

ZORA NEALE HURSTON

COMMEMORATIVE PATCH ACTIVITIES



Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960), was a literary genius, folklorist and anthropologist who grew up just outside of Orlando in Eatonville, FL. Hurston was one of the first African-American women authors to be celebrated in the history of the United States. Her literary work has generated interest and pride in the experience of African-Americans in the South. She is a heroine to the people of Eatonville today as well as to authors and anthropologists around the world. The Girl Scouts of Citrus Council have a unique opportunity to learn about Hurston, the African-American experience, Eatonville, and Florida through the Zora Neale Hurston Commemorative Patch Activities. Hurston's writings paint a picture like no other.

Describing Zora Neale Hurston in ZORA! Zora Neale Hurston: A Woman and Her Community, N.Y. Nathiri writes: "Probably the most significant collector and interpreter of Southern African-American culture, a woman of great intensity and charisma, and single-minded in her pursuit of collecting material on "the Negro farthest down," Zora has secured her place among those who have painted the 20th century America's cultural landscape."

She refused simply to record the ways of her people and thereby condemn her "studies" to dusty library shelves where only researchers would consider them. Rather Zora used her creative genius to bring the unique and wonderful culture of African-Americans to mainstream America via captivating novels, short stories, and dramatic presentations. The woman from Eatonville, Florida, has captured the attention of a worldwide audience with her interpretation of African-American culture as a part of the human saga.



ZORA NEALE HURSTON COMMEMORATIVE PATCH ACTIVITIES

Do each of the four (4) steps to complete the Zora Neale Hurston Commemorative Patch. Step 1 and step 2 may be done in any order.

Step 1: REQUIRED ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGE-LEVELS:

- ★ Find out all you can about the life and work of Zora Neale Hurston. Share your work with other Girl Scouts. (Brownie Girl Scouts can, for this activity, complete the Ceremony in the “Her Story” Brownie Girl Scout Try-It.)

Step 2: CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- Participate in an African-American festival or visit a display of African-American art.
- Participate in an event or visit a display, the theme of which is “Women in Literature.”
- Visit the Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts in Eatonville, FL.
- Choose an American woman writer, other than Zora Neale Hurston, and find out all you can about her life and work.

Step 3: COMPLETE THE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE IN THE APPROPRIATE AGE-LEVEL BOX:

Brownie Girl Scouts:

- Listen to a folktale by Zora Neale Hurston read aloud. Draw a picture illustrating the folktale you just heard. Share your illustration with others.
- Complete either the Create Tales activities from the “Her Story” Try-It, the Community Stories activity from the “Listening to the Past” Try-It, or the Talk to Women activity from the “Her Story” Try-It.

Junior Girl Scouts:

- Read aloud a folktale by Zora Neale Hurston. Draw a picture illustrating the folktale you just heard. Share your illustration with others.
- Complete one of the following activities from the “Books” Badge: #3, #7, #8, or #9.
- Complete one of the following activities from the “My Heritage” Badge: #6 or #7 or one of the following activities from the “Folk Arts” Badge: #1, #2, or #3.

Cadette & Senior Girl Scouts:

- Choose a folktale, part of a novel, or a short story by Zora Neale Hurston to dramatize. With up to three other Girl Scouts, write a script and perform a short play. Create scenery and costumes if possible.
- Complete one of the following activities:
 - Skill Builders #1, Technology #1, or Service Projects #2 from the “Writing for Real” Interest Project
 - Skill Builders #1 from the “Folk Arts” Interest Project
- Complete one of the following activities:
 - Skill Builders #1 from the “Folk Arts” Interest Project
 - Skill Builders #3 from the “Heritage Hunt” Interest Project
 - Skill Builders #2 or #4 from the “Women Through Time” Interest Project

Step 4: Complete the following patch order form and mail or bring to the Council Shop to purchase the patch.