In early May, Girl Scouts of the USA announced an exciting partnership with the National Park Service to launch the “Girl Scout Ranger Program,” a joint venture connecting girls with National Park Service sites throughout the United States.

Through the program, girls are invited to play outdoors, learn about national parks and why they’re preserved and develop essential leadership skills. Even better, girls have the opportunity to earn patches, complete Journeys and achieve Take Action and Gold Award projects through this partnership.

So, how exactly do you earn your Ranger patch? It’s simple!

1. **Choose a National Park Service site**

2. **Imagine yourself in a national park**
   Brainstorm activities that you might want to experience at a national park. Consider working outside with a geologist or inside identifying fossils. Maybe wildfire restoration, building a bridge, or a night sky project interests you.

3. **Contact the park and make a plan**
   Call the park (the phone number is on the park’s website under Contact Us). Identify yourself as a Girl Scout. Ask if there is someone who works with the Girl Scout Ranger program or a volunteer coordinator. Express your ideas to the coordinator. Together, plan a project to help the park and fulfill your goals.

4. **Go to the park and have fun**
   If your park does not have a volunteer program or is too far away to visit, create a Take Action project.

5. **Share the experience**
   Send photographs or emails of your project and time spent in the park through this link, or submit completed Take Action projects to GSUSA’s [Map It Girls Changing the World](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/girlscoutrangerfaq.htm).

Want to learn more about becoming a Girl Scout Ranger?

Visit [http://www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/girlscoutrangerfaq.htm](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/girlscoutrangerfaq.htm) to read the program FAQs.
Ideas for enjoying the outdoors

Fly Kites
Visit an arboretum
Camp out in your back yard
Camp at a Girl Scout camp
Camp at a state park
Visit a park
Hike a trail
Cookout in the park, your backyard, Council camp
Chalk art in the park
Plant a garden, plant a butterfly garden
Visit a garden

Go to the zoo
Climb a tree
Climb a hill
Bike ride
Play sports
Ropes Challenge
Ride a horse
Identify the names of trees, birds and/or wildflowers in your community

Play outside!

Dragon Tail
Have the girls stand in a line and place their hands on the shoulders of the girl in front of her. This becomes the dragon, with the girl in front as the dragon’s head and the girl at the end as the dragon’s tail.
1. On your signal, the head runs around and tries to catch the tail while the tail tries to avoid getting caught. The whole body, including the tail, must move with the head and remain unbroken.
2. If the head succeeds in touching the tail, the head becomes the tail by putting her hands on the last girl’s shoulders, and the new front girl becomes the head. Play continues until everyone has had a chance to be the head and the tail.
3. If the body breaks, everyone must stop and reattach.

The Leaking Balloon
Keep cool this summer! This is a water-filled version of hot potato. Fill a standard balloon with water and tie it. Take a push pin and poke a few holes in the balloon to create slow leak. Have all players stand beside each other in a circle. Each player will pass the balloon to the next player before the balloon runs out of water. The game ends when one player is caught with the water-less balloon.

Noah’s Ark
Write the names of animals on cards – two for each animal. If there is an odd number of players, write one animal’s name on three cards. There should be a card for each player. Shuffle the cards and hand them out. Each player reads their card to himself but keeps their identity a secret. Collect the cards.

On a signal each player begins acting out the sounds, shape and typical movements of their animal, trying to attract his partner. Game ends when all partners are found.

State Parks, National Preserves, National Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, Observatory

Brazos Bend State Park
Fanthorp Inn Historic Site
Galveston Island State Park
Huntsville State Park
Lake Livingston State Park
San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site
Sheldon Lake State Park & Learning Center
Stephen F. Austin State Park
Sea Rim State Park
Martin Dies, Jr. State Park
Big Thicket National Preserve
Mission Tejas State Park
Angelina National Forest
Davy Crockett National Forest
Matagorda bay Nature Park
Matagorda Island (WMA)
Brazos Bend State Park
Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge
Trinity River Recreation Area
George Observatory

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council celebrates Great Outdoors Month in June!

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More ideas for enjoying the outdoors
Attend day/twilight camp
Learn a new outdoor skill
Discover the creatures that live near and in a creek, river, lake, sea
Take a nature photo safari
Put up a bird feeder and watch for visitors
Have a bug walk and critter talk
Survey native plants and trees in your neighborhood
Host a night hike
Go backpacking
Parachute games in the park

Art in the park
Scavenger hunt
Plan a day of activities at a camp
Archery
Riflry
Go fishing, crabbing
Watch a sunrise, sunset
Brazos Bend State Park
Collect shells on the beach
Become a junior ranger
Do an outside service project at a local park, school, church
Pick up trash in a park, schoolyard or other community space
Volunteer to help re-establish native habitat (check with Katy Prairie Conservancy, Artist Boat, Master Naturalists)
Grow native plants for the Katy Prairie Conservancy, county master naturalist programs
Mercer Botanical Garden Scavenger hunt
Harris County Precinct 4 Geochallenge, Geocaching
Junior Ranger programs at state and national parks

Prairie Conservancy, Artist Boat, Master Naturalists
Visit us at www.gssjc.org

Yum! Cook outdoors
Chicken and Rice
Serves 1
1-2 pieces of chicken 1/3 c. rice
2/3 c. water 1 carrot (sliced)
¼ onion (sliced) ¼ c. water
Additional miscellaneous vegetables and seasonings:
½ zucchini 3-4 mushrooms
½ bell pepper etc Soy sauce
Worcestershire Salt and pepper
Onion soup mix etc
Use Extra Heavy-Duty foil. Tear off one piece of foil about 18 inches long. Fold foil in half. Seal sides by folding towards center ½” each three times. Fill packages with water, rice (shake gently to dampen all rice) chicken, veggies, seasonings. Seal top same as sides. Place packages on coals, standing up, side by side. The water in the package will puff up the package like a balloon. In 30 – 40 minutes, on a bed of hot coals, the food will be done.

Snake Kabobs
Tater tots Smoky link sausages Carrot coins
Alternate above items on a skewer stick. Cook over hot coals until heated. Be sure to soak skewers before using.

Dogs in Blankets
frankfurters refrigerator biscuits
Heat frankfurter over coals until hot. Flatten canned biscuits and pull into strip. Spiral biscuit around frankfurter and cook over coals until biscuit is done.

Brown Bears
1 can refrigerator biscuits ½ cup white sugar
1 – 2 tablespoons cinnamon melted butter
Mix sugar and cinnamon together. Separate biscuits and wrap each one around the end of a long stick or a toasting fork. Cook biscuits over fire until brown. Roll each cooked biscuit in melted butter and then in the sugar mixture.