Belva Lockwood

Daisies & Brownies – complete 4 requirements including #1
Juniors - complete 6 requirements including #1
Cadettes - complete 8 requirements including #1
Seniors & Ambassadors - complete 10 requirements including #1

1. List 10 facts about Belva Lockwood's life.

2. Visit, in person or virtually, the Belva Lockwood Memorial markers, on Griswold Street in Middleport.

3. Read one of the following books:
   A Lady has the Floor: Belva Lockwood Speaks Out for Women’s Rights by Katie Hannigan
   Ballots for Belva: The True Story of a Woman’s Race for the Presidency by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen
   Belva Lockwood Wins Her Case by Drollene P. Brown

4. Visit the Niagara County Historical Society Museum located at 215 Niagara Street, Lockport, or another local history museum, to explore the exhibits about life for women in the 19th Century.

5. Visit the National Gallery in Washington, DC, in person or online, and see the portrait of Belva that is on display. Make a list of women who were contemporaries of Belva. Can you search for them in the National Gallery?

6. After the presidential election of 1884, Mrs.Lockwood is supposed to have said “I didn’t lose, I set a precedent, and every time a woman sets a precedent, she wins a victory.” What does she mean by this statement?

7. Make a poster such as Belva Lockwood would have used in her 1884 or 1888 presidential election campaigns.

8. Explain in your own words to your Girl Scout leader, the meanings of the words, “temperance” and “women’s suffrage”.

9. Organize and/or participate in an event for Women’s History Month, in March.

10. Visit a one room schoolhouse, similar to the kind Belva would have taught in when she first began teaching. Belva was teaching in 1846 and during the 1850’s and 1860’s.

11. Belva ran for president in 1884 and 1888. If possible, view pictures of Belva’s actual campaign materials. Design a set of campaign posters, buttons and slogans that Belva might use if she were running for president today.

12. Belva considered public speaking very important for young women. Write a speech about the suffrage movement, Belva’s life or a women’s issue, of at least 5 minutes in length, and present it to your troop or another Girl Scout troop.
13. Learn the story of Belva and her special bicycle. Retell it to your family or other Girl Scouts.


15. Find out about jobs available in the legal profession. What education is necessary for each job? What is the salary range for each job? Is there a salary difference for men and women?

16. Read about the lives of at least 3 other women who were contemporaries of Belva Lockwood- women she was likely to have worked with or known, such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone or Carrie C. Catt. OR read about 3 women who are involved in politics today.

16. Visit (in person or online) the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY. Search for Belva Lockwood and other important women that you know about.

Additional Resources:

National Archives: Belva Lockwood

Mental Floss: 9 Facts About Pioneering Lawyer and Activist Belva Lockwood

Wikipedia: Belva Ann Lockwood

Women's Bike History: Belva Lockwood

Buffalo History – Struggles and Accomplishments of Belva Lockwood