

WNY Pan American Exposition

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

Purpose: To increase public and Girl Scout awareness of the 1901 Pan-American Exposition and its role in shaping Buffalo history.

Junior Girl Scouts: Complete seven (7) requirements including the three starred (***)
Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts: Complete nine (9) requirements including the three starred (***)

*** When was the Pan-American Exposition (the Pan-AM) held? What was the purpose of the Pan-Am? Was it a success? Why was the Pan-Am called "The Rainbow City?" How were the Exposition grounds illuminated at night? What happened to the Exposition grounds after the Pan-Am ended?

*** Pick any one of the buildings of the Pan-Am and tell who designed it. What was the building used for? What were most of the Pan-Am buildings made of? What happened to the building after the Pan-Am? You may also choose one of the Midway attractions.

*** What roles did women fill at the pan-Am? How did this differ from previous World's Fairs? Share what you learn with your troop.

1. Create a model of the building you studied OR draw a picture of it OR write a brief biography of the building's architect.
2. In 1901, advertising was done through print (posters and postcards). Imagine a new Pan-Am is being held in Buffalo. Design a print, radio, or television advertisement for the new Pan-Am.
3. What new inventions and products were highlighted at the pan-Am? Which of those inventions and products are still in use today?
4. The Pan-Am had its own flag. What symbols decorated the flag? Design your own flag for an event.
5. Imagine you are on the planning committee for a new Pan-American Exposition. What would you choose as your theme? What sort of exhibits would you include?
6. How were different ethnicities/nationalities exhibited at the Pan-Am? Why would the exhibits be different today? How would modern exhibits differ? Were any of the ethnological exhibits truly representative of the population they highlighted?
7. Choose a famous person who visited the Pan-Am and read a biography of that individual's life.
8. Write a short story that takes place at the Pan-Am.
9. Who are John Milburn, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Leon Czolgosz and James Benjamin Parker? How are they each connected to the Pan-Am?
10. Older Cadettes/Seniors: Read Lauren Belfer's City of Light. How does Belfer's portrayal of the Pan-Am match reality? How does it differ?