

# The Nutcracker Program Patch

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council



The Nutcracker Ballet is an enchanting holiday tradition for all Girl Scouts. Upon completion of the requirements, a patch is available for purchase at the Girl Scout shops.

**Purpose:** To introduce Girl Scouts to the performing art of ballet.

**Requirements:** Starred (\*) activities are required. Girl Scout Daisies complete the two (2) starred activities; Girl Scout Brownies complete three (3) activities; Girl Scout Juniors complete four (4) activities; Girl Scout Cadettes complete five (5) activities and Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors complete six (6) activities.

- \*1. Learn the story of the Nutcracker Ballet, including:
  - the author and main characters of the story
  - the composer of the music for the ballet
  - the original choreographer for the ballet.
2. Discuss theater etiquette. What to wear? How to act? When to applaud? Define *standing ovation*.
- \*3. Attend a live performance, or watch a videotape of the Nutcracker Ballet. Discuss the performance. (*If you attend a live performance, try to speak with the performers following the ballet. Think of questions you would like to ask, such as: preparation required to be in ballet, commitment needed to become a professional, costumes, stage makeup, set design -- preparation and scene changes and other special equipment needed.*) Write a thank you letter to the artistic director.
4. Define: artistic director, stage manager, choreographer, cast members (i.e. guest artist, soloist, corps de ballet, principal.)
5. Listen to and identify at least two selections of music from the Nutcracker Ballet.
6. Learn about the history of the kitchen tool, the nutcracker. (*Potential field trip to a store or museum that sells or has a display of nutcrackers. Please contact them ahead of time.*) Locate any other meanings for the word *nutcracker*.
7. Visit a dance studio or invite a ballet dancer to your troop meeting to demonstrate the beginning steps of ballet.
8. Define ballet. How is a ballet different from a play? Learn about the history of ballet as a performing art. Be able to name a ballerina and a ballet dance of renown.
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Develop your own requirement for this program patch.*