

Our Own Council's Try-it

COMMUNITY FRIENDS

- For Whom:** Brownie Girl Scouts
- Timing:** May be earned once and completed in the time required by the girls.
- Purpose:** To help girls learn to appreciate the many cultures represented by the people who live in their neighborhood and communities.
- Recognition:** The Try-It may be purchased in the council shop.
- Placement:** May be worn on the badge sash/vest along with other official badges.



Requirements:

All of us live in communities that are special to us. Your community is made up of the families who live there and the schools, businesses, and people who work to help your family have the things they need. One of the special things about communities in this part of the country is the variety of cultures represented by the people who live here. In Southern California there are more than 125 different cultural/ethnic groups who all live together, but follow the customs of their heritage. Learning about cultural foods, holidays and arts helps us celebrate our PLURALISM. To earn this Try-It, you will need to complete 4 of the 6 activities; **the first one is required**. In addition, you and your troop will make a scrapbook of the things that you have discovered about your community friends.

1. DISCOVER PARTY:

Invite a friend to your troop meeting or a DISCOVERY PARTY whose ethnic/cultural heritage is different from that of the majority of girls in your troop. Ask each guest and troop member to share some things about the history of their family. On a large map of the world, place a sticker or a mark for the country that each of the families came from. Talk about one of the food dishes that each family enjoys. If anyone has a national costume, invite them to bring or wear it. Find out if any family member can speak the language that is spoken in the country they came from. Does everyone know when their first ancestry migrated to this country?

2. HOLIDAYS:

Make a large calendar that shows the holidays that are celebrated in your community. Do they fall on the same date each year or do they change each year? Find out if any of the celebrations are open to the public; plan to attend if you are welcome. Draw a picture of something that was part of the celebration. Are there special costumes that were worn for the celebration? Did people eat special foods for the holiday?

3. FOODS:

Visit your local market and find the ethnic foods section. Make a list of the foods that are new to you. Talk about the countries where these foods came from. Try one of the sweets that you find in the section. How do you like the new taste?

4. MUSIC AND SONGS:

Learn to sing a song that is in one of the languages spoken in your community or that is a favorite of people who live in your community. Perhaps the friend who visited your troop activity can suggest one that she likes. Ask her to help you understand the words and special meaning that the song has.

5. ART:

Make a piñata, an African tribal mask, an origami figure or any other art form that is part of the culture you have discovered. Visit a museum or art gallery and find out if there are any interesting stories associated with your chosen art form.

6. NEIGHBORHOOD CELEBRATION:

Participate in a Girl Scout neighborhood activity or event that celebrates the diversity of your community.