



Clowning Around

Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Interest Project

Complete a total of seven activities including two Discover, two Connect, one Take Action, two other activities chosen from any category.

Discover:

1. Learn the difference between White Face, Auguste, and Tramp Clowns. Find several pictures of each type of clown. List what you like about each clown's make-up.
2. Learn about clown costumes. Assemble a clown costume for yourself that suits your personality. Explain why you chose the costume you did.
3. Clowns wear lots of make-up so their faces can be seen clearly. Learn about clowning make-up. Apply clown make-up to your face that best expresses your own personality and feelings.
4. Juggling is a skill used by many clowns. Balls, scarves, rings, and clubs can be used for juggling. Learn to juggle at least one of these items that you have not juggled before.
5. Find out about Clown Camps, Clown Conventions, Clown College and other places that offer clown training. Give a report on one that you might like to attend.
6. Read a biography/autobiography of a famous clown, i.e. Emmett Kelley, Red Skelton, or Charlie Chaplin.
7. Talk to a professional clown about training, business opportunities, etc.

Connect:

1. Find websites with information about clown make-up, clown skits, clown training, and clown supplies.
2. Learn to do three magic tricks that you can use in your clown act.
3. Many clowns incorporate technology into their performances. Observe a clown performance and list all of the technology used in it.
4. Search the internet for information regarding the history of clowning. One website with some information is <http://www.clown.org>.
5. Mime, or the art of expressing yourself with your face and body rather than words, is important for every clown. Prepare a skit in mime and share with your Troop. If possible, watch a video of Charlie Chaplin, Laurel & Hardy, Etienne Decroux, Marcel Marceau, or other mimes in action. Incorporate some of their moves into your skit.
6. Write and perform at least three skits that can be used while clowning.

Take Action:

1. As a clown, entertain the residents in a nursing home or at a children's ward in a hospital.
2. Teach younger Girl Scouts clowning techniques.
3. Teach something to Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, or Juniors through clowning.
4. Do "walk around" clowning at a community event.

~ Over ~

Reading Resources:

The Book of Clowns by George Speaight

Bring On the Clowns by Beryl Hugill

The Clown in Times: A Quarterly Journal Devoted to the History of Comedy and Clowning by Bruce Johnson

Clowns by Douglas Newton

Clowns by John Townsen

The History of American Clowning by Bruce Johnson

The Tramp Tradition by Bruce Johnson

