan to be one of the performers.
- **Learn to dance the Electric Slide.** If you went to a wedding, dance, or party in the '90s, at some point, the DJ was sure to play "Electric Boogie." Everyone would get up and start doing a line dance called the Electric Slide. As the dance grew in popularity, it appeared in TV shows and films like *The Parent Trap* (1998). Do you know anyone who knows the dance? Learn the steps from that person or a video tutorial so you're ready to hit the dance floor. Try it with "Electric Boogie," then see if you can dance to other songs.
- **Create a video aimed at kids that reports on current events.** *Nick News* was a TV show on Nickelodeon that started in 1992. It explained important things happening in the world in a way kids could understand. Many teachers showed the news program in class to help students learn about current events.
- **Learn about Biosphere 2 and make a terrarium.** In the early '90s, researchers tested what it would be like to live in a space colony. Biosphere 2 in Arizona was a huge glass structure with several different environments including a rainforest, desert, marsh, ocean, and farmland. It was designed to make its own air, water, and food for the people living inside. After two missions, the scientists learned that creating a self-sustaining world was harder

than they thought. What do you think people need to do to prepare for life in outer space or another world?

- **Learn about Girl Scout cookies sold in the '90s, then invent a Girl Scout cookie that you think would be popular today.** Girl Scout Cookies have changed over the years to match popular food trends. In the '90s, the cookie lineup included Trail Mix, Le'Chip, and low-fat treats like Snaps. Girl Scouts also sold reduced-fat and sugar-free Chalet Crème sandwich cookies, but only for a few years. What type of Girl Scout cookie would be a good seller now? What would you name it? Make a test batch and ask your troop, friends, or family for feedback on it. Bonus: Get a head start on the 2027 Cookie Season by learning about the allergy-friendly Girl Scout Sparkables cookie which is only available for online purchase. For the first time, we'll also be selling a dog treat online called Patch Pals.
- **Browse through this 1996-1997 Girl Scout Catalog.** Compare your level's Girl Scout uniform to the one pictured in the catalog. How has it changed? Back then, the Senior level covered grades 9-12, so Ambassadors should examine what Seniors were wearing. Look at the order form on page 17. Imagine filling it out and mailing it to New York or needing to call a telephone number and tell someone exactly want you want to order. Do you think ordering online is a lot easier? What do you think the Girl Scout uniform will look like in the 2056?

Take Action

As a Girl Scout, you can make the world a better place! Take what you've learned and make a difference for the future.

- **Do an Active Citizen badge activity from the '90s.** Choose one of these options: interview someone in your family or community who chose or had to leave their home or country in order to exercise freedom – or – read a book or see a movie or television program about a fight or flight for freedom. Then, share what you have learned with others. This was a Junior badge, but any Girl Scout level may do this activity to earn this featured patch.
- **Throw a Y2K New Year's Eve-themed party and share what you've learned about the '90s.** Y2K stands for Year 2000. As 1999 came to a close, people thought back over all the changes that had happened in the previous 1000 years and what the next 1000 years might bring, both good and bad. Many people

worried that computers would have problems when the calendar changed from 1999 to 2000. Some computers only saved the last two numbers of the year, and people feared computers might think 2000 was 1900 and make mistakes. This problem was called the "Y2K bug." People worked hard to fix computer programs before the new year arrived, and there were no major failures. Many people were also excited about the new millennium. They imagined a future with flying cars, robots that cleaned houses, and lots of amazing technology. Because it was such a special year, New Year's Eve parties were bigger and more exciting than usual as people celebrated the start of a new millennium. You may throw your party on any date and do not need to wait for December 31.

- **Create and perform a skit about your life in 2026.** Imagine that you travel back in time 30 years to the '90s and pop into a Girl Scout troop meeting. What would you tell them was different? What is the same?
- **Write a letter to a future Girl Scout.** Imagine that a Girl Scout in 2056 finds a letter that you wrote today about life in the year 2026 and your dreams for the future. Maybe in 2056 you'll be a troop leader, and your Girl Scouts will be the ones to read that letter.
- **Draw a picture or write a thank you note for someone serving our country in the military.** The program we know today as Operation Cookie began in the '90s as a response to a U.S. led military operation overseas called Operation Desert Storm. Through Operation Cookie, Central Texas Girl Scouts provided cookies bought by local residents to soldiers, offering a taste of home for those fighting overseas. Keep up this tradition by asking customers to donate cookies for the upcoming season's Operation Cookie. Girl Scouts of all ages can participate in this year's Operation Cookie Pack by registering for the event. Or mail your picture or note to:

  Girl Scouts of Central Texas
  Attn: Programs Team
  12012 Park Thirty-Five Circle
  Austin, Texas 78753

- **Collect donated items for Goodwill Central Texas.** In November 1999, Lone Star Girl Scout Council (now a part of Girl Scouts of Central Texas) and Goodwill created a partnership called Fill It Up. Over 2,000 Girl Scouts collected donations on behalf of Goodwill to raise money for people with barriers to employment. Keep up the good work by earning the Goodness Collected patch.