



## **“Southern Illinois Explorer” – GSSI Brownie Council’s Own Badge**

It’s the southernmost region of the state of Illinois and known as the hills of Little Egypt. The area is hilly and rocky and more closely resembles the Ozarks of Missouri than the vast flat land of Illinois. This beautiful and rugged area is home to the great Shawnee National Forest which covers seven wilderness areas and other National Natural Landmarks. The past and present will become one as you walk the Trail of Tears, visit historical monuments and enjoy the beauty of an untouched forest. Take a trip on the wild side and become a “Southern Illinois Explorer” on your path to earning this one of a kind badge.

*Special thanks to Junior Troops # 8552 & 8553, Jaime Watkins, troop leader, for creating this badge.*

### **Steps**

- 1. Visit a National Natural Landmark**
- 2. Discover a Symbol of Peace**
- 3. Walk the Trail of Tears**
- 4. Historical Connections**
- 5. Up, Up & Away**

### **Purpose**

When I’ve earned this badge, I’ll have traveled to new destinations past and present and shared my experiences with others.

### **Step 1 Visit a National Natural Landmark**

**Southern Illinois has eight National Natural Landmarks. Learn where these landmarks are located and why they are National Natural Landmarks. Then choose from one of the landmarks below and plan a visit to the site. Be sure to read and follow the safety check points for travel.**

### **CHOICES – DO ONE:**

- **Visit Giant City Ecological Area/Park.** – Take your picture at “Fat Man’s Squeeze.”
- **Take a hike at Heron Pond.** - What kind of tree that is over 1,000 years old lives here?
- **Tour the Little Grand Canyon of Southern Illinois.** – What is the name of the river that runs close to the canyon?

**More to Explore** - Check out our Girl Scout Camp Cedar Point at Makanda, IL while on your trip to Southern Illinois. This is the site of our summer resident camp sessions. Fill out a camp application for a day visit at <http://gssofsi.org/forms/camp/Camp%20Application.pdf>.

## Step 2 Discover a Symbol of Peace

**Bald Knob Cross of Peace in Alto Pass, IL is North America's largest Christian Monument. Discover what makes this monument a symbol of peace. Choose one of the three items below to complete.**

### **CHOICES – DO ONE:**

- **Research the monument.** When was it built? What is the name of the mountain range it is located in? What holiday is observed every year at the cross?
- **Check out the monument on line.** How would you have designed the Bald Knob Cross of Peace? Use markers, crayons, or colored pencils and design your own Cross of Peace.
- **Take a trip to the Cross of Peace.** While there either attend a ceremony or hold a ceremony of your own.

**More to Explore** - Try to get a picture of you or your group in front of the cross. Don't stand too close or you will never get the whole cross in the picture. See how far away you have to stand in order to get the whole cross in the picture.

## Step 3 Walk the Trail of Tears

**The "Trail of Tears" National Historic Trail goes through Pope, Johnson, and Union Counties in Southern Illinois. The Cherokee Indians made several stops in these counties on their dreadful journey. Learn what the Trail of Tears was, why it was so tragic, and complete one of the tasks below.**

### **CHOICES – DO ONE:**

- **Research the Silkwood Inn.** Find out what role it played in the Trail of Tears journey. Also learn about one other point of interest in Southern Illinois on the Trail of Tears.
- **Play a Native American game.** "Pebble Pattern" is a memory game played by native tribes throughout the U.S. Players collect distinctive pebbles of various colors and shapes and use them to make a design. The first player creates a design on the ground. The next player studies the design before the first player destroys or covers it and then attempts to recreate the exact design from memory.
- **Listen to a fable.** Cherokee Indians love fables and myths and would craft gourd masks for storytelling. Make your own paper mask by using feathers, beads, watercolors or any other supplies your troop may have on hand. Once everyone has their masks completed and on, have your troop leader read you the Native American fable "Why the Rabbit has a Short Tale" or any other Native American story.

<http://www.powersource.com/cocinc/articles/rabbit.htm>

**More to Explore** – Carving totem poles is a traditional art for a number of Native American tribes in the Northwest. The figures (often animal spirits called totems) are carved onto the poles to symbolize a clan’s or tribe’s history. To make your own family totem pole choose an animal to represent each family member. Cut out pieces of paper to wrap around a paper-towel tube, draw totems on the paper and then color or paint the totems. Glue the colored totems onto the paper-towel tubes. If you draw a bird, you can make wings from paper and glue them to the totem. Share your family totem pole with others and explain why you picked which animal to represent each family member. For more activities go to [http://www.ehow.com/info\\_7919724\\_native-american-crafts-kids-make.html#ixzz2nf5zcopg](http://www.ehow.com/info_7919724_native-american-crafts-kids-make.html#ixzz2nf5zcopg).

#### **Step 4 Historical Connections**

**Southern Illinois has several sites with great historical references, some of which you may not be familiar with. Pick one of the three listed below to learn about.**

#### **CHOICES – DO ONE:**

- **Visit Magnolia Manor in Cairo, Illinois.** While there take a tour of the furnishings from the Civil War Era. What U.S. President held a party there after his two terms as President?
- **“Walk Where Lincoln Walked.”** Start at the Jonesboro square and follow the footprints to the Lincoln Memorial Park in Jonesboro, the site of the third of seven debates between Abraham Lincoln and Steven A. Douglas for the 1858 Illinois U.S. Senate seat. Don’t forget to take a picture with the Lincoln Statue.
- **Research General John A. Logan.** Learn what holiday he established as a national holiday? As a troop, talk about what you can do to honor and observe this national holiday. Optional: Visit the John A. Logan Museum in Murphysboro, IL, his home town.

**More to Explore** – During the Civil War, music was used to lift peoples’ spirits. With your troop learn a song of that era. A couple of examples are “Oh! Susanna” or “Camptown Races.”

#### **Step 5 Up, Up, and Away**

**Massac County is the home of Metropolis, Illinois; the official home of Superman and much more. Choose one of the following to learn more about Massac County and what it has to offer Southern Illinois.**

## CHOICES – DO ONE:

- **Design your super hero.** Check out the huge Superman statue and statue of Lois Lane on line. Learn about Superman and his powers. What are his secret powers? Who is your super hero? Do they have secret powers? Make up your own super heroes and share them with your friends.
- **Visit Fort Massac.** Metropolis is also home to Fort Massac State Park, the first state park in Illinois. You will enjoy the breathtaking views of the Ohio River and take a walk back in time by visiting the 1802 replica of the fort that once served to protect French, British and American troops.
- **Check out the historical, archeological site of Kincaid Mounds in Massac County.** It is the only nationally registered historical landmark in Southern Illinois. This site dates back over 1000 years ago. Visit <http://www.kincaidmounds.com/> to learn more about the history and to see photos of the mounds.

**More to Explore** – Make a craft from the 1800's that children would have made when Fort Massac was first being used like a Clothespin Doll. Draw a face with a pen on a head of a peg-style clothespin, the type without a spring. Use fabric scraps and felt to create clothing for the doll attaching with glue. Loop yarn several times in your hand, tie off with another piece of yarn and cut the loops. Attach to the doll's head with glue. Give the doll a haircut if desired. Use a permanent marker or paint to draw on shoes.

### ***Add the Badge to Your Journey***

Have fun sharing your adventures with your family and friends and encouraging them to travel to meet people and visit other sites around them. **Brownie Quest** and **A World of Girls**

### **Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:**

- Sharing with my friends and family new games, activities and songs that I learned on my adventures.
- Teaching Daisies how to make a clothespin doll.
- Organizing a peace day ceremony for my troop.