

Nursing Exploration

Brownie Badge



Complete a total of four activities including one Discover, one Connect, one Take Action and one other activity chosen from any category.

Discover:

1. Past and Present—Look at pictures of Florence Nightingale and/or Clara Barton. How did nurses dress when they were alive? How do nurses dress today? Talk with a nurse, or have a nurse visit your troop meeting to talk about nursing today. Find out what she/he wears to work. Ask the nurse about different places nurses can work. Find out where she/he went to school to become a nurse. Ask what kind of subjects you should take in Middle, Junior High or High School to prepare to become a nurse.
2. Skills—Have a nurse visit your troop meeting and teach/show some of the “tools” nurses use (thermometer, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, air bag, IV bag, etc). Have the nurse explain what each piece of equipment does and how she/he might use each of them in a given day.
3. Fight Germs—A major factor in spreading diseases, are pesky little germs. We all have germs around us and on us every day but when we are around too many germs, for too long, we may become sick. One way to help keep germs from spreading from person to person is to learn how to wash your hands properly.

Connect:

1. Nurses as Part of the Health Care Team—Visit a nursing home, hospital, clinic or health care facility. Ask to see the types of equipment used by the staff. Have someone tell about the team of people and all the different jobs necessary to make the hospital, nursing home or clinic run effectively (for example: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lab and x-ray technicians, kitchen staff, housekeepers, security personnel).
2. Caring for People—Nurses specialize in caring for people. Demonstrate a caring behavior at home or school for a week. Report what you did to your troop.
3. Health Fair—Visit a health fair.
4. Nurses are Special—Draw a picture or make a collage with pictures you cut out of magazines that show what you think nurses do and how they make a difference in people’s lives.

Take Action:

1. Learn about hospitals or clinics that specialize in treating children. Find out what kind of project your troop could do for them. Some suggestions would be: Hold a toy drive and donate toys to the children’s hospital or clinic; Make special cards to be placed on the food trays (happy, cheerful cards that say “Hope you are feeling good today” or “We’re thinking about you today”. Hold a book drive and donate appropriate books to the hospital or clinic.
2. Make a display or poster on what nurses do for the community. Display your work in your local library, the school library, the Girl Scout Office nearest you, a hospital, nursing home or college during Nurses Week (the first week of May).
3. Think of your own project! Use the skills and knowledge you developed in the Discover and Connect activities to guide you.