



Sarah Hazard Nomer Museum Patch

a history of Girl Scouts of Rhode Island and Southeastern New England

The Sarah Hazard Nomer Museum began in 1990 after the newly built House-by-the-Side-of-the-Road opened. A Museum Committee was formed and tasked with the management of the collections and archive. Mrs. Nomer and her daughter participated in Girl Scouts in New York and Rhode Island.

Steps

1. A Look at Our Roots
2. People in Our Past
3. Our Council Attic: The Museum Collections
4. Our Camps



Purpose: To discover some history of the local Girl Scout organization, explore a Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England camp, and tour the Sarah Hazard Nomer Museum at Camp Hoffman, West Kingston, R.I.

Complete one activity from each of the steps in any order.

Step 1 A Look at Our Roots: Take a guided tour of the Sarah Hazard Nomer Museum. Discover the roots of local scouting through the photos and memorabilia on display. To schedule a 60 minute tour (max group size 20 people), complete the request form at GSSNE.org in the *Our Council* section.

Step 2 People in Our Past: Learn about one or more of these women who had an impact on Girl Scouting in our area and nationally.

- **Mira Hoffman** (1865-1944), one of the 5 founding incorporators and served as treasurer and commissioner for Girl Scouts of Rhode Island, Inc. She established Camp Hoffman, and in 1928 became the national organization's fifth president.
- **Emma R. Hall** (1865-1949), formed the first council in Massachusetts, was first commissioner for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and joined the National Executive Board in 1919.
- **Marie Gaudette** (1894-1966), created some of Girl Scouts' favorite songs while a director at Camp Hoffman. Her camp name was "Big Chief." She became a trainer and nature writer for the national organization.
- **Edith Ballinger Price** (1897-1997), one of the first Brownie leaders in Rhode Island who went on to help build the national program. She was a prolific author and illustrator. She wrote the first Brownie handbook and was the first Great Brown Owl in the U.S.A.
- **Catherine "Kit" Hammett** (1902-1998), was the first nationally registered Girl Scout in Rhode Island. She was a junior counselor at the first statewide camp, and as an adult trained 14,000 volunteers in 46 states in how to camp. She was an author, world traveler for Girl Scouts and WAGGGS, and a founding member of the SHN Museum.

Step 3 Our Council Attic: The Museum Collections: The collections include a wide range of donated uniforms, books, troop and camp memorabilia. Choose one.

- **Borrow a GSSNE Museum Program Box.** Explore the treasures found within one of the program boxes. Compare a Legacy badge from your Girl's Guide to a similar badge in an old handbook. Choose and complete at least one badge activity.
- **Photos and Scrapbooks.** Someone once said, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Ask family members if they have a photograph or scrapbook from when they were a Girl Scout. Ask about the picture and share its history with other Girl Scouts. Ask who, what, when, where, and why?
- **Uniforms.** Compare uniforms for style, comfort and color from at least three decades, then design a uniform of the future. You can borrow the GSSNE Program Box or add this step to your museum tour. Just ask your docent.

Step 4 Our Camps: Become familiar with a GSSNE camp and learn about its history. Choose one:

- **Take a history hike at Camp Hoffman** Plan some extra time after your museum tour to take a self-guided *Hike Through History*. Scripts are available from museum docents. Be prepared for walking/hiking on natural terrain.
- **Follow the letterboxing series at Camp Hoffman** Plan some extra time after your museum tour to follow the Letterboxes installed by Southgansett Troop 80. Clues to the fact-filled boxes are located in the first "birdhouse" at the info board near the gate. Be prepared for walking/hiking on natural terrain.
- **Visit a GSSNE Camp** Register for a council program, attend an outdoor day at Hoffman, or plan a camping weekend so you can visit one of our camps:
 - Camp Rocky Farm, The Elms lodge, Newport, R.I.
established in 1950 by Newport County Girl Scout Council
 - Camp Hoffman, West Kingston, R.I. (3 lodges, 11 units, 1 outdoor day site)
established in 1921 by Girl Scouts of Rhode Island, Inc. (now GSSNE)Check training requirements for accompanying adults. Submit reservation prior to the established deadline. Camp histories are available in the camp program backpack. Don't forget your nose-bag lunch and sit-upon.

More To Explore

Classmates Juliette Gordon Low and Abby Lippitt Hunter, daughter of Rhode Island Governor Henry Lippitt, were close friends throughout their lives. Visit the Lippitt House Museum in Providence and walk the same halls that Juliette did.

For information, contact Preserve Rhode Island 401-272-5101 preserveri.org

Start a troop, trip, or camp scrapbook on your own or as a group. Include photos, drawings, newspaper clippings, flyers, programs and ticket stubs. Add journaling with memories and dates. Learn about acid-free archival scrapbooking materials.

Watch the 1918 black and white silent film "The Golden Eaglet: The Story of a Girl Scout."

Many of Edith Ballinger Price's books can be found online. View her artwork at the University of Oregon Libraries Special Collections: 20th Century Children's Literature.

<https://expo.uoregon.edu/spotlight/twentieth-century-american-children-literature>