Pan-American Exposition

For Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors
Girl Scouts of Western New York

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 7 requirements including 1 - 3
Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts: Complete 9 requirements including 1 – 3

1. Learn about the Pan-American Exposition:
   • 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?

2. Learn about the architecture of the Pan-American Exposition:
   • Pick any one of the buildings of the Pan-Am and tell who designed it (You may also choose one of the Midway attractions.)
   • 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?

3. Learn about the role of women at the Pan-Am:
   • What roles did women fill at the Pan-Am?
   • How did this differ from previous World Fairs?
   • Share what you learn with your troop.


6. Create a model or draw a picture the building you studied OR write a brief biography of the building’s architect.

7. Visit the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site in Buffalo, in person or virtually. [https://www.trsite.org/](https://www.trsite.org/)
8. 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.

9. What new inventions and products were highlighted at the Pan-Am? Which of those inventions and products are still in use today?

10. The Pan-Am had its own flag. What symbols decorated the flag? Design your own flag for an event.

11. 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?

12. 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?

13. Choose a famous person who visited the Pan-Am and read a biography of that individual’s life.

14. Write a short story that takes place at the Pan-Am.

15. Who are John Milburn, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Leon Czolgosz and James Benjamin Parker? How are they each connected to the Pan-Am?

16. 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?

Resources:


History of Buffalo, Pan-American Exposition Links: https://www.buffaloah.com/h/panam/links.html


Telsa at Niagara – Pan American Exposition: https://www.teslaniagara.org/resources/pan-american-exposition/