WNY - Buffalo Waterways

Daisies & Brownies: complete 6 requirements, including #s 1 - 4
Juniors: complete 7 complete requirements, including #s 1 - 4
Cadette/Senior/Ambassador: Complete 8 requirements, including #s 1 - 4

**Purpose:** To increase Girl Scouts’ knowledge of the Erie Canal, Niagara Falls, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie in Western New York’s history and development.

1. **Learn about the Erie Canal:**
   - 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?

2. **Learn about Niagara Falls:**
   - How was Niagara Falls formed?
   - How much water flows over Niagara Falls every day?
   - What is hydroelectric power?
   - How is Niagara Falls used to create hydroelectricity?
   - How many watts of power does Niagara Falls generate annually?

3. **Learn about Lake Erie:**
   - Why was Lake Erie considered a dead lake in the 1960’s?
   - How has Lake Erie improved?
   - What types of pollution still exist in Lake Erie?
   - What effect does pollution in Lake Erie have on Buffalo?
   - What can people do to decrease pollution?

4. **Learn about Lake Ontario:**
   - What does its name mean in the Iroquoian language?
   - What has happened to Lake Ontario’s fish populations over time?
   - How and why have Lake Ontario’s water levels been changing?
   - Smallest of the Great Lakes, how big is Lake Ontario?

5. **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.
6. Create a poster that shows a timeline of the construction of the Erie Canal; OR create a map of the canal route.

7. What is lake-effect snow? Create a poster that shows how lake-effect snow forms.

8. What kinds of boats navigate the Great Lakes? What sorts of boats traveled on the Erie Canal? Create a model of one of the boats you learned about.

9. Learn about invasive species in Western New York waterways.

10. What are micro-plastics and how are they affecting our water and waterways?

11. Create a poster about what you have learned.

12. If possible, participate in clean-up project at a river or lake.

13. 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, Lake Ontario, or Lake Erie.

Resources:

Biking along the Erie Canal: [https://www.ptny.org/cycle-the-erie-canal](https://www.ptny.org/cycle-the-erie-canal)

Canalside Buffalo: [https://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/businesses/canalside/](https://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/businesses/canalside/)

Erie Canal History: [https://eriecanalway.org/learn/history-culture](https://eriecanalway.org/learn/history-culture)

Niagara Power Vista: [https://nypa.gov/communities/visitors-centers/niagara-power-vista](https://nypa.gov/communities/visitors-centers/niagara-power-vista)


The Great Lakes (Environmental Protection Agency): [https://www.epa.gov/greatlakes](https://www.epa.gov/greatlakes)

Invasive Species in New York Waterways: [https://seagrant.sunysb.edu/ais/pdfs/AIS-LErieOnt.pdf](https://seagrant.sunysb.edu/ais/pdfs/AIS-LErieOnt.pdf)