

## WNY Iroquois Confederacy

For Brownies, 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 Buffalo's Iroquois Confederacy history and to promote cultural knowledge and sensitivity

**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 (\*\*\*)

\*\*\* What six First American nations was part of the Haudenosaunee? What does Haudenosaunee mean? How was the Iroquois Confederacy formed? Where did the nations of the Haudenosaunee live? What do the symbols of the Haudenosaunee flag represent?

\*\*\* Visit a First American reservation **OR**

Speak with a First American about his/her culture, **OR**

Visit a historical First American settlement such as Ganandagan in Victor, NY.

\*\*\* Who was Red Jacket? How did he get his name? Where is he buried? If possible, visit his burial site.

1. Why do many First Americans live on reservations? How is life on a reservation different from life outside the reservation? How is it similar? What are some harmful stereotypes of First Americans? How do those stereotypes differ from First American life?

2. Share what you learn with your troop.

3. Read one of the myths or legends of one of the six nations of the Haudenosaunee. What is the purpose of the myth or legend?

4. Draw or paint a picture or write a poem or song depicting the legend you read, **OR**

Create your own myth or legend. What is the purpose of your story?

5. The White Pine tree is a symbol of the Haudenosaunee, and a symbol of peace. What does a White Pine tree look like? Where are White Pine trees found? What growing conditions does a White Pine tree need to survive?

6. What kind of buildings did the Haudenosaunee build as dwellings? Draw a picture or create a model of a typical Haudenosaunee home.

7. Lacrosse is a traditional Haudenosaunee game, played for recreation and as a ritual. Learn the rules of Lacrosse. Share what you learn with your troop. If possible, participate in a Lacrosse game either as a player or as a spectator.

8. What is wampum? What was wampum used for? Design your own wampum, bearing symbols that are important to you.

9. Traditional Haudenosaunee dolls were made from dried corn husks. Learn how corn husk dolls are made and create your own. Remember that traditional cornhusk dolls do not have faces due to Haudenosaunee cultural beliefs.

10. The Haudenosaunee refer to corn, beans and squash as the “Three Sisters” because these foods were essential to the Haudenosaunee diet. Grow a small garden (outdoors or indoor in pots) of corn, beans or squash. **OR**

Make a dish including corn, beans and squash. Serve the dish to your troop.