



Girl Scouts have always cared about animals and appreciated history. Now get prepared to learn about both, and have lots of fun, too!

American Buffalo

Brownie & Junior Program

BROWNIES: You need to complete four of the eight steps, including numbers 1 & 2.
JUNIORS: You need to complete six of the eight steps, including tasks 1, 2, 3 & 7.

1. Seeing IS Believing!

Have you ever seen a buffalo?
If you haven't, you'll need to.

Please visit and view buffalo at a local ranch, the zoo, the museum, or if necessary, by books or on the internet.

2. Find out the scientific name for buffalo.

3. Buffalo and American Indians

During the 1800's buffalo were a big part of life for American Indians. Do you know all the ways American Indians used the buffalo?

4. Compare buffalo to regular cattle.

What things are the same?

What things are different?

Describe how a buffalo looks.

5. Read a book or information on the internet about buffalo.

6. Where did the buffalo live?

Where did the buffalo live in the 1800's?

Where do buffalo live today?

American Buffalo

Brownie & Junior Program

page 2

7. *What do you know about buffalo?

Try to:

See a buffalo bull (male)

See a buffalo cow (female)

See a buffalo calf (baby)

Look at their hooves (feet)

Look at their bodies

Notice their horns and color

Watch them eat

Listen to their sounds

What are some differences between bulls, cows and calves?

What is different about the front and back of their bodies?

Do you think buffalo can roll over?

Please draw or take a photo of a buffalo.

8. Research about buffalo and see if you can find out about these interesting facts:

Find out the names of as many buffalo or bison organizations as you can, and what they each are established for.

Learn where buffalo came from and when.

How many buffalo are in the United States, and in your state?

Do you know where you can purchase buffalo products?

Date badge completed

My signature

Leader's signature



Girl Scouts have always cared about animals and appreciated history. Now get prepared to learn about both, and have lots of fun, too!

American Buffalo History & Heritage

Cadette & Senior Program ~ page 1

Girl Scouts need to complete:

2 Skill Builders

1 Technology

1 Service Project

1 Career

2 From Any

Skill Builders

1. Go to the library or the museum, or using the internet, research where Buffalo originate. Find out how many species of bison there once were. Learn about the differences from the buffalo of the past and the buffalo of today. Sketch your findings and note the similarities and differences you discover.

2. Again, visit the library, museum, or use the internet and research the number of American Buffalo during the early 1800's, the mid 1800's, and then the late 1800's. With the information you find, make a chart or graph to show your findings.

3. Now find out how many buffalo there are today in the US, and in your state.

4. Locate organizations where you can learn more about buffalo. See what you can find nationally, regionally, and even locally. Try to uncover what each organization does with regard to buffalo. If possible, ask for some of their literature for your studies.

5. Investigate the connection between Buffalo and Native Americans. Find out all the uses they had for buffalo.

6. Try to uncover a myth or legend regarding buffalo; then tell this story to at least one person.

7. Find out if there are any buffalo ranches in your state or local area.

The American Buffalo holds so much information on our history and brings us even more with regards to heritage. What do you really know about our largest land mammal? Do you understand the connection between Buffalo and Native Americans? Let's learn some legends. Let's find out some facts.

American Buffalo History & Heritage

Cadette & Senior Program ~ page 2

Technology

- 1.** Find out what national or state parks have buffalo. Focus on one, and learn what their buffalo management program entails, and about their policies regarding animal harassment, people interaction, and safety.
- 2.** Learn what equipment is necessary in handling or working buffalo. Compare this equipment to another type of animal (such as cattle or horses).
- 3.** Do an in-depth study on buffalo, including their life span, their habitat and food requirements, the differences between males and females, and their general behavior.
- 4.** Learn the similarities and differences between buffalo and cattle. Make a listing of both.
- 5.** If possible, visit a buffalo ranch and view the animals, land, fencing, equipment, etc. Write and submit a story of your visit to a local newspaper. If you can, take photographs.

Service Projects

- 1.** Make a bibliography of buffalo information and materials available. This can include books, videos, research studies, articles, etc. Then donate it to a library or buffalo organization.
 - 2.** Contact a buffalo organization and volunteer your time and services on a bison project of your choice.
 - 3.** Teach younger Girl Scouts or other children about buffalo. You can use a buffalo storybook to help facilitate the information.
 - 4.** Reflect on your thoughts regarding the near destruction of bison in the 1800's and compare it to other animals that are either extinct or endangered.
- 2.** Interview a buffalo rancher. This can be in person or by telephone. Find out why they raise buffalo and how they got started in this alternative agricultural industry.
 - 3.** Investigate buffalo meat products. Learn the health advantages of this type of red meat. Locate where product is sold in your area. Try your hand at mocking up a marketing plan for buffalo meat.
 - 4.** Now is your chance to be a photographer. Take the photos listed below.
 - buffalo bull
 - buffalo cow
 - buffalo calf
 - buffalo cow & calf
 - herd of buffalo

Career Exploration

- 1.** Talk with a buffalo veterinarian. Learn more about this specialty area.

And Beyond

After learning about buffalo, you might want to discover these other interesting projects:

- Wildlife
- Horse Sense
- All About Birds

American Buffalo Info

GENERAL INFO

This American Buffalo information sheet contains nearly all the facts you will need to assist your troop in successfully completing this project.

But, don't just stop here. Be creative and see what else your Girl Scouts can find out to help them learn.

There are many more organizations, parks and ranches in other locations across the United States and Canada; and you and your Girl Scouts may find them to also be excellent educational sources.

PATCH

The American Buffalo (bison-bison) patch is available for Brownie, Junior, Cadette, and Senior Girl Scouts to earn.

Patches are available at The Girl Scout Program Center in Denver, and Buffalo Groves, Inc. PO Box 900, Kiowa, CO 80117. info@buffalogroves.com

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- There Still Are Buffalo,
By Ann Nolan Clark
- Bison For Kids,
By Todd Wilkinson
- Bluestem Horizon,
By Evelyn Lee
- Gifts Of The Buffalo Nation,
(Coloring Book)
By The Intertribal Bison Coop

REFERENCE BOOKS

- Buffalo Nation,
By Valerius Geist
- Buffalo Sunrise,
By Diane Swanson
- Bison, Monarch of The Plains,
By Ftizgerald / Hasselstrom
- Buffalo,
(Creatures of The Wild)
By Alan & Sandy Carey

WEB SITES

www.buffalogroves.com
www.nbabison.org
www.intertribalbison.org
www.gpbuffalo.org
www.canadian-bison.ca

WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM

Buffalo Groves Inc.
The Groves Ranch LLC
(Bison Rancher & Girl Scout)
Customized educational tours

Denver Nature & Science Museum
2001 Colorado Blvd.
Denver, CO 80205
Phone 303-370-6357
Bison are part of the museum
Group rates are available

Denver Zoo
2300 Steele St.
Denver, CO 80205
Phone 303-376-4800
There is a bison area at the zoo
Group rates are available

Denver Mountain Park
Genesee Park
I-70 & the Genesee exit
Phone 303-697-4545
From your vehicle, bison can
sometimes be seen grazing.

ORGANIZATIONS

Inter Tribal Bison Coop.
Rapid City, SD . 605-394-9730

National Bison Association
Denver, CO . 303-292-2833

Colorado Bison Association
Denver, CO . 303-621-1111
C/o Marlene Groves

American Buffalo Patch Programs

BROWNIE / JUNIOR

BR / JR # 2

Bison-bison

BR / JR # 3

Meat for Food

Hides for Clothes & Shelter (tipis)

Bones for Tools, Toys, Jewelry

Horns for Cups, Spoons, Ornaments

Hair for Ropes, Bracelets

BR / JR # 4

Same:

both are mammals

both are called bulls, cows, and calves

both breed in the fall and have calves (babies) in the spring

both are sources of red meat

Different:

Bison have wool on the front of their bodies

Bison meat is lower in fat, calories & cholesterol

Bison usually live longer (25-30 years)

Bison do not have calving problems

Bison do not moo, they grunt and growl

Description:

Bison have horns and big head

Bison have a hump

Bison have a woolly front body

Bison have a shaggy front legs too

BR / JR # 6

In the 1800's bison lived all across the US and North America, and many large herds roamed the great plains.

Today bison still live primarily in North America, at some parks and on private ranches.

BROWNIE / JUNIOR

BR / JR # 7

Differences:

Bulls are twice as large as cows

The horns are different sizes (based on age)

Calves are orange at first, then turn brown

Calves are born without a hump, it grows as they grow

Front vs Back:

The front of their bodies are heavier

The front is woolly

The front hair color is different from the back

Roll Over:

No, bison can only roll half way over (due to their hump)

BR / JR # 8

Organizations:

National Bison Association

Great Plains Buffalo Association

Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative

Canadian Bison Association

Origination:

Bison are descendants of the European Wisent

During the Ice Age bison came to North America across the land mass from Siberia

Approximate # of bison (1999):

Over 250,000 in the US

Estimate of 10,000 +/- in Colorado

Purchase bison meat:

Meat is now in many local chain grocery stores

Bison meat is carried in Health Food stores

Local ranchers sell their meat

Meat is also sold over the internet

CADETTE / SENIOR

CD/ SR SKILL BUILDERS

CD / SR # 1

Plains Bison

Woods Bison

European Wisent

CD / SR # 2

Early 1800's - 30 to 60 million

Mid 1800's - tens of thousands

Late 1800's - a few hundred

CD / SR # 3 - see BR / JR # 8

CD / SR # 4 - see BR / JR # 8

CD / SR # 5 - see BR / JR # 3

CD / SR # 6

White Buffalo Woman

Buffalo below the Earth

Sun made Buffalo from Mud

Buffalo Jumps

CD / SR # 7

Buffalo Groves/The Groves Ranch

Or National Bison Association for closest ranch

CD / SR TECHNOLOGY

CD / SR # 1

Yellowstone, Custer, etc

CD / SR # 2

Crowding Tub, Alley, Squeeze Chute, Special Fences

CD / SR # 3

25 - 30 years, open space - prairies - grassland, natural grass

Also refer to BR / JR # 7

CD / SR # 4 - see BR / JR # 4

Troop # _____

Program Level (circle one)

Brownie Junior Cadette Senior

Service Unit _____

County _____

Leader's name _____

Phone _____

Number of girls registered in the troop: _____

Number of girls who earned the patch: _____

The funding for the first patches were made possible by a donation from the Colorado Bison Association to Girl Scouts Mile Hi Council. These patches are available at no charge, while supplies last, on a first-come, first-serve basis to Colorado Girl Scouts. Subsequent patches may not be free. To request patches, return a copy of this evaluation form to: Girl Scouts Mile Hi Council at 400 S. Broadway, PO Box 9407, Denver, CO 80209-0407. You may also contact them to find out if patches are still available at no charge by calling 303-778-8774.

PATCHES FOR OTHER GIRL SCOUTS

Other Girl Scout Councils can contact National Emblem at 800-877-6185 and order patches directly without any design or set-up cost. You may also wish to contact the nearest local bison organization to investigate the possibility of patch sponsorship.

Buffalo Groves, Inc. and Girl Scouts - Mile Hi Council are interested in learning about the girls' experiences.

Please share with us some of your troop's activities.

Feel free to answer the following question, summarize discussions, attach a photo or choose any other method for reporting the information. *Thank you.*

1. General comments about the patch requirements:

2. What specifically did the girls enjoy about earning the patch?

3. Did you see buffalo "in person"? If so, where?

4. Did you do any hands-on activities such as touching buffalo horns or the woolly hide?

5. Was the Leader's Tip Sheet helpful?

6. Share your ideas on how we could improve the patch program.