

## WNY Buffalo Waterways

For Brownies, Juniors, Cadette, Seniors and Ambassadors  
Girl Scouts of Western New York (Legacy Girl Scouts of Buffalo and Erie County)

**Brownies** must complete six (6) requirements, including the three starred (\*\*\*)  
**Juniors** must complete seven (7) requirements, including the three starred (\*\*\*)  
**Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors** must complete nine requirements including the three starred (\*\*\*)

**Purpose:** To increase public and Girl Scout awareness of the Erie Canal, Niagara Falls, and Lake Erie in Buffalo's history and development.

\*\*\* How was the Erie Canal built? How was the Erie Canal paid for? Why was the Erie Canal also known as "Clinton's Folly" or "Clinton's Ditch"? How did boats travel along the Erie Canal? Why was the Erie Canal important? How do locks and aqueducts work? What is the canal used for today?

\*\*\* How was Niagara Falls formed? How much water flows over Niagara Falls every day?

\*\*\* In the 1960s, Lake Erie was declared "dead." Why was Lake Erie considered a dead lake? How has Lake Erie improved? What sorts of pollution still exist in Lake Erie? What effect does pollution in Lake Erie have on Buffalo? What can people do to decrease pollution? Create a poster to educate the community about what you learned.

1. What is hydroelectric power? How is Niagara Falls used to create hydroelectricity? How many watts of power does Niagara Falls generate annually?
2. Imagine yourself living on a farm near where the Erie Canal is being constructed. Keep a journal describing one week in your life.
3. Create a poster that shows a timeline of the construction of the Erie Canal **OR** create a map of the canal route.
4. Learn the Erie Canal song, "Low Bridge, Everybody Down." Teach the song to your Troop/Group **OR** compose a song of your own about the Erie Canal.
5. What kinds of boats navigate Lake Erie? What sorts of boats traveled on the Erie Canal? Create a model of one of the boats you learned about.
6. Track shipping activity around Buffalo and Lackawanna for one week at [www.boatnerd.com](http://www.boatnerd.com). What shipping activities occur in Buffalo?
7. What is lake-effect snow? How does living near a Great Lake affect summer temperatures? Create a poster that shows how lake-effect snow forms.
8. Create a brief glossary of terms unique to the Erie Canal.
9. What is Love Canal? Who is Lois Gibbs? Share what you learned with your Troop.
10. If possible, participate in clean-up project at a river or lake.
11. If possible, visit two of the following: Niagara Falls, a section of the Erie Canal, a lock, an aqueduct, a hydroelectric power station, the Lower Lakes Marine Historical Society, or Lake Erie.