

#### October 2017

## **Mary Anning**



"She sells sea-shells on the sea-shore.
The shells she sells are sea-shells, I'm sure.
For if she sells sea-shells on the sea-shore
Then I'm sure she sells sea-shore shells."
-Famous tongue twister inspired by the life of Mary Anning.

Mary Anning was born on May 21, 1799 in Great Britain. Mary grew up by the seaside, where the sides of the cliffs were full of fossils from extinct animals. Mary's father was a cabinet maker and would often mine the fossils and sell them as souvenirs to make extra money. During this time period, England was often at war with other European countries, which made it a difficult time for poor people. It was necessary for Mary's family to sell the fossils in order to make a living. They would often give the fossils colorful names like "snake stones" and "devil's fingers".

When Mary was twelve years old, she and her brother noticed something sticking up out of a creek bed. They investigated and discovered the skeleton of an ichthyosaur, which was a huge dinosaur that lived in the ocean. The fossil was very valuable and Mary was able to sell it for much more than the more common fossils she usually found.

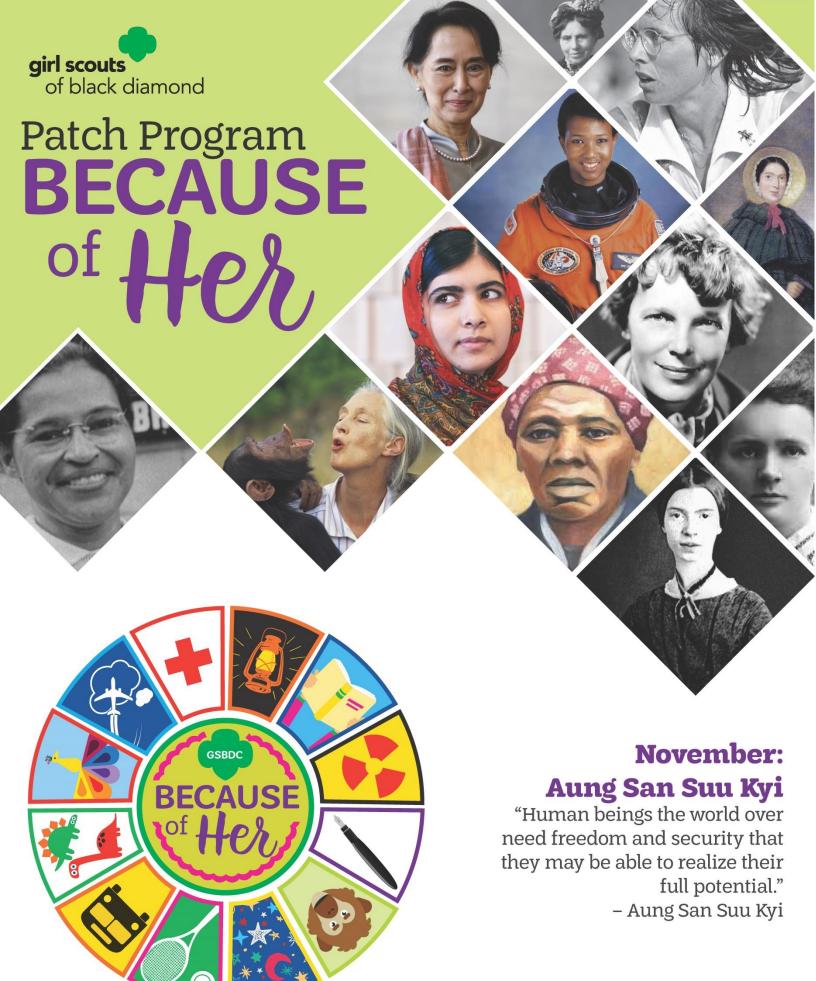
Unlike modern day paleontologists, who sometimes search for fossils in order to help gain knowledge and conduct scientific research, Mary's motivation for finding fossils was to sell them to make money. Despite this, modern scientists praise Mary for making several important fossil discoveries in her searches. Despite the fact that Mary had almost no education, she often could identify dinosaur fossils just from seeing a small part of them, just because she had so much experience searching for them.

When Mary was 27 she had saved enough to open her own store called Anning's Fossil Depot. Despite her deep knowledge of fossils, Mary was an outsider of the scientific community and not respected by scientists. Scientists would write papers about the fossils she discovered but neglect to mention that Mary had discovered them. This made Mary very upset, but some scientists gradually began to appreciate her more.

Mary's discoveries were important in proving extinction, the idea that there are animal species that are completely gone from the Earth. Before Mary, scientists did not know that the Earth was previously inhabited by very different animals than there are today. Scientists started to realize that the planet was once covered in gigantic reptiles called dinosaurs.

Although Mary received very little recognition when she was alive, her contribution to our understanding of the past is now very respected. In 2010, the Royal Society of London produced a list of ten British women who most influenced the history of science, and Mary was recognized with a position on the list.

- Conduct your own search for fossils! Although it is highly unlikely you will discover a tyrannosaurus skull, however small sea animals like ammonites are more common. You should look in places like creek beds, stream cuts, road cuts, and other places where the bedrock is eroding. <a href="http://boyslife.org/hobbies-projects/funstuff/2658/finding-fossils/">http://boyslife.org/hobbies-projects/funstuff/2658/finding-fossils/</a>
- One of the most famous tongue-twisters, "She sells sea shells" is written about the life of Mary. Come up with your own tongue twister.
- Research a dinosaur you're interested in and find out when it lived and what it ate. Find a way to share information with others about the dinosaur, such as through a drawing, poster, short talk, etc.
- Did you know that animals are going extinct today, and that many scientists describe that we are in the middle of the sixth great extinction of organisms on Earth? Find out about an animal that has gone extinct in your lifetime and research why it went extinct.
- ◆ Find out about an endangered animal species that lives near you. Research why these animals are endangered, and see if there is anything you can do to help. Come up with a plan of action and carry out a service project related to this animal. For example, the monarch butterfly is a threatened animal that you could help by planting milkweed in your yard. Do your research and see what other options you have.
- Make your own dinosaur skeleton fossil out of pasta and clay: http://www.prekinders.com/dinosaur-pasta-skeletons/
- Mary was a great entrepreneur, and supported her family during a difficult time through her business of selling fossils. Come up with your own business plan to make money you could save. Visit <a href="https://www.lemonadeday.org">www.lemonadeday.org</a> for ideas.
- The Royal Society of London considers Mary to be one of the ten most important British women in science. Research another female who made contributions to science and tell your troop about her.



### November 2017



## Aung San Suu Kyi

"Human beings the world over need freedom and security that they may be able to realize their full potential." – Aung San Suu Kyi

Aung San Suu Kyi was born in Rangoon, Burma on June 19th, 1945, in a small village. Burma had just become an independent country called Myanmar, and Suu Kyi's mother became a political figure in the new government. Growing up, Suu Kyi met people of many different background and religions. She received a good education and learned many different languages.

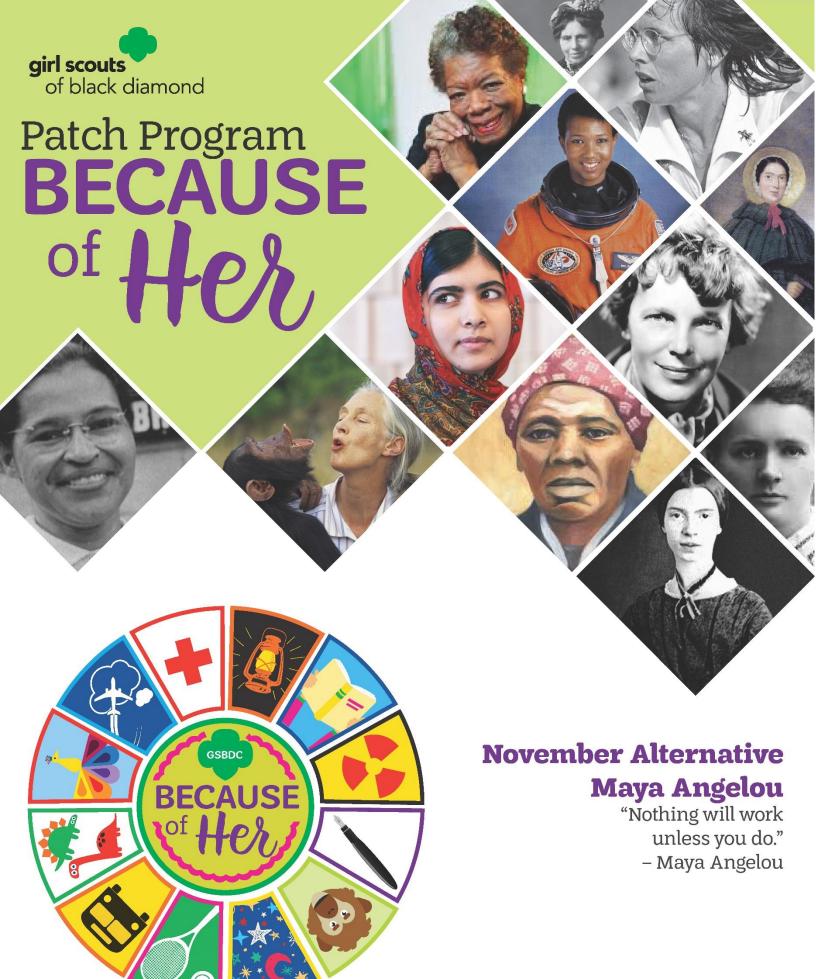
She attended Oxford College and, after earning her degree, traveled around the world, being exposed to many different cultures. For a while she lived in New York City. Suu Kyi noticed that people living in democracies were happier and had more rights, which made her believe that people living in Myanmar should have the right to live under a democratic government as well. At the time, Myanmar was ruled by its military and normal people often lacked rights that Americans have and were persecuted depending on their religion or ethnic background.

In 1988, after decades of travelling the world and experiencing many different ways of living, she returned to Myanmar to take part in the pro-democracy movement. Suu Kyi wanted to use what she had learned to help Burmese people gain the rights that people living in Democratic countries have. Aung was placed under house arrest on July 20th, 1989 for opposing the military rule of the country.

Suu Kyi was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, and determined herself to peacefully protest for democracy. She studied Buddhism and meditation, so that as she pushed for democracy in Burma, she could do so with love and compassion. Over the next 21 years, she was under house arrest for 15 of them. Every time her house arrest was lifted, she would immediately begin to march and protest in favor of democracy again. She did this at great personal risk to herself, as the military could have had her harmed at any time.

In 1991, Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to bring democracy to Myanmar. She was finally freed from house arrest on November 13th, 2010. On April 6, 2016, she became the 1st State Counsellor of Myanmar, an important advisor to the president of the newly democratic Myanmar.

- Suu Kyi experienced many different cultures and met many different types of people when she was young. This experience helped her understand that all people have a right to live peacefully and practice their religion without persecution. Research a culture different from your own and come up with a way to teach others about what you learned, such as by creating a poster, a video, or giving a short talk.
- Trying cooking a dish from a different culture. You could do this with your Girl Scout troop and have a potluck!
- Try playing the national sport of Myanmar, chinlone. It is a very simple, noncompetitive sport, and you can play it with a soccer ball. The point of the game is to try to keep the ball in the air without using your hands. You can play by yourself, or work together with a team!
- Burma is known for beautiful costumes and traditional dances. Watch an example here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz7Zt5VEPoI. If you'd like, dance along!
- ◆ Learn how to write your name in a different language. Using markers and colored paper, create a piece of artwork with your name on it in that language. <a href="http://www.chinese-tools.com/names/search.html">http://www.chinese-tools.com/names/search.html</a>.
- Suu Kyi was inspired by the teachings of Gandhi, a famous Indian leader who advocated non-violent protest. Learn more about Gandhi or another leader who advocated non-violence. (Hint: many leaders of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States were against using violence in their fight for civil rights) Come up with a good way to share what you learned with your group.
- One past-time in Myanmar is face-painting with a paint called "thanakha" made from sandalwood. With an adult's help, try face-painting.



### November 2017 Alternative



## Marguerite "Maya" Annie Johnson Angelou

"Nothing will work unless you do" - Maya Angelou

Marguerite Annie Johnson Angelou, better known as Maya Angelou, was born on April 4, 1928. Maya Angelou was an American author, actress, screenwriter, dancer, poet and civil rights activist. Her memoir, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, made literary history with the first nonfiction best-seller by an African-American woman. Maya was awarded two NAACP Image Awards in the outstanding literary work (nonfiction) category and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. These were just a few of many awards and honors Maya received in her lifetime.

Maya has lived in many places including Egypt and Ghana. In Ghana, Maya worked as an editor and freelance writer, help a position at the University of Ghana and joined a community known as "Revolutionist Returnees." Maya also became friends with human rights activist and Black Nationalist leader Malcom X while in Ghana. When she returned to the United States, Maya helped Malcom X set up the Organization of Afro-American Unity. Maya also befriended Martin Luther King Jr., who was assassinated on her birthday in 1968. She stopped celebrating her birthday for several years. Instead she sent his widow, Coretta Scott King, flowers until her death in 2006.

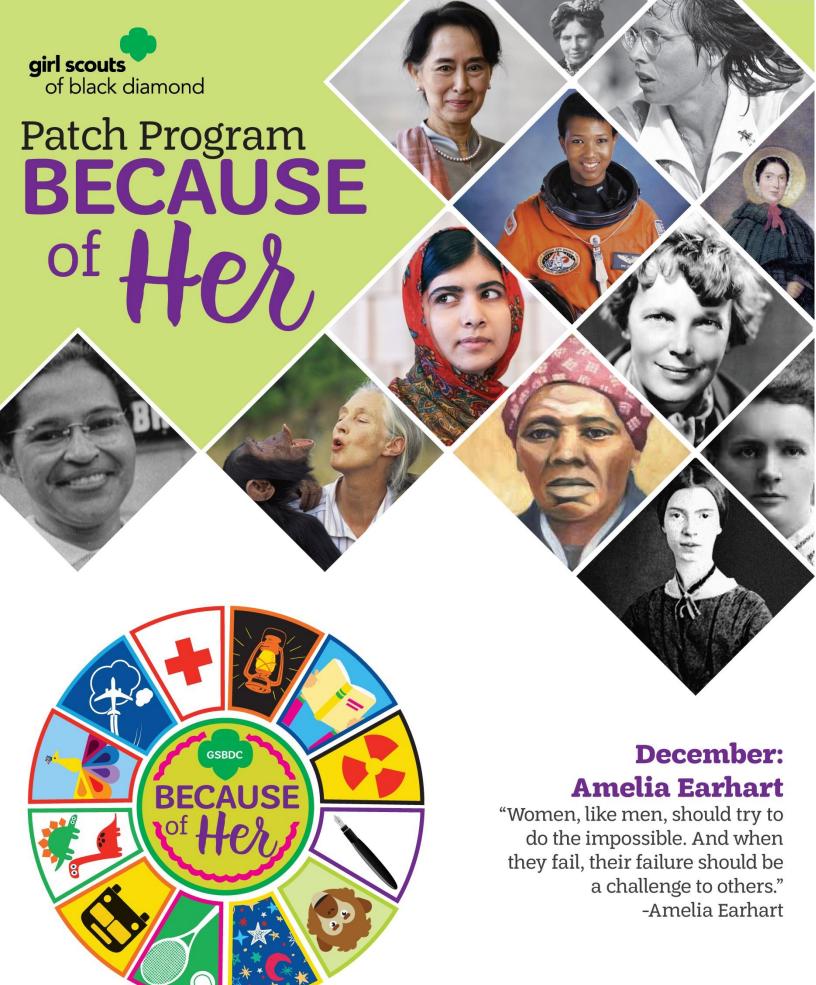
Maya had experienced health complications for many years before dying at the age of 86 in her Winston-Salem, North Carolina home on May 28, 2014. The news of her passing was well publicized in the media and on social media. Mary J. Blige (singer) and Cory Booker (politician) tweeted their favorite quotes in her memory. Former President, Barack Obama, spoke of Maya as "a brilliant writer, a fierce friend, and a truly phenomenal woman."

- Get Lit! 1 in 4 children grow up in America illiterate. The non-profit organization, Get Lit, uses "poetry to increase literacy, empower youth, and inspire communities." Maya Angelou wrote her poems based on the struggles of women and people of color. Write a poem about struggle. Did you struggle with something that you overcame? Maybe you watched a friend or family member struggle. Were you able to help them or were you helpless? Or write a poem about hopefulness. Wrote a poem about winning a race/game or getting an A on that test. Then have a poetry slam using the poems you wrote. <a href="https://www.edutopia.org/blog/poetry-teaching-tips-new-teachers-lisa-dabbs">https://www.edutopia.org/blog/poetry-teaching-tips-new-teachers-lisa-dabbs</a>
- "Hate, it has caused a lot of problems in the world, but has not solved one yet." Maya Angelou used her words to point out problems in society. Find a social problem in your community and talk about possible solutions with your troop to put into action. Examples: Tie scarves to poles

- in an area that has a high homeless population. Host a safe space circle for friends to share their fears. Create a study group.
- ◆ Watch the University of Phoenix "Still I Rise." What does it say to you as a girl in today's society? Have a show and tell displaying a female in your family or one you admire who overcame a struggle. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v="https://www.you

#### Lines from "Still I Rise:"

- o You may write me down in history
- With your bitter, twisted lies,
- o You may tread me in the very dirt
- o But still, like dust, I'll rise..
- o You may shoot me with your words,
- o You may cut me with your eyes,
- o You may kill me with your hatefulness,
- o But still, like air, I'll rise.
- "Just live right!" This is not always easy to do, and we all make mistakes. Write down on an index card a situation that you feel could have gone differently. Put them into a blind bag and have a troop member pick one to read aloud. As a group, discuss the issue and how the problem could have been handled better. Perhaps the problem may have been handled as well as possible and the individual who wrote it may find some peace knowing they did the best they could.
- "You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." Create a collage displaying your favorite Maya Angelou quote. <a href="https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/maya">https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/maya</a> angelou
- "We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty." Print the template of a caterpillar and butterfly. On or under the caterpillar write or draw a picture of a fear or problem you have faced. On or above the butterfly write or draw a picture of how you faced that fear or overcame the problem. Color or decorate the butterfly and caterpillar. <a href="http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/caterpillar-and-butterfly-3">http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/caterpillar-and-butterfly-3</a>.
- Alternately, create one of the butterfly crafts from the following site instead of decorating a picture. <a href="http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/insects/butterflies.htm">http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/insects/butterflies.htm</a>.
- "We need much less than we think we need." Donate clothing that no longer fits to a local charity or host a food drive for a local food bank.
- Read or listen to the poem "Woman Work" by Maya Angelou. Women work hard to take care of everyone but themselves. In doing so, they run themselves to exhaustion. Create a coupon book for your primary caregiver, troop leader, teacher or other role model. <a href="https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Coupon-Book-for-Tasks">https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Coupon-Book-for-Tasks</a>



### December 2017

## **Amelia Earhart**



"Women, like men, should try to do the impossible. And when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others." -Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas on July 24, 1897. Amelia always had a sense of adventure. She spent her days playing outside with her sister Pidge, climbing trees, hunting rats with a rifle, and sledding. She had a large collection of "pets" like worms, katydids, and toads. In 1904, Amelia made a ramp leading up to the roof of her family's toolshed and rode her sled off the roof of the shed. She bruised her lip and tore her dress, but said that the adventure felt "just like flying." Amelia saw her first airplane when she was ten years old but wasn't interested in it at the time!

Growing up, Amelia kept a notebook full of scraps of newspaper about women who were succeeding in careers that were traditionally dominated by men. She didn't know she wanted to be a pilot yet, but she knew that she wanted to be like these women. In 1917, Amelia started to work as a nurse, taking care of returning World War I veterans and later, people suffering from the Spanish flu.

Soon after that, Amelia and a friend of hers visited an airfield, where she saw aerial acrobatics performed by a World War I flying ace. When she had seen a plane as a child, she thought that the plane look rickety and boring, but these planes were fast and performed beautiful, dangerous dances in the air. In 1920, Amelia took her first ride in an airplane, which convinced her that she had to become a pilot.

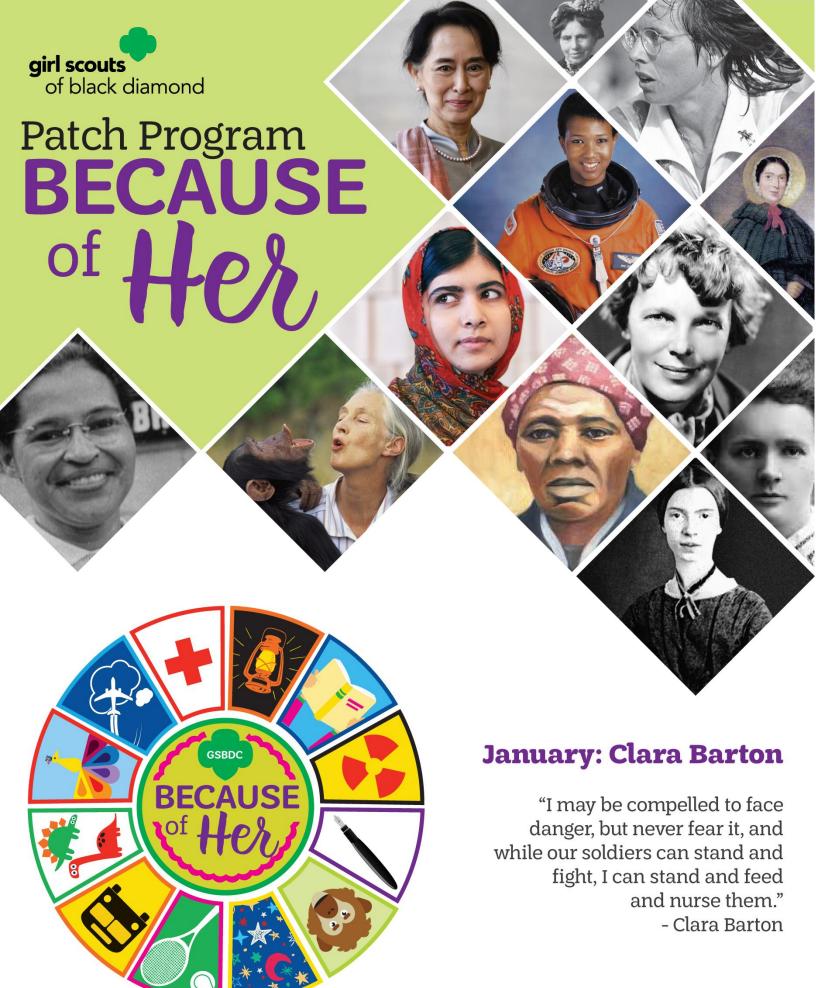
In 1927, Charles Lindbergh became the first person to successfully fly a plane across the Atlantic Ocean. Amelia knew she wanted to take this flight too, so a year later she volunteered to be part of the next trans-Atlantic flight. The flight made Amelia a huge celebrity, and she began to tour around promoting flying and taking part in aerial shows like the ones she had watched years ago. In 1932, Amelia became the first women to fly across the Atlantic Ocean by herself, for which she received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Legion of Honor from France. Amelia made several other famous flights, including one from California to Hawaii.

In 1937, Amelia decided to attempt something that had never been done before: to fly all the way around the world. Since this would use so much fuel, she would have to stop a few times along the way. She left Miami, Florida on June 29, 1937 and flew to South America. From there she flew to India and then New Guinea. The flight was going well and she only had 7,000 miles to go, across the Pacific Ocean. During this flight, Amelia began to send distress calls because she was unable to find the next island she was supposed to land on. After a few hours, the distress calls stopped. Amelia had run out

of fuel and likely crashed somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. Her aircraft was never found and it remains a mystery to this day whether she survived some time on a deserted island or passed away in a crash.

Today, Amelia is celebrated as a great woman adventurer and fighter for women's equality in the workplace.

- Research the places that Amelia landed on her flight around the world. Try to learn more about one of those places: who lives there, what was the weather like, what kind of animals are there, etc.
- Make an airplane out of candy! It won't fly, but it sure will be sweet!
  <a href="https://www.birthdayinabox.com/pages/airplane-party-ideas-games-candy-airplane-craft">https://www.birthdayinabox.com/pages/airplane-party-ideas-games-candy-airplane-craft</a>
- Make a paper airplane out of a sheet of paper: <a href="http://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activities/how-to-make-a-sleek-traditional-paper-plane">http://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activities/how-to-make-a-sleek-traditional-paper-plane</a>
- Try flying it!
- Amelia helped as a nurse during World War I. Learn a simple first aid skill like bandaging a wound or setting a broken bone, and demonstrate that skill to your group.
- NASA created a great activity book about Amelia's life. Do at least one activity from the book: <a href="https://er.jsc.nasa.gov/seh/earhart.pdf">https://er.jsc.nasa.gov/seh/earhart.pdf</a>
- Look at a map of the world and come up with your dream trip to at least two different places. How would you get there? What would you do once you were there?



### January 2018



## **Clara Barton**

"I may be compelled to face danger, but never fear it, and while our soldiers can stand and fight, I can stand and feed and nurse them."- Clara Barton

Clara Barton was born on December 25th, 1821 in Massachusetts. When she was ten years old, she decided to learn nursing so she could take care of her brother David, who had been seriously injured after falling off the roof of a barn. Her parents encouraged her to become a teacher, and she was certified to teach at the age of seventeen.

After working as a teacher for over twelve years, Clara moved to Washington D.C. to become a patent clerk. This was the first time that a woman held such an important position. In 1856, she was fired because the men around her felt that women shouldn't hold government offices.

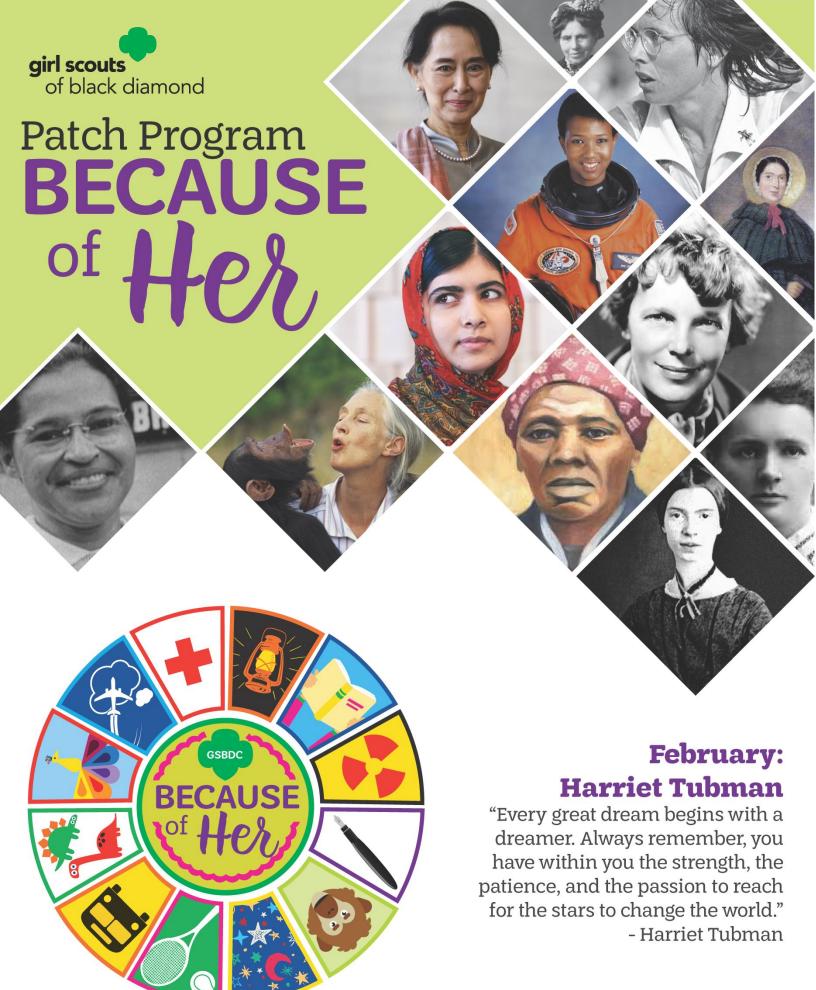
On April 19, 1861, the Baltimore Riot resulted in the first bloodshed of the American Civil War. Injured soldiers were transported to Washington D.C. to receive treatment. Clara decided to go to the railroad station where the men were housed to offer them medical care. She ended up assisting 40 men. In addition, she trained other women to provide medical care, and started to store medical supplies which she could distribute as needed. Clara played an important role in caring for wounded soldiers for the rest of the Civil War.

From 1865-1868, Clara went on a tour of the country, giving talks about her experiences during the war. After her tour, she was exhausted and decided to spend some time relaxing in Switzerland. While there, she learned about the Swiss Red Cross, and learned about the idea of forming a national society of volunteers, to provide emergency services during crises. Clara decided to put this idea into action, and on May 21st, 1881, became the first president of the America Red Cross.

Today, the American Red Cross provides emergency assistance and disaster relief throughout the United States. The American Red Cross responses to more than 70,000 disasters every year, providing donated blood, clean water, and other supplies necessary for survival.

This month's patch program focuses on volunteerism, the Civil War, and some basic first aid skills that you can use to help yourself or others in an emergency!

- Learn about giving blood. Talk with your group about why it is important to donate blood. What are the requirements to donate blood? Find somewhere in your community you can visit to donate. Consider going with your family or troop to make a donation.
- One of the main missions of the American Red Cross is to distribute supplies to victims of disasters. However, the Red Cross does not accept donations of supplies from individuals. Learn about an organization in your community that does accept these kinds of donations, and plan a drive to collect donations. For example, you could collect things like bottled water, sanitary supplies, or diapers.
- The American Red Cross offers certifications in a number of different areas, including CPR, First Aid, and even babysitting. Research the different courses offered by the American Red Cross and take a course with your troop or family. If you aren't able to attend a course offered by the American Red Cross, do some research on the skills taught in a class of your choice, and find a way to learn one of the those skills a different way.
- Visit a Civil War battlefield. There are several battlefields located in what is now Black Diamond Council. Learn about the history of the battle and the kind of injuries sustained by the men that fought there. Learn about what Civil War era medics and surgeons could have done to try to help men who were injured.
- Hardtack was a biscuit made out of flour and water that was frequently given to Civil War soldiers as part of their rations. Hardtack isn't very tasty, but it was still a big part of the Civil War soldier's diet because it was inexpensive and easy to make. Working with an adult, follow these instructions to make your own sample of hardtack: <a href="http://www.americantable.org/2013/06/civil-war-recipe-hardtack-1861/">http://www.americantable.org/2013/06/civil-war-recipe-hardtack-1861/</a>.
- Not all Civil War injuries occurred during battle. Soldiers could frequently get injured or become sick simply from camping outdoors for so long, from drinking dirty water, or from wearing clothing that was inappropriate for the weather. Research some common non-battle related injuries and illness experienced by Civil War soldiers, and discuss whether Girl Scouts sometimes experience some of these same illnesses and injuries when participating in outdoor activities. What precautions can you take to prevent becoming injured or sick while hiking, camping, etc.?
- Clara worked as a patent clerk before becoming a nurse. There is a special patch Girl Scouts can earn for learning about patents and inventions. Complete at least one requirement for the Intellectual Property patch: https://www.uspto.gov/kids/patchFAQ.html
- Each Girl Scout grade level has its own First Aid badge. Look at the requirements for a First Aid badge that you haven't earned yet, and learn at least one of the first aid skills taught in that badge program.
- Using what you have learned, find a way to present information to others about Clara Barton, the American Red Cross, first aid, or the American Civil War. For example, you could make a video or poster, give a talk, or even design a website.
- Clara started the American Red Cross because she saw that there was a need in her community and other communities to have aid ready to help people after disasters. Talk with your troop about a simple project you could carry out to help your community and then plan and carry out the project together.



### February 2018

## **Harriet Tubman**



"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."- Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Maryland's Dorchester County around 1820. Harriet had a difficult childhood. Her mother was assigned to work in the "big house", or main home, of their master, and she was given very little time to take care of Harriet or the rest of the family. As a very young child, Harriet had to take care of her siblings mostly on her own. When she was six years old, Harriet was assigned the task of making sure that one of her owner's infant children stayed content and quiet throughout the day. If the baby woke up and cried, Harriet would be punished with lashings. She found ways to resist, such as by wearing layers of clothing and sometimes even fighting back. Still, Harriet faced serious abuse from her slave-owner. In one instance, she was hit on the head with a metal weight, which caused her to have headaches, seizures, and powerful visions and dreams for the rest of her life.

In 1849, when she was around 29 years old, Harriet escaped from slavery with the help of the Underground Railroad. Before she left, she tried to send word to her mother of her plans. She sang a coded song to Mary, a trusted fellow slave, which was a farewell. "I'll meet you in the morning," she intoned, "I'm bound for the promised land." Some of the Underground Railroad members that helped Harriet along on her escape to freedom included free and enslaved blacks and white people called abolitionists, who viewed slavery as immoral and wanted to end it. Tubman had to travel by night, guided by the North Star, and trying to avoid slave catchers eager to collect rewards for fugitive slaves. Harriet snuck from one Underground Railroad safehouse to another, until she eventually arrived in Philadelphia.

After escaping, however, Harriet felt a calling to help as many of her friends and family escape from slavery as she possibly could. Altogether, Harriet made thirteen dangerous trips back to the slave states, and helped around 70 slaves escape to freedom. In doing so, she became the most legendary "conductor" of the Underground Railroad, and earned the nickname "American Moses." Harriet lived a long life, and near the end of her life, worked with famous suffragettes like Susan B. Anthony to fight for women's right to vote. She passed away in 1913 at the age of 91.

#### Complete three of the following requirements:

• In 2016, the U.S. Treasury Department announced that Harriet Tubman's portrait would grace the new American \$20 bill. Use the internet to research other women who have been on American currency. Don't forget coins! Can you think of any other historical women who you think should be honored on currency? Give a talk to your troop or make a poster explaining why.

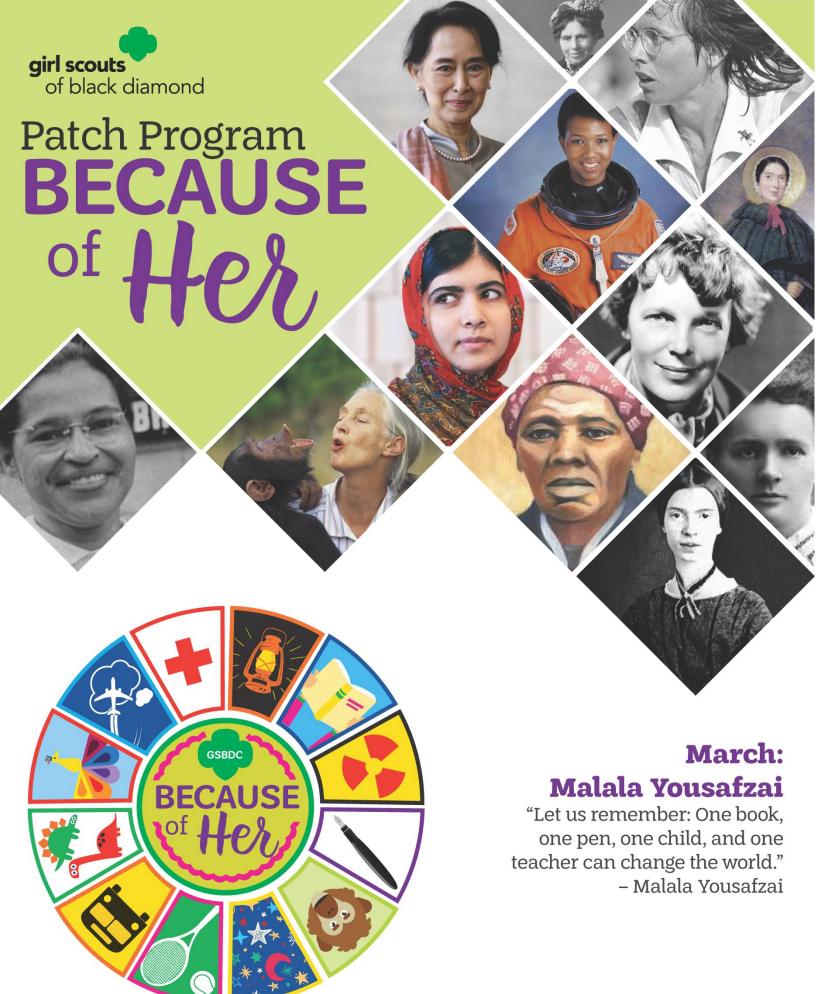
- 2Harriet escaped from Dorchester County, MD to Philadelphia, PA. Use a map or a mapping program to determine the distance between those two places. Discuss how long it might have taken to make the trip. Many historians believe that the route Harriet took from Maryland was northeast along the Choptank River, through Delaware and then north into Pennsylvania. Try tracing that route on a map to see what Harriet's journey looked like.
- The Underground Railroad used songs or hymns to encourage and send secret information to escaping slaves as they moved along various Underground Railroad routes. Secret messages in the songs would help the slaves know where they should go next. One of the songs, "Follow the Drinkin" Gourd", referred to the constellation the Big Dipper. The North Star is part of the Big Dipper constellation, so if slaves headed towards it as they traveled at night, they would be heading North. Research another slave hymn and listen to a recording of it on the internet. For example, here is a recording of "Follow the Drinkin' Gourd."
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw6N\_eTZP2U

women still can't vote?

In the United States, women gained the right to vote in 1920, thanks to the hard work of suffragettes, who were women who organized and fought for their rights. One of the things we learn to do in Girl Scouts is to take action, and find opportunities to make a positive difference, so we can learn a lot from the suffragettes. Harriet worked as a suffragette towards the end of her life. Check out this interactive map of the world. You can click on individual countries to find out what year women gained the right to vote in that country: http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/suffrage/world\_when.htm. Find a country that gave women the right to vote much earlier than the United States. Find another country that gave

women the right to vote much later than the United States. Are there any countries where

- Slave children almost never received store-bought toys, and had to entertain themselves by making up games, creating their own toys from materials that were readily available, and telling stories. Work with your group to come up with a game that only requires materials easily found in nature. Test the game out by playing it.
- Make a doll or other toy out of scrap materials and objects found in nature.
- Harriet used coded messages both to help free slaves and as a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War. Come up with your own secret code and create a message using it. Need some help? Check out this website! http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/27282/secret-codes-to-write-acoded-letter
- Harriet had to learn to survive in the wilderness during her long journeys from Maryland to Philadelphia. Learn and practice an outdoors related skill. For example, you could learn how to build a fire, orient yourself with a compass, or identify edible wild berries.
- Life for a free black in the North was very different than the life of an enslaved black. Use your local library or the internet to learn how life was different for a person being held in slavery. Talk about some of the rights that free people have that slaves did not.



### March 2018



## Malala Yousafzai

"Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world." – Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai was born on July 12, 1997 in Pakistan. She was educated by her father, who is an educational activist and ran a chain of schools in Pakistan. As a young person, Malala learned the value of education and how important it is for children to go to school.

In 2007, a group called the Pakistani Taliban became active in Pakistan. The Taliban became very powerful, and believed that girls and women shouldn't be allowed to do things like watch TV, listen to music, go to school, or go shopping. In response, Malala's father introduced her to a journalist from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), who hired Malala to write a blog about her experiences living as a girl under the oppressive Taliban. Since Malala wasn't allowed by the Taliban to use a computer or blog herself, she would handwrite her notes and pass them off to the journalist, who would type them and put them online for her. In 2008, the Taliban began to close down and destroy girls' schools in Malala's hometown.

The Pakistani Army came in to fight off the Taliban. During the fighting and destruction, Malala was separated from her family- she was sent to the countryside to live with relatives. During this time, Malala began to become a publicly known figure. The New York Times filmed a documentary on her, and she began doing newspaper and television interviews where she publicly advocated for female education. Malala had become an activist. Around this time, the Taliban started to issue death threats against Malala and her father. Taliban leaders would call in to radio stations, or even have Taliban members slide notes under the door of Malala's home, threatening her and her family if she didn't stop standing up for girls.

Eventually, Malala was able to go back to school, but the Taliban was furious that she had defied them. On October 9th, 2012, Taliban gunman stopped the school bus taking Malala home from school. They came onto the bus and demanded, "Which one of you is Malala? Speak up, otherwise I will shoot you all." The gunmen shot Malala and injured her very badly, but she survived.

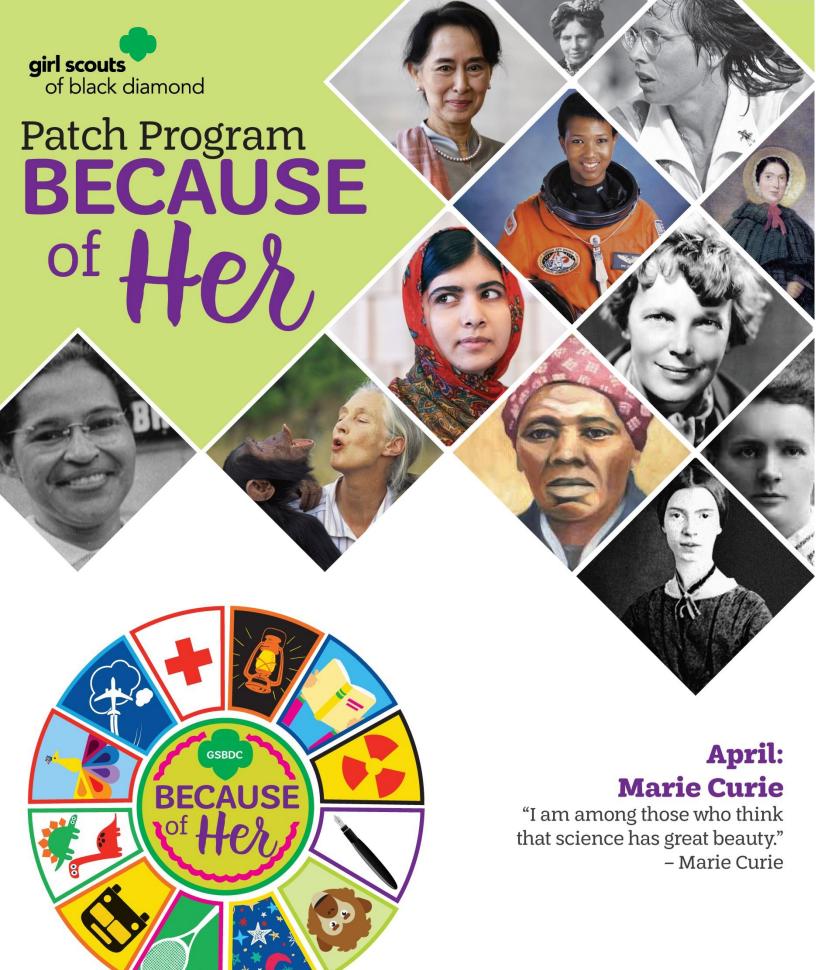
After the shooting, people and countries around the world spoke up in support of Malala. In 2013, after Malala had recovered, she was invited to speak before the United Nations on the issue of children's education. This led to the first ever Youth Takeover of the UN, where Malala had an audience of over 500 youth education activists from around the world. She was even invited to Buckingham Palace to meet Queen Elizabeth II. Malala decided that she wanted to spend her life fighting for children's rights and for education, and that she would become a politician.

On October 10th, 2014, Malala was announced as the co-recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize for her struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education. Having received the prize at the age of 17, Malala is the youngest Nobel laureate.

- ◆ Malala's first experience with activism was a blog she kept, where she reported on how the Taliban was treating children in Pakistan. Keep your own blog or diary for two weeks. You don't have to write every day, but set a schedule for yourself and stick to it. It can be about an issue you care about, or any subject you are interested in. If you publish your blog on the internet, make sure you have a parent or guardian's permission! If you would like to read some of the diary entries that Malala wrote for the BBC, you can find them here: <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\_asia/7834402.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\_asia/7834402.stm</a>.
- Examine an issue that affects children where you live. For example, you might research water pollution, childhood obesity, poverty, etc. Give a short speech (around five minutes) to your troop or family about how this issue makes you feel and what you think people should do to try to solve the problem.
- Pick another country, anywhere in the world, and learn about the life of girls there. What sort of challenges do girls face there? Is there anything you feel the country does better than the United States in its treatment of girls? How about worse?
- Since education is readily available to us in the United States, we sometimes forget how important it is and how worse off we'd be without it. Pick a class in school that is your least favorite. Research some careers that class might help prepare you for, and think about what life skills that class might be helping you develop. Talk with your group about what you learned about this subject, and decide if you have changed your mind about the class any.
- ◆ The United Nations is a group of countries from around the world that have agreed to work together for the common good. They try to prevent wars and pollution, and help people gain access to clean water, health care, education, and more. Pick one issue that you care about, and research what the United Nations is doing to address that issue around the globe. Make a poster detailing what you learned.
- In some regions of Pakistan, the popular fashion includes lots of bright, beautiful dyes in women's clothing. With a parent's help or with your troop, try dying a piece of clothing. Here are some easy instructions for making a tie-dye shirt!

  http://www.kinderart.com/textiles/easytiedye.shtml
- Record a short video documentary on a subject of your interest- it can be about anything! Decide what you'd like to learn about, and then create an outline for a five minute video on the subject. If you don't have access to a camcorder, you can consider using the video recording function available on most cell phones.
- Malala is actually named after a famous female poet from Afghanistan. In 2013, an international poetry festival was held in Argentina, in honor of Malala. Read a poem by an author from a different country than the United States, and then try your hand at writing a short poem.

◆ Malala is the youngest person to ever be recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Prize is one of the most important awards that a person can receive. Nobel Prizes are given in six different subjects. Use the internet or library to research what all six of the Nobel Prize categories are, and then learn about a person other than Malala who has received a prize in one of the categories. Talk to your group about the person you researched.



## April 2018

## **Marie Curie**



"I am among those who think that science has great beauty." - Marie Curie

Marie Curie was born in Warsaw, Poland on November 7th, 1867. At the time, Poland was part of the Russian Empire. Marie's family was very devoted to the cause of Poland's independence, and during her childhood, Marie struggled with poverty because most of her parents' income went towards supporting efforts to free Poland. Because she was a woman and because her family had a reputation for being opposed to the Russian government, Marie was not allowed to go to school.

Marie and her sister learned about something called the "Flying University", which was a secret school that was run without the knowledge of the government. Like Marie's family, the Flying University was devoted to the idea of making Poland an independent country, and it also admitted women students. In 1891, Marie moved to Paris, where she attended the University of Paris to study physics, chemistry, and mathematics. A couple of years later, she met her future husband Pierre Curie. They fell in love based on their mutual love of studying science.

Attending school was always a struggle for Marie, because she had very little financial support from anyone before meeting Pierre, so she frequently had no food and lived in poor conditions. After teaming up with Pierre, she was able to focus more on her studies.

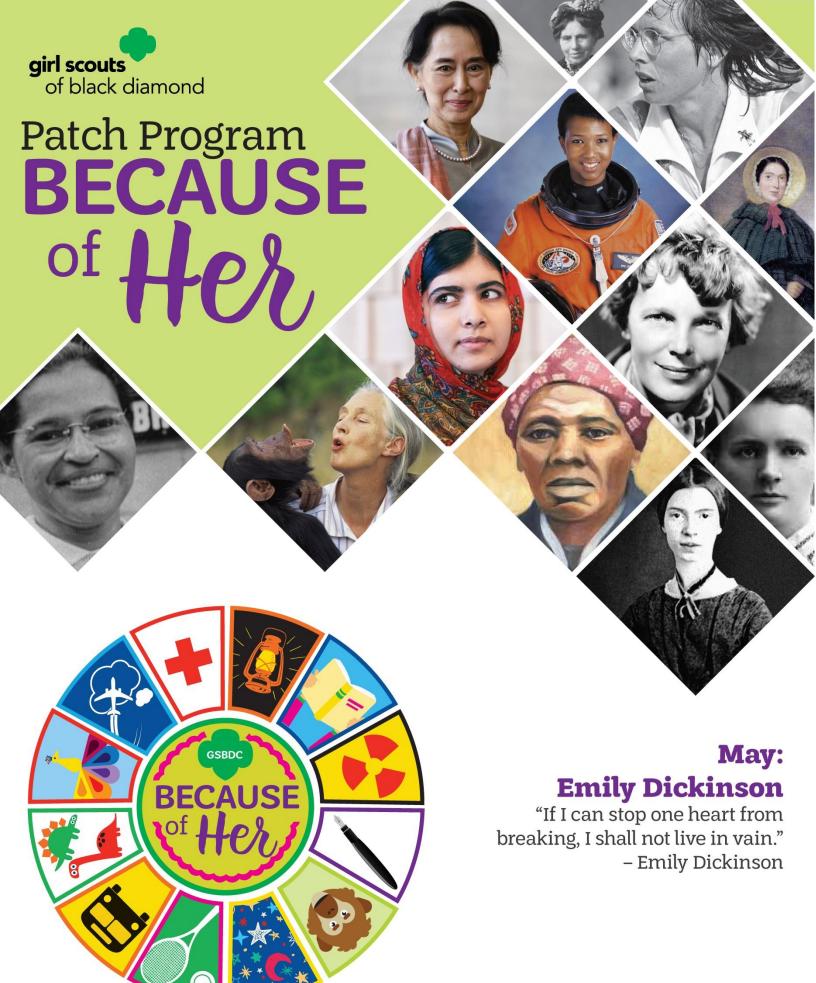
In 1898, Marie and Pierre made one of their biggest achievements when they discovered two new chemical elements, Polonium (which Marie named after her home country of Poland) and Radium. They also coined the term "radioactivity". They discovered that when cancer was exposed to radium, tumor-forming cells were killed faster than healthy cells. This meant that radiation might be able to be used to fight cancer. In June 1903, Marie was awarded her doctorate from the University of Paris and that same year, Marie and her husband were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for their discovery of radiation.

In 1906, Pierre was killed in a tragic carriage accident. The University of Paris had been planning to make him a professor. After Pierre's death, the university decided to make Marie a professor instead, which made her the first female professor in the history of the University of Paris. A few years later in 1911, Marie was awarded a Nobel Prize in Chemistry. This meant that Marie was the first woman to ever win a Nobel Prize, and the first person and only woman to ever win two Nobel Prizes. In 1934, Marie passed away as a result of being exposed to radiation during all of her research.

Because of their levels of radioactive contamination, her papers from the 1890s are considered too dangerous to handle. Even her cookbook is highly radioactive. Her papers are kept in lead-lined boxes, and those who wish to consult them must wear protective clothing. Marie's discoveries about radiation led to advances in nuclear energy, our understanding of the atom, and in medicine. Marie is buried at the Pantheon in France- the first woman to ever be buried there as an honor for her contribution to the world.

- ◆ Everything in the universe that takes up space is called "matter." So Girl Scouts are matter, the Sun is matter, and the oceans are matter. Matter is made up of billions of very small building blocks called atoms. Here is a video in which an electron microscope slowly zooms in on a human tooth: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4RgBZlKl]">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4RgBZlKl]</a>. At the very end of the video, you can see the individual atoms that make up the tooth.
- ◆ Learn about the different parts of an atom (protons, neutrons, and electrons). <a href="http://www.ducksters.com/science/the\_atom.php">http://www.ducksters.com/science/the\_atom.php</a>. Construct a model of an atom following the instructions here: <a href="http://sciencing.com/3d-atom-model-crafts-kids-8452024.html">http://sciencing.com/3d-atom-model-crafts-kids-8452024.html</a>.
- ◆ Learn about careers where the worker can be exposed to radiation- there are a lot! For example, you could research dentists, x-ray technicians, astronauts, flight attendants, or miners. Research what these workers do to minimize their exposure to radiation. Talk to your group about what you learned.
- ◆ Use a periodic table of elements to find the chemical elements that are hiding in your name! For example, the name Katie contains three chemical elements: K for potassium, At for astatine, and I for iodine. You can type your name into this website and it will search for you, as well as give you more information about the chemical elements that make up your name: <a href="http://www.lmntology.com/">http://www.lmntology.com/</a>.
- Marie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. Research another woman who was honored with a Nobel Prize. Think of a way to present this information to your group, like making a poster, giving a short speech, or recording a video.
- Chemistry Experiment- Follow the instructions to create magnetic slime! It is messy but amazing! Research polymers and molecules to learn what makes your magnetic slime work. <a href="http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Magnetic-Slime/2551">http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Magnetic-Slime/2551</a>
- Chemistry Experiment- Use vinegar and baking soda to make explosive apples! Research chemical reactions to better understand what makes your explosive apples go boom! <a href="http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Erupting-Apples-/2675">http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Erupting-Apples-/2675</a>.
- Chemistry Experiment- Use chemistry to pamper yourself! Follow these instructions to make your own bath bomb: <a href="http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Bath-Bombs/2612">http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Bath-Bombs/2612</a>. Look at some of the other products you use at bath-time (shampoo, toothpaste) and research what chemicals are inside of them.
- Physics Experiment-This experiment is especially fun if you work with your Girl Scout troop to turn it into a competition! Design a container that will help a raw egg survive a drop from a height of eight feet. If you are part of a Girl Scout troop, break into teams and come up with a plan together. Here are some ideas to get you started-remember to think out of the box! <a href="http://www.schoolingamonkey.com/egg-drop-engineering-project/">http://www.schoolingamonkey.com/egg-drop-engineering-project/</a>

- Physics Experiment-Turn ketchup packets into fish and teach them to swim! http://www.schoolingamonkey.com/diving-fish-science-experiment/.
- Physics Experiment- Make a simple clock that uses a lemon as a power source! http://carrotsareorange.com/fruit-battery/.



### May 2018

## **Emily Dickinson**



"If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain."- Emily Dickinson

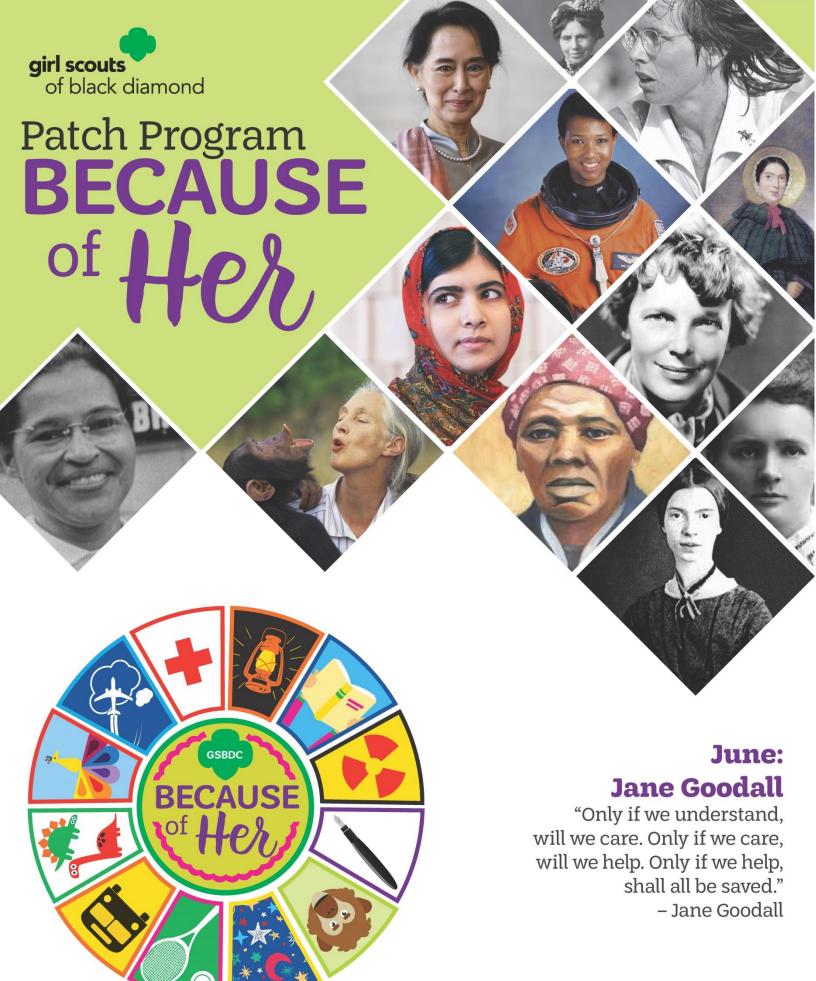
Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts on December 10th, 1830. Her parents were moderately wealthy and wanted Emily to receive a good education. Her parents, especially her father, were very supportive of her and encouraged her to study subjects like English, literature, Latin, botany, geology, history, and arithmetic. As Emily grew up, her teachers and members of the community frequently noted how bright and intelligent she was.

When Emily was eighteen years old, a family friend gifted her books of poetry by William Wordsworth and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Although Emily had always loved learning she said that these books awakened in her a great love of reading poetry and novels. She borrowed novels from her friends and even had her brother sneak books into the house for her that her father might not approve of. As Emily grew older and more of her friends and relatives passed away from illness, she became increasingly melancholy and focused more of her attention on poetry writing and reading.

In the 1860's, Emily began her most productive period of writing. At this point, she lived very secluded from society and mostly communicated with others through letter-writing. Some doctors believe Emily may have suffered agoraphobia, which is a fear of open, public spaces. Despite the fact that Emily wrote much poetry, fewer than a dozen of her poems were published while she was alive, and the poems that were published were heavily edited by the men who owned the publications.

Emily died on May 15, 1886, at the age of 55. When she died, Emily was barely known as a poet-most of her friends and neighbors thought of her as a gardener. Four years after Emily died, her sister discovered a collection of 1800 poems that Emily had written in her notebooks. Even then, the people publishing Emily poems would frequently edit them, changing them from the way Emily originally intended to present them. It wasn't until 1998 that a complete collection of Emily's poems was published unedited. Emily's poems have been in print ever since her sister discovered them, and she is now regarded as one of the greatest American poets.

- ♠ Emily was fortunate to grow up in a family and community that valued education and supported reading. With the help of a parent or guardian, visit your local library and sign up for a library card. Learn about the different resources that the library has available to you, and check out a book that interests you to take home and read.
- Read one of Emily Dickinson's poems: <a href="https://www.poemhunter.com/emily-dickinson/poems/">https://www.poemhunter.com/emily-dickinson/poems/</a>. Share your thoughts on the poem with your group. Was there a particular line or image you liked? How did the poem make you feel?
- Learn how to write a haiku: <a href="http://www.kidzone.ws/poetry/haiku.htm">http://www.kidzone.ws/poetry/haiku.htm</a>. Write a haiku and share it with your group.
- Write an acrostic with your name. That is where you take each letter of your name and pick a word that describes you. For example, if your name is Emily, your acrostic might be:
  - o **E**nergetic
  - Mischievous
  - o **I**ntelligent
  - o **L**aughs a lot
  - o **Young**
- Emily Dickinson's poems did not have titles. Find an Emily Dickinson poem that you like and talk about what you think a good title for that poem would be. Explain to your group why you chose that title.
- Spend a few minutes outside and then write a descriptive poem about what you experience. Creatively describe what you see, smell, hear and feel.
- Emily deeply loved flowers. They were the subject of many of her poems and letters, and she had a lifelong love of gardening. Go on a walk in nature and find three different flowers. Draw and describe each of them in a journal or notebook, and research what they are called.
- Emily preferred to communicate with most people by writing letters rather than meeting in person. Write a letter to someone in your Girl Scout troop or a family member or friend who doesn't live with you. You can make it a one-time letter, or they could become your regular pen pal!



#### June 2018

# Jane Goodall



"Only if we understand, will we care. Only if we care, will we help. Only if we help shall all be saved." – Jane Goodall

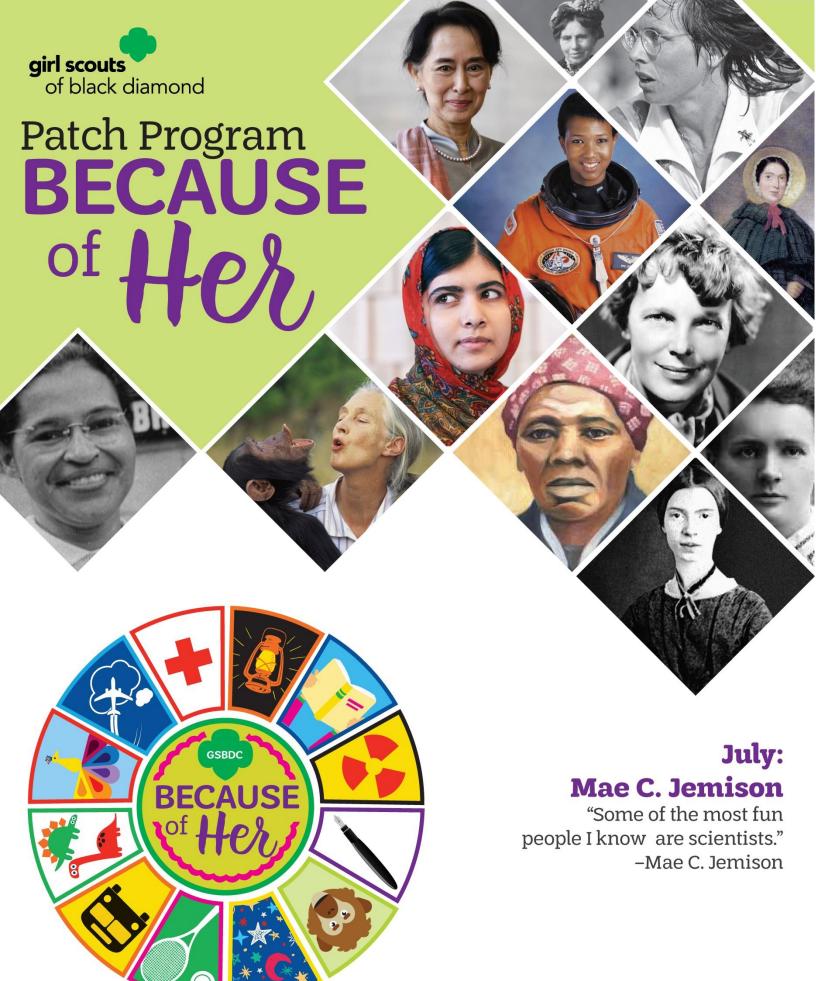
Jane Goodall was born on April 3rd, 1934 in London in the United Kingdom. When Jane was a child, her father gave her stuffed chimpanzee named Jubilee. Her love of her stuffed chimpanzee is what started her early love of animals.

In 1957, Jane visited the farm of a friend in the highlands of Kenya. She had always been interested in Africa and knew it would be an opportunity to see many interesting animals. Her friend advised her to contact Louis Leakey, a famous archaeologist and paleontologist, who was also interested in animals. Louis had a theory that the behavior of chimpanzees might help scientists understand how early humans behaved. He was looking for someone willing to go live among chimpanzees and research them. Leakey decided to send Jane to Gombe Stream National Park, where it would be her job to study the behaviors of chimpanzees.

Jane's experience was unique because she had no scientific training when she first went to visit the chimpanzee community. Because of this, she was able to make observations about chimpanzees that normal scientists might have missed. For example, a scientist would normally assign the chimpanzees numbers, but Jane gave them names instead, like "Fifi" and "David Greybeard." This helped Jane see that each of the chimpanzees had unique personalities and were very much like people. Jane's research revealed that chimpanzees were much more complex than previously believed, and exhibited human behaviors like feeling joy and sorrow, supporting and being affectionate towards one another, and thinking rationally.

In 1965, Jane earned her PhD from Cambridge University, even though she had never gone to college before. This made her only the 8th person to ever earn an advanced degree from Cambridge without first earning an undergraduate degree. Jane founded the Jane Goodall Institute in 1977, and has devoted her time to advocating for chimpanzees ever since.

- Visit a state park, forest, or a wildlife preserve. Learn about the plant and animal life that lives at the location you visit. Talk with your group about why it is important to protect vulnerable plant and animal life.
- ◆ Jane founded a program called Roots and Shoots, which encourages young people to identify a problem in their community that affects people, animals, or the environment. With your group, discuss a problem your community faces that affects one of these groups, and come up with a plan of action to help with the problem. If you'd like, report your outcomes on the Roots and Shoots website at <a href="https://www.rootsandshoots.org">www.rootsandshoots.org</a>.
- Learn about the differences between monkeys and apes and take the ape versus monkey quiz: <a href="http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/animals/mammals/apevsmonkey.htm">http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/animals/mammals/apevsmonkey.htm</a>. Create a drawing of a monkey or an ape.
- ◆ Learn how to observe wildlife. You can observe wildlife from your own backyard, or go on a hike in the woods or park. Makes notes about what the animal looks like and what it is doing. Observe it long enough to make some guesses about what its daily routine might be like. Talk with your group about the animal that you observed. Here are some tips and a cool worksheet you can use to help you with your observations: <a href="http://www.wildchimpanzees.org/educators/pdf/animal\_observation.pdf">http://www.wildchimpanzees.org/educators/pdf/animal\_observation.pdf</a>.
- Using paper brads and these printouts, make a poseable chimpanzee! http://www.wildchimpanzees.org/educators/pdf/poseable\_chimpanzee.pdf
- Learn how to talk like a chimpanzee!
  <a href="http://www.wildchimpanzees.org/educators/pdf/talk">http://www.wildchimpanzees.org/educators/pdf/talk</a> like a chimp.pdf
- According to the World Wildlife Fund, one of the biggest threats to chimpanzee habitats is deforestation caused by the harvesting of trees for wood and paper products. Work with your group to come up with a plan to use less paper. Talk about other ways you can conserve resources like water and electricity, and how you can lessen your impact on the planet.
- ◆ Jane is one of thirteen people currently serving as a United Nations Messenger of Peace. UN Messengers of Peace are "distinguished individuals, carefully selected from the fields of art, music, literature and sports, who have agreed to help focus worldwide attention on the work of the United Nations." Research one of the other individuals currently serving in this role. Find a way to present information about their contribution to the world. For example, you could make a poster, video, give a talk to your group, etc.



## July 2018

## **Mae C. Jemison**



"Some of the most fun people I know are scientists." -Mae C. Jemison

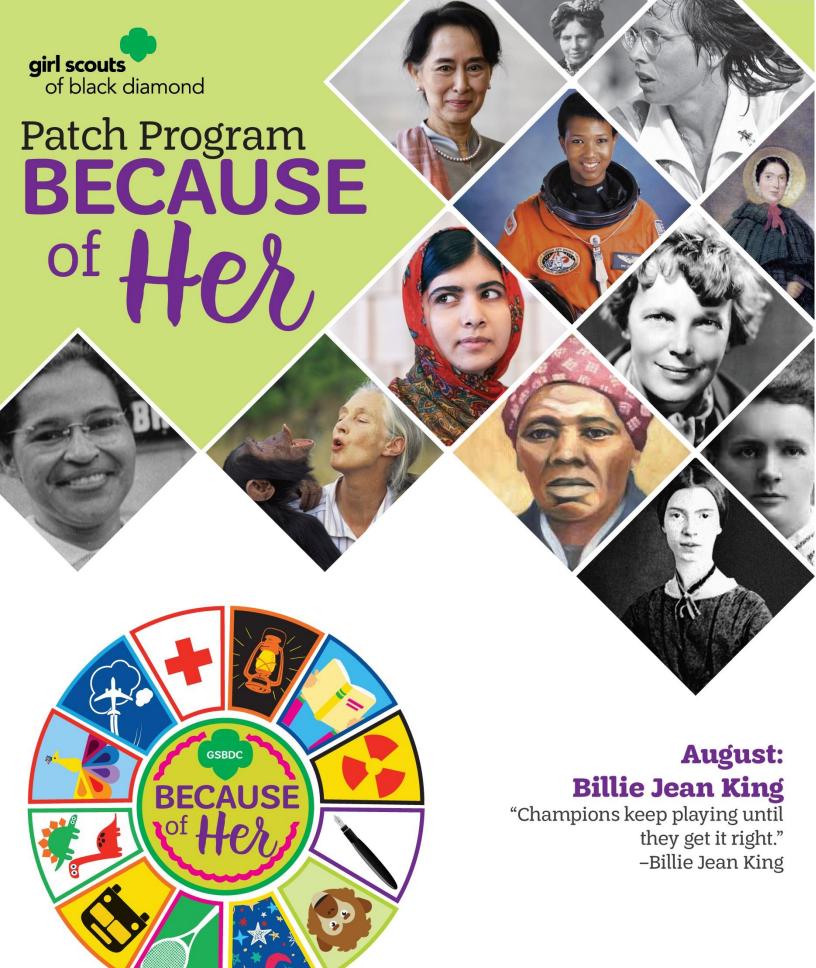
Mae C. Jemison was born in Decatur, Alabama on October 17th, 1956. Mae's father was a maintenance supervisor and her mother was an elementary school teacher. Mae's parents wanted her to receive a good education, so when she was three years old, the family moved to Chicago so that Mae could attend better schools. Her parents' plan worked, and Mae developed an early interest in science and nature. When she was still a young girl, Mae was inspired by the African American character Uhura on Star Trek, and decided that she would one day go to space.

Mae learned to make connections to science by studying the things happening around her. Once, when a splinter infected her thumb as a little girl, she ended up doing a whole science project about pus. Although Mae's parents supported her dreams, her teachers did not. In the 1960's when Mae grew up, much of society didn't think that girls of color could grow up to become scientists. Mae grew up as the Civil Rights Movement was going on, and she was inspired by the words and actions of Martin Luther King, Jr. Just as he was working to break down barriers for colored people in society, Mae knew that she wanted to do the same thing in the field of science.

Mae's persistence paid off and she was accepted to Stanford University at age 16, majoring in chemical engineering. Many of Mae's professors would ignore her in class because she was a black woman. In 1981, Mae earned her Doctorate of Medicine degree from Cornell Medicine College. She travelled all over the world to provide medical care to people in need. After Sally Ride became the first woman in space in 1963, Mae decided to apply to become an astronaut.

NASA accepted Mae into the astronaut program, and she began to work to learn how to be an astronaut. She helped to support the launch of vehicles at the Kennedy Space Center and made sure that NASA's space missions were successful. Finally, from September 12 to 20, 1992, Mae flew into space as a NASA astronaut, making her the first African American woman to enter space. She went on to earn nine honorary doctorates and lead an organization giving grants to companies doing space research. She also found time to appear in one episode of the television show *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, fulfilling a dream she'd had since childhood.

- One of the ideas that Mae learned early in life is that science is connected to everything. Pick something from your everyday life and do research to learn about the science behind it. You could research on the internet or at your local library. Find a way to share information about what you researched, such as by creating a poster, a video, or giving a short talk.
- Mae learned to dance as a child and eventually became an expert in several styles of dancing. Although most people did not see a connection between science and dance, Mae explained that both contain expressions of creativity that people share with one another. Play a song that you like and make up your own dance moves.
- Learn about the phases of the moon and create a chart of the different phases using Oreo cookies! http://www.giftofcuriosity.com/montessori-phases-of-the-moon-activities/
- ◆ Eat a "space lunch" using foods you might find on a space shuttle. That means freeze-dried foods, granola bars, pouches of applesauce, or even baby food. Remember there is no gravity in space! Talk about what foods would be easy to eat in the absence of gravity, and which could cause problems if they spilled and started to drift away. For example, what might happen if you tried to eat a crumbly cracker in space? Could the crumbs float away and go everywhere?
- Go stargazing. If you live somewhere with lots of bright city lights, you might consider this activity when you're on a camping trip. Study some of the constellations ahead of time and try to find them in the night sky: http://www.ducksters.com/science/physics/constellations.php
- Visit and planetarium and watch a planetarium show. Many planetariums, such as the West Virginia Wesleyan Planetarium, have special shows for young people that focus on different space subjects.
- Follow NASA's instructions to build a bubble-powered rocket! <a href="https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/pop-rocket/en/">https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/pop-rocket/en/</a>. Remember to have an adult help you!
- ◆ Mae was the first African American woman in space. Research another woman to accomplish an important "first" and find a way to share what you learned with others. You could make a poster, video, give a talk, or even create a website!
- After finishing school, Mae volunteered for the Peace Corps and provided medical care to people living in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Research the Peace Corps so you understand why it was created, who created it, what people in the Peace Corps do, and how people become volunteers for the Peace Corps. Find an area of the world that the Peace Corps works in and talk with your group about how your interests, passions, and skills could make you a good Peace Corps volunteer there in the future.



### August 2018

## **Billie Jean King**



"Champions keep playing until they get it right." - Billie Jean King

Billie Jean King was born in Long Beach, California on November 22nd, 1943. Billie had an early interest in playing tennis, and started to learn how to play on the free public tennis courts available in Long Beach. She became a skilled tennis player quickly and soon entered into professional play.

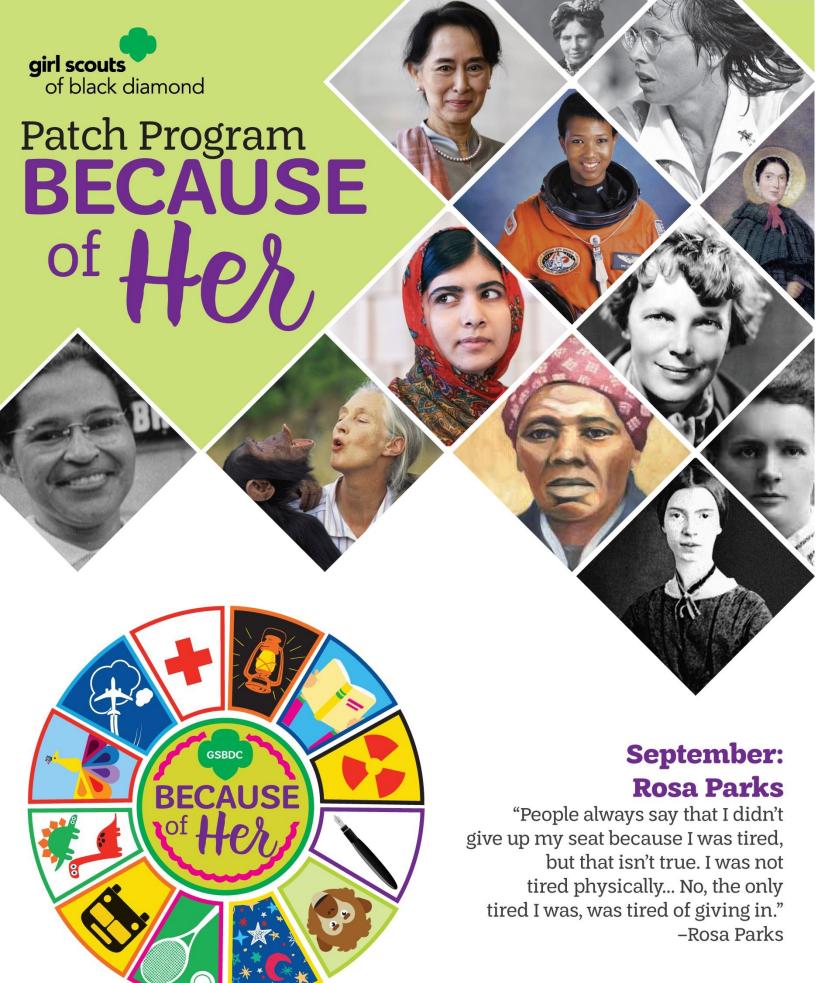
When Billie was fifteen years old, she had her Grand Slam debut at the US Championships. She lost her debut match, as well as all four out of five of her subsequent matches. For many people, losing most of their matches in their first year as a professional player would have been a crushing defeat, but Billie was determined to become a champion tennis player. Alice Marble, winner of 18 Grand Slam titles saw the Billie had potential and began to coach her on weekends. The next year, Billie won her first adult tournament.

Billie eventually became the world's number one professional tennis player, winning 39 Grand Slam titles. She was a member of the victorious United States team in seven Federation Cups and nine Wightman Cups. She was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1987 and is today regarded as one of the greatest tennis players of all time.

Billie has long been an advocate for gender equality and social justice. In 1973, 29 year-old Billie was challenged to a "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match against the 55 year-old player Bobby Riggs. Riggs had defeated a female player the year before, and taunted Billie and other female players over his victory. Billie decided it was important for her to win the match to prove that women were just as good at sports as men. She ended up winning the match.

Since retiring from professional tennis, Billie has spent her time advocating for equal pay for women and men, and for women to have equal rights in all parts of life. She supports the Women's Sports Foundation and the Elton John AIDS Foundation. In 2014, Billie founded the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative, to help fight for more woman leaders in the workplace and society.

- Play "Ring Around the Rosie" with at least three other people using tennis equipment. Everyone stands in a circle. One player takes the lead and hits the ball into the center of the circle, making it bounce to one of the other players. That player hits the ball and bounces it back to the leader. The leader takes turns bouncing the ball to the other players, first in a pattern and then randomly as everyone gets more comfortable hitting and bouncing the ball. If you don't have tennis equipment, you can play this game with any other kind of bouncing ball too!
- Keep an exercise diary and commit to using it for at least two weeks. Try different methods of exercising during that time and keep track of what activities you try and when. Rate the different exercises you try so you can keep track of what types of exercises you enjoy most.
- Free public tennis courts were important in enabling Billie to learn to play tennis. Research the public options for recreation where you live. Find out what activities are available for free and which cost money. Make a plan to take advantage of one of these public recreation opportunities in the future.
- Billie was awarded with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contribution to American culture and her hard work fighting for equality for women. Research the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the different reasons a person can be honored with that award. Research another individual who has received this award and find a way to share information about them with your group, such as by creating a poster, a video, or giving a short talk.
- Think about something that you are afraid to try, or something that you tried in the past but failed. It can be anything, like a hard subject in school, riding a bike, talking in front of a group of people, etc. Write a pledge to yourself that you will try again to succeed.
- Grab a tennis ball and play the game Horse with your group. Here are instructions: https://peplus.wordpress.com/2011/08/23/horse/.
- In 1975, Billie was recognized as Time magazine's Person of the Year. Research another person or group who has been recognized with this honor, and share what you learned with your group.
- Tennis drills are activities that help tennis players sharpen their skills. These activities are a lot of fun and are designed to be easy for beginners to try. Grab a tennis ball and a racket and try at least two of these tennis drills: <a href="http://tennisdrillshq.com/drills/kids-tennis/">http://tennisdrillshq.com/drills/kids-tennis/</a>.



### September 2018

## **Rosa Parks**



"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically... No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in." –Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was born in Tuskegee, Alabama on February 4th, 1913. Rosa was small and sickly as a child, and suffered from chronic tonsillitis. When she was young, her parents separated, and she moved with her mother to a farm to live with her grandparents. They were all members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, a denomination founded by free blacks before the Civil War. When she was growing up, school and church were very important to Rosa. However, when Rosa was in secondary school, her mother and grandmother became ill and she had to drop out of school to take care of them.

At that time, many of the former Confederate States, including Alabama, had passed laws called "Jim Crow" laws, discriminating against black people. This meant that black people were "segregated", or not allowed to use the same public places, as white people. This included things like parks, water fountains, schools, retail stores, and public transportation. Dealing with racism was a normal part of Rosa's life. When she went to school, black children were not allowed to ride the school bus. Rosa was bullied by white children and often had to fight back to defend herself.

In 1932, Rosa married Raymond Parks, a barber from Montgomery. Raymond was a member of the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an organization that fights for the civil rights of people of color. Raymond encouraged Rosa to finish high school and register to vote. Even in her attempt to do this, she encountered racism, and had to try to register to vote twice before being allowed to register to vote on her third attempt. In 1943, Rosa decided to join the Civil Rights Movement herself. Later that year, Rosa boarded a bus, but used the white entrance. The bus driver demanded that she get off the bus and re-board through the colored entrance, which was at the back of the bus. Rosa did as he said, and got off the bus to go through the other entrance. The bus driver sped off and left Rosa standing in the rain.

Twelve years later, in 1955, Rosa boarded a bus and sat in the colored section. The white section filled up, so the bus driver demanded that Rosa move to the back of the bus so that the seating could be used by white people. It was the same bus driver who had left her standing in the rain years ago! Rosa refused, explaining that she didn't feel that she should have to move. The bus driver called the police, and Rosa was arrested.

The black community decided that it had to fight back against segregation on public transportation. It was decided that on December 5th, 1955, the date of Rosa's trial for breaking the law, the black community would boycott the public transportation system in Montgomery. That meant that black

people avoided using public transportation and didn't spend any of their money on buses. It rained that day, but the black community persevered in their boycott. Some rode in carpools, while others traveled in black-operated cabs that charged the same fare as the bus, 10 cents. Most of the remainder of the 40,000 black commuters walked, some as far as 20 miles.

After the success of the boycott, several of the boycotters met and decided to form a new organization to continue the boycott called the Montgomery Improvement Association. They elected as their president a young minister named Martin Luther King Jr. For a year, Rosa's court case continued, until the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that segregation on public transportation was unconstitutional.

Rosa was celebrated as a hero of civil rights and an icon of the fight to give equality to all people. She spent the rest of her life traveling and speaking on civil rights issues, before passing away on October 24th, 2005.

- Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." What he meant was that when one group of people is treated unfairly; it makes it easier for other groups of people to also be treated unfairly. After the success of the Civil Rights Movement, similar movements for women's rights, gay rights, and the rights of the disabled began to experience more success. Talk with your family or friends about how you have benefited from civil rights movements.
- The Civil Rights Memorial Center has put together a great civil rights activity booklet for kids. Check out the free booklet and complete at least one of the activities: <a href="http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/SPLC%20Civil%20Rights%20Activity%20Book%20web.pdf">http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/SPLC%20Civil%20Rights%20Activity%20Book%20web.pdf</a>
- ◆ Terrible Things by Eve Bunting is a storybook for children. The story is an allegory, meaning that it has a message or purpose to tell readers. Terrible Things is specifically an allegory about the Holocaust during World War II, but it can teach an important lesson anytime about why it is important to not look away when other people are suffering or being mistreated. Watch this animated version of Terrible Things and talk with your parents, teacher, or Girl Scout leader about the lesson of the story. Try to answer these questions- are there people whose suffering is ignored today? How can the story relate to the Civil Rights Movement? <a href="https://vimeo.com/31162159">https://vimeo.com/31162159</a>
- Choose a person who played a role in the Civil Rights Movement and learn more about them. Share what you learned with others by making a poster, giving a short talk, or making a video.
- Listen to some of the songs of the Civil Rights Movement: <a href="http://www.npr.org/2010/01/18/99315652/songs-of-the-civil-rights-movement">http://www.npr.org/2010/01/18/99315652/songs-of-the-civil-rights-movement</a>. Talk with your group about whether you recognize certain themes or ideas that the songs share.
- The boxer Muhammad Ali played a big role in the fight for civil rights. He was also known for his freestyle poetry. Watch this short video about Muhammad Ali's freestyle poetry and then try composing your own freestyle poem about any subject you'd like!

- Learn about the Bill of Rights and the freedoms it guarantees Americans. You can do your own research or watch this silly video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjvo6yrrA5A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjvo6yrrA5A</a>
- Make a paper craft version of the Rosa Parks bus. <a href="https://daniellesplacestore.com/downloads/rosa-parks-stand-up-bus-craft/">https://daniellesplacestore.com/downloads/rosa-parks-stand-up-bus-craft/</a>. Free but requires e-mail.