

WNY Freedom Seekers

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

Brownies must complete five requirements, including the three starred (***)

Juniors must complete seven 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 Buffalo's Underground Railroad history

*** Imagine that you are a runaway slave on the Underground Railroad. How do you get to freedom? Who helps you? What dangers exist?

*** Who were William Wells Brown, Frederick Douglas, and Harriet Tubman? What significance do they have to Buffalo history? What happened regularly at Broderick Park?

*** What role has the Michigan Street Baptist Church played in Buffalo's history? Tour the church and discuss your experience with your Troop/group.

1. People on the Underground Railroad communicated using codes. What are some codes they may have used? Create your own code. How would you use your code?
2. Tour three Underground Railroad sites in Erie, Niagara, and/or Ontario counties. Make a scrapbook of your photos, postcards, brochures, etc, and present it to your Troop/Group.
3. Read the autobiography/narrative of a former slave. Discuss the story with your Troop/Group.
4. Learn the importance of music in slave life. Teach your Troop/Group two songs that were important to slaves and explain the significance.
5. Construct a model of an Underground Railroad site in Buffalo.
6. What did slaves do to disguise themselves on the Underground Railroad? Make a disguise for yourself.
7. Contact a local Underground Railroad site and explain your badge work. Ask if there is a service project that you can do to help the site.
8. Create a poem, song, story, craft, or picture describing your visit to a site related to the Underground Railroad.
9. Create your own one-page newspaper. How would you report on a slave's journey along the Underground Railroad?