



12 Month Challenge - 1st Willand Brownies

Based on our Year in a Weekend Pack Holiday, 1st Willand Brownies are pleased to bring you the 12 Month Challenge

To gain this badge you will need to:

- Do 1 activity appropriate to your Section age from each month.
- Hold a celebration meal or party, to celebrate one of the highlights of the year.

For each month we have given you a selection of the bigger national and international festivals, and some ideas for activities around these, however do feel free to use your own ideas or variations, so long as you do one for each month.

You can either pick a mixture of the shorter and longer ideas and make this the basis for a Pack Holiday or Camp, or maybe complete the challenge over the course of the year, doing 1 activity a month. However you choose to complete the challenge, have fun!

This challenge can be used to tie in with many different interest badges, or used as a stand alone challenge.

Resources

There will be a selection of activities available via our website at www.willandbrownies.org.uk/challenge and all ideas can be found on my Pinterest.com site, under the relevant month here:

<https://www.pinterest.com/scareyclarey>

n.b. We are not responsible for external links.

Order form

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Please send order form and cheque (payable to 1st Willand Brownies) to:
 12 Month Challenge, 1 Elside, Willand, Devon, EX15 2RN.
 OR by E-mail to 12MonthChallenge@mybtinternet.com

January

Birth Flower: Carnation

Birth Stone: Garnet

1st January - New Years Day

Traditionally the first of January is a time to make resolutions, to throw away unneeded items and clean the house.

Activities: Use the Promise as a foundation and discuss the differences in resolutions like “Lose Weight” & “Exercise More” when compared to “Tidy my room weekly”, “Help Mum with the Dishes”, “Help at local food bank” etc. Make unit guidelines and agree to stick to them.

Take it further: Challenge each other with achievable goals. Maintain a record of these goals and check back regularly to see how you are each getting on.

4th January (1809) - Birth of Louis Braille

He invented the Braille system to help blind people read and write, after losing his sight at the age of 3.

Activities: Use the Braille Alphabet to write messages to each other.

Take it further: Set up a treasure hunt using Braille words for clues. Have stations with blindfolds and feely bags along the route for extra challenges. Challenge each other to complete simple tasks blindfolded. Invite a person who is blind or partially sighted to come and talk about using Braille.

Badge Links: Disability Awareness Interest badge

Web Link: <https://uk.pinterest.com/jfbamber/learning-braille/>

4th January (1643) - Birth of Isaac Newton

He was a genius and one of the most influential men in history. He was a mathematician, inventor, astronomer and a philosopher among many other things, and is credited with several scientific advancements in addition to all the other skills he had and used to better the scientific community. He discovered that light can be separated out into colours using a prism.

Activities: Do some maths games, or stargazing. Think about an invention which would make your life, or that of a friend, easier. In small groups, have a philosophical discussion.

Take it further: Design your own scientific experiment. Work out what you want to know, how to test it, what variables you want to look at and what precautions to take.

Badge Links: Guides Science badge, or the Brownies Science Investigator badge

11th January - Amelia Earhart

Every year on January 11th people celebrate the brave woman named Amelia Earhart who ventured out in 1935 for a 2-day solo plane ride across the Pacific Ocean and sadly was never heard from again.

Activities: Paper aeroplane night: fastest, best flyer, best stunts etc. Try this website for printable designs:

<http://www.funpaperairplanes.com/>

Take it further: Visit an Airport or Aerodrome, take a trip to the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovil or something similar, or have a pilot come to talk to your unit.

25th January - Burns Night

A Burns Night Supper is held to celebrate the life & poetry of Robert Burns, whose birthday was 25th January 1759.

Activities: Hold a Burns Night Supper including Haggis with Neeps and Tatties. Read some Robert Burns Poetry and have a go at writing your own. Sing Auld Lang Syne to finish off your night.

Take it further: Have a go at Scottish folk dancing, or get somebody to come and play the bagpipes for you.

Research to see if you have a tartan for your surname, but if not why not design your own.

Other ideas for January

Make bird feeders to help the birds see the rest of the winter through.

January is normally the coldest month of the year. Have a snowball fight with newspapers, go skiing or ice-skating.

Wassailing often occurs during January. Gifts of cider and cake are offered up to the apple trees with songs to encourage a good harvest. Why not wassail in a local orchard or even in your nearest park.

February

Birth Flower: Violet/Primrose
Birth Stone: Amethyst

2nd February: Candlemas Day

This ancient festival marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. In olden times, many people used to say that the Christmas season lasted for forty days - until the second day of February. It was the day when all the candles to be used in the church were blessed.

Activities: Have a candle-lit meeting. Try and imagine life where candles were the only source of light. Each light a candle, and cook a marshmallow over it.

Take it further: Make a range of different candle holders, then sell them to raise money for people without lights.

Caution: be careful of the risk of fire.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is 40 days before Easter. The period of Lent (the 40 days before Easter) is traditionally a time of quiet and fasting, so this was the last day to have some fun and luxury foods for some time. The traditional Shrove Tuesday meal varies depending on you location; in Scotland, broth; Herefordshire had doughnuts, Frying Pan Pudding was popular in Lincolnshire and Pea Soup in Cornwall, but the most usual was pancakes.

Activities: Make pancakes. Try different fillings and vote for your favourite. Have pancake races, or see who can do the most tosses in a minute.

Take it further: Have variations such as cooking over a wood fire, or a tin can and a candle. Make different shapes or add food colouring. Agree on something to give up for Lent, and stick to it.

Shrove Tuesday also sees the start of the world's oldest, largest, longest and maddest football game in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. It is played over two days and involves thousands of players. The goals are three miles apart and there are only a few rules.

Activity: Try a mass football game. Invite friends and family along to make up the numbers. Add your own variations like 3 or 4 balls or goals, obstacles or challenges.

Skipping is also a traditional Shrove Tuesday game. In Scarborough, everyone goes to the promenade to skip. Long ropes are stretched across the road and there maybe be ten or more people skipping on one rope. The origins of this custom is not known but skipping was once a magical game, associated with the sowing and sprouting of seeds.

Activities: Have a skipping evening. Try group skipping, forwards, backwards, fancy & French skipping (elastics) See who can skip for the longest or most number in a minute.

Take it further: Have a sponsored skip to raise money for your unit or a charity.

Badge Links: Agility Interest Badge

14th February - St Valentines Day

This was originally thought to be the day on which birds chose their mates. There are many traditions and tales associated with romance activities on Valentines day including:

- The first man an unmarried woman saw on 14th February would be her future husband
- If the names of all a girl's suitors were written on paper and wrapped in clay and the clay put into water, the piece that rose to the surface first would contain the name of her husband-to-be.

Activities: Make a valentines card for a person you love, this could be a friend, family member, or even your favourite pet! Let them know what it is you like about them. Play the wool game, where you sit in a circle, with a ball of wool. Hold one end, say something nice about someone else, and throw the ball to them. Then they throw it on, until everybody has a part of the web. Or play other games based around friendship and support.

Ash Wednesday (the day after Shrove Tuesday)

A playground tradition was to carry a piece of twig from an ash tree in your pocket or down your sock. Anyone who didn't have an ash twig had his or her feet trodden on.

Activities: Do a tree identification quiz, or go out and identify trees in your local park or woodlands.

22nd February - Thinking Day.

This is the day when members of the Scout and Guide movements remember their founders Lord and Lady Robert Baden-Powell.

Activities: Attend a local Thinking Day celebration, or organise your own. Think about guides and scout around the world. Learn about what these groups are called, and any differences between you and them.

Other ideas for February

Leap Year Day - 29th February (occurs once every four years)

Chinese New Year (between 21 January and 20th February)

March

Birth Flower: Daffodil
Birth Stone: Aquamarine

1st March - St David's Day

St David's day is celebrated in Wales in honour of Dewi Sant or St David, the patron saint of Wales. David was born in the 5th century and founded a Celtic monastery in Pembrokeshire. Many Welsh people wear a daffodil which is a national emblem of Wales. Children in Wales take part in school concerts or eisteddfodau, with recitation and singing being the main activities.

Activities: Make a bunch of daffodils, using egg boxes, or pin wheels. Design your own Love Spoon. Colour in a Welsh dragon flag, or try and draw your own - it's rather tricky! Make Welsh cakes or Bara Brith.

Take it further: Learn a Welsh poem or song, and hold your own mini eisteddfod. Take a trip to Wales, or visit St David's Cathedral. Make a Welsh bonnet and dress in traditional dress with a shawl.

5th March - St Piran's Day Cornwall

All over Cornwall celebrations are staged for St Piran's Day.

Activities: Have a Cornish pasty, or a Cornish Cream Tea. Have a beach party, or take a visit to your local beach.

Take it further: Try making a Cornish pasty. Take a trip to Cornwall. Try some surfing, body boarding or paddle boarding

11th March - Commonwealth Day

People use the day to promote understanding about global issues, international co-operation and the work of the modern Commonwealth. Each year there is a different theme. The Queen will attend a special service in Westminster Abbey.

Activities: Download the world thinking day packs from the WAGGGS website, and work through the activities.

Why not tie this in with the Brownie or Guide World Guiding interest badge, or the Guides World cultures, Issues or Traveller. Play the commonwealth flag matching game.

Take it further: Have a Commonwealth term, and learn about a different country each night, with food, crafts, costumes, songs and dance from each.

Badge Links: Guide Commonwealth Badge

17th March - St Patrick's Day (Patron Saint of Ireland)

The church festival of St. Patrick, is regarded as national day in Northern Ireland.

Activities: Find out about St Patrick, and tell the other members of your six or patrol. Colour in the Northern Ireland Flag, and know how it fits into the Union Flag. Pick a favourite Ireland craft to have a go at.

Take it further: Have a St Patrick's day party with all green food, drink, decorations and clothing. Try traditional Irish food, and have a go at making 4 leaf clovers and lucky charms.

Mothering Sunday (3 weeks before Easter)

A time for people living in the UK to think about their mothers. People often give flowers or chocolates or organise a special day out for their mothers at this time, and send a special "Mother's Day" card.

Activities: Make a card or a picture to give to your mother. Make cakes, and invite her to the unit for Tea.

Badge Links: Work towards your Brownies Hostess badge or your Guides Confectioner Interest badge

Mid March - Crufts

This famous dog show started in 1928 and is held at the NEC in Birmingham. There is 4 days of parades and judging, with the "Best in Show" award being presented on the final day (Sunday).

Activities: Hold a Cuddly Toy Crufts night, with judging. Ask somebody with an assistance dog to come and visit, Invite a dog groomer to come and show you what they do.

Take it further: Visit an animal shelter, spend some time volunteering at a shelter, offer to walk a neighbour or friends dogs.

Badge Links: Friends to Animals Interest badge.

Mid March - Holi

Holi is an ancient Hindu spring festival, also known as the festival of colours or the festival of love, primarily observed in India, Nepal, and other regions of the world with significant populations of Hindus. It signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, end of winter, and a thanksgiving for a good harvest.

Celebrations start on the night before with a bonfire where people gather, sing and dance. The following day is spent as a carnival of colours; throwing coloured powder and water over each other, singing, dancing and eating.

Activities: Hold a Holi evening, use squeeze bottles filled with paint (outside) to create paintings.

Take it further: Attend a local paint run, or organise your own.

Other ideas for March

Plant some spring bulbs, maybe in a pot for a local elderly care home.

1st April - April Fool's Day

Traditionally a day of jokes and tricks, but you have to play the joke before midday, otherwise the joke is on you. *Activities:* Look online or in the papers and try to spot this year's April fools. Lots of big organisations now publish one for you to spot! Come up with a list of jokes, and compile a joke book.

Take it further: Visit a comedy night, or put one on of your own. Look at the different types of humour, from slapstick to observational. Discuss your favourite comedy performers and shows.

21st April - Queen's Birthday

It is traditional for soldiers to fire cannons to celebrate royal birthdays or other national events. The Queen has an "official" birthday in June which is marked by the Trooping the Colour ceremony.

Activities: Send the Queen a birthday card, make a royal themed craft such as crowns, or split-pin guard. Have a royal banquet

Take it further: Visit Buckingham Palace in London, watch the Trouping of the Colour

23rd April - St George's Day (Patron Saint of England)

The church festival of St. George is regarded as England's national day (although not an official bank holiday). On this day some patriotic English people wear a rose pinned to their jackets.

Activities: Colour in the England flag, and know how it fits into the Union Flag. Attend a St Georges Day parade or celebration. Make a rose out of crepe paper, or another craft material.

Take it further: Look at what England has to offer, from tourism and entertainment, through to industry and commercial interests. How many English companies can you name? Investigate and see if you are right.

Start of Spring

April is considered to be the start of the spring, where the flowers start to bloom, and the countryside turns green once more.

Activities: Make cress heads; plant some seeds in an unusual item, like old wellington boots or unwanted saucepans. Go for a walk and see if you can spot spring flowers coming into bloom.

Take it further: Contact your council and see if you can take over a local flower bed. Plant and tend it through the year. Visit an allotment and plant some vegetables to harvest later on.

Badge Links: Guides Hobbies badge, or the Brownies Gardener badge

Holy Week / Easter (Christian Festival)

Easter is usually in early April, but can sometimes fall into late March

- **Palm Sunday:** A celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The day marks the start of Holy week and is observed by worship and parades using palm branches. Often worshipers will be given a palm cross.
- **Maundy Thursday:** To remember the Last Supper, when Jesus met with his followers before he was betrayed by Judas and was captured by the Romans.
- **Good Friday:** To remember the death of Jesus Christ, who was crucified (killed on a cross) by the Romans. Christian churches hold special services, and are often decorated with flowers.
- **Easter Sunday:** The most holy day in the Christian calendar, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from his death by crucifixion. Observances include worship services beginning at sunrise, special music, feasting, and parades.
- **Easter Monday:** A day for Christians to continue celebrating the resurrection of Christ

Activities: Act out the Easter story for your unit or families. Complete an Easter craft. Eat hot cross buns.

Take it further: Visit your local church, or ask the vicar to come and tell you the Easter story

Badge Links: Brownies Discovering Faith or Guides Faith Awareness Interest badges.

Easter Celebrations (Secular)

Although Easter is a Christian Celebration, many people in the UK will celebrate by exchanging gift, usually Easter eggs. The 2 Bank Holidays, and school break mark the start of the better weather and people will often take holidays. Easter egg hunts are held, and there are tales of the Easter Bunny.

Activities: Make an Easter card, or decorate an Easter egg. Hold an egg themed meeting with an Easter Egg hunt, egg and spoon races, and egg throwing games (outside!)

Take it further: Visit a chocolate or sweet factory, try making your own sweets, hold an Easter Bunny party.

Other ideas for April

April Showers - Puddle jumping

May

Birth Flower: Lily of the Valley
Birth Stone: Emerald

1st May - May Day (Bank Holiday on first Monday in May)

Traditional English May Day celebrations include Morris dancing, crowning a May Queen and dancing around a Maypole. Often the dancing takes place at a fayre or fete.

Activities: Try Maypole dancing. If you can't find or improvise a maypole, try some country or Morris dancing.

Take it further: Organise a fayre with dancing, local music acts and stalls.

3rd May 1979 - Margaret Thatcher elected

She was Britain's first (and currently only) female Prime Minister, and was known as The Iron Lady

Activities: If you were Prime Minister, what would you do? Discuss why this is a notable fact, and learn about Suffragettes. Hold your own suffragette rally, with some playing the parts of the men.

Take it further: Find out about other women who have been the first in their field: first female astronaut, soldier, politician, Nobel Prize winner, pilot etc. Are there any women in your area working in a male dominated area such as plumber, builder, electrician, fire-fighter, lorry driver etc. Ask them to visit and talk about their work.

May the Fourth - Star Wars Day

An amusing play on words gives rise to an opportunity to include some space and star themed activities.

Activities: Have a Star Wars party with space themed food and make lightsabers using glow sticks. Make aliens, or rockets out of junk. Discuss whether you believe in alien lifeforms. Watch the moon landings and space missions.

Take it further: Visit an observatory, use a telescope, have a stargazing scientist come and visit your unit.

Badge Links: Brownies Stargazer Interest badge or Guides Space Go For It

Web Links: <https://www.pinterest.com/bridgetpearse/space-themed-pack-holiday-sept-15/>

May - Elections

In the UK, general and local elections usually take place in May.

Activities: In small groups draw up a manifesto of things you would do if you were voted in. Present your manifesto to the others in your unit and at the end have a vote. Have a debate on a subject chosen by your girls. Give them time to prepare and choose a spokesperson. Look at the times that members of Girlguiding have had involvement at the House of Lords or Parliament. Talk about what they discussed and how you feel about it.

Take it further: Ask a local MP or politics student to visit your unit and talk about local issues that the girls are interested in. Take a trip to London and visit Parliament, The House of Lords and Downing Street.

May to September - Well Dressing - Derbyshire

In Derbyshire, over the summer months, wells and pumps are dressed with large framed panels decorated with elaborate mosaic-like pictures made of flower petals, seeds, grasses, leaves, tree bark, berries and moss.

Activities: If you are in Derbyshire get involved in your local well dressing, either dress the well, or have some supporting village decoration. Visit a local well dressing celebration. Alternatively for those further away, you can create your own well dressing pictures. Why not visit a local well and find out some more of its history.

Take it further: Find out about well building programs overseas, raise money to sponsor a well.

Web link: http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com/events/Well_Dressing.aspx

8th May - VE Day

Victory in Europe day was celebrated across the world as the war drew to a close. Although rationing and other restrictions were still in place for a while the country celebrated as best they could.

Activities: Have a VE day street party in or outside your meeting place (if safe). Dress in 1940's outfits and try some of the food substitutes they had to use.

Take it further: Organise to hold an actual street party in your community

Other ideas for May

Ascension Day

June

Birth Flower: Rose
Birth Stone: Pearl

2nd June - Coronation Day

There is a 41-gun salute fired at 12 noon, by the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery in Hyde Park, London to mark the anniversary of the day when the Queen was crowned in 1953.

The Queen's Official birthday (varies each year in June)

Trooping the Colour (Royal Tradition)

Activities: Hold a Royal evening, wearing your best princess dresses. Make paper crowns or coats of arms, and set your own Laws. Learn about the rules of succession, and work out who may be on the throne when you are older. Play a picture matching quiz - how many of the royals can you identify?

Take it further: Visit one of the royal palaces, current or historical. Lots of royals do voluntary work: see what you can do for your local homeless shelter, food bank, hospice or day care centre.

Mid June - Royal Ascot

Ascot Racecourse was founded by Queen Anne in 1711. Each day begins with the Royal Procession - the arrival of The Queen and the Royal party in horse-drawn landaus. The Royal Procession dates back to the 1820s, during the reign of King George IV. The current festival runs from Tuesday to Saturday. The dress code is strict, with a hat, fascinator or hair piece compulsory.

Activities: Make a hair piece, and hold a fashion show. Make hobby horses and hold your own Races.

Take it further: Hold a race night to raise funds, visit a local race course for a behind the scenes tour.

3rd Sunday of June - Father's Day

Father's day is celebrated on the 3rd Sunday in June to show appreciation for Dads.

Activities: Make a card or craft a gift. Have a father's night where you invite the fathers to take part in your favourite games and team building activities with their daughter.

20th June - Summer Solstice

The summer solstice celebrates the longest day of the year, when the Sun is at its most northern point in the sky. In the UK, the sun will rise around 4:30 a.m. and set about 9:30 p.m. Many celebrations take place around Stonehenge where people gather overnight to welcome the sunrise.

Activities: Make your own Stonehenge out of cardboard or Paper Mache. Use a torch for the sun, and align the stones so the light hits the centre. Try sunshine weaving, make leaf totems or dream catchers.

Take it further: Wake up in time to see the sunrise, visit Stonehenge, or the nearby Woodhenge. Or visit your local standing stones or stone circle if you have one close by.

End June - Start July - The Championships, Wimbledon

Held over 2 weeks in the summer, Wimbledon is one of the four great world tennis championships and the only one which is played on grass. There are events for men, women, mixed and juniors.

Activities: Have a tennis evening, with games, and strawberries and cream. Make and eat an Eaton Mess

Take it further: Visit a tennis court and have a coach come and give you some tips. Have a district tournament.

Badge Links: Sports Interest Badge

3rd Week of June - International bike week

International Bike Week is to celebrate and promote cycling as a method of transport, sport and enjoyment.

Activities: Have a cycling evening, where everyone brings their bikes and you go for a ride. Look at different types of bikes and decide why they are different and for what purposes. Watch cycle sports from Olympics, and point out the difference in bikes, kit and terrain.

Take it further: Contact a company such as Halfords about cycle maintenance evenings, or contact a local cycle club for the same. Organise a day out by bike, or even a weekend cycling from place to place. Organise a sponsored cycle ride. Check if the Tour of Britain is coming near you and arrange to cheer them along.

Web Links: <http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/>

Badge Links: Sports or Hobbies

Other ideas for June

Sports day

1st Weekend in July - Henley Royal Regatta

Held on the Wednesday to the Sunday of the first weekend in July, the town of Henley on Thames, and the river are transformed into one large sporting and social arena where the world's best rowers compete.

Activities: Have a Regatta evening, watch some rowing and cheer on your chosen team, finish with tea and cake.

Take it further: Visit a local rowing club and have a go yourselves. Try some other water sports like sailing, windsurfing, canoeing or kite surfing. Ask a local rowing group to come and talk to you; try a local university for all-girls rowing teams.

Badge Links: Sports Interest Badge, Water safety, Be a Good Sport GFI

4th July - Independence Day

The United States commemorate the Declaration of Independence on 4th July 1776, when they declared that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation, the United States of America, and no longer part of the British Empire. Celebrations include fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, and political speeches and ceremonies.

Activities: Try some American food such as hot dogs, pancakes Mac'n'cheese or Apple Pie. Do some 4th July crafts.

Take it further: Try out sports such as baseball or American football.

6th July 2016 - Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr is an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims to mark the end of Ramadan, the 29 or 30 days of dawn to sunset fasting. The religious Eid is a single day during which Muslims are not permitted to fast.

Activities: Learn the routine which is carried out on the morning of Eid al-Fitr. Try some traditional Muslim foods.

Web Links: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eid_al-Fitr

21 July 1969 - First Man on the Moon

The Eagle lands on the moon and US astronaut Neil Armstrong is the first man in history to walk on its powdery surface, with his historic words.

Activities: Have a moon walk re-enactment evening, dress in 1969 fashion, and watch the moon landing footage.

Take it Further: Use junk to model your very own Eagle space craft. Visit a beach and leave your own footprints on the surface.

25 July 1814 - First steam train

The chief engineer at the Killingworth colliery, George Stevenson, unveils Blucher, a steam powered locomotive that can haul eight carriages loaded with 30 tons of coal at the break-neck speed of 4 mph.

Activities: Imagine what it was like to see that first train, act out that first train journey in your meeting place. Do some railway themed crafts. Read or watch the railway Children film.

Take it Further: Visit a local railway museum, take a trip on a heritage railway line.

Other ideas for July

Summer Fayre, with games and bouncy castle

Summer Holidays

Activities: Do some summer themed crafts. Get out of your meeting place and go to the park

Take it further: Have an old fashioned summer beach holiday, fish and chips out of paper on the seafront, visit a local beach and have a sandcastle competition and beach games. Visit a RNLI lifeboat station and find out about the work they do. Have a campfire evening; cook marshmallows and bananas, and then sing campfire songs.

Summer Festivals

Throughout the summer there are lots of music and family friendly festivals.

Activities: Try hair wrapping, temporary and glitter tattoos, face and body paints. Make and exchange friendship bracelets. Try festival fashion; wellies and short for example.

Take it further: Attend a festival such as Wellies and Wristbands, or hold your own festival themed camp. Go for a muddy walk in wellies, if you cannot go camping, have an indoor or day only camp.

August Bank Holiday - Nottinghill Festival

The Nottinghill Festival is held in London at the end of August each year for 2 days; Bank Holiday Sunday and Monday. Carnival, processions and street parties with a Caribbean and West Indian flavour are held and people wear outlandish outfits, masks and headdresses.

Activities: Make some carnival outfits from scrap material. Don't forget to include lots of feathers & sequins. Make your own musical instruments such as rice shakers and drums. Have a musical procession in your costumes.

Take it further: Visit a local carnival or lights procession, maybe get involved and have a float of your own.

Last 3 weeks in August - Edinburgh Festival and Edinburgh Fringe

The Edinburgh Festival is one of the world largest Art and Culture festivals, with the Fringe representing the more Alternative side of the Arts.

Activities: Learn about the types of performances to be found at the festival.

Take it further: Put on your own Arts festival, everybody provide art work, music, a comedy routine or dance act for example. Put on a show for your unit or local community.

Summer - Guiding Pride

In 2015 Girlguiding were at some of the Pride marches around the country.

Activities: Learn about the reasons for holding the marches; discuss equality and same sex marriage.

Take it further: Visit one of the Guiding Pride stands at a local Pride event.

Web Links: Guiding Pride blog: http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/pride.aspx

11 August 1897 - Birth of Enid Blyton

Activities: Hold a book club evening, where everybody brings a favorite book to discuss. Have a mystery evening with a crime to solve. Don't forget to have lashings of Ginger Beer while you are doing it!

Take it further: Visit a library, or hold a sleepover in one. Have a "boarding school" themed pack holiday with lacrosse matches and midnight feasts.

Badge Links: Booklover Interest badge

Web Links: <http://www.enidblytonsociety.co.uk/>

Other ideas for August

Press some wild flowers for use in Crafts in the Autumn.

Place flowers on a stone, cover with pale fabric and hammer to do flower printing.

2nd September 1666 - Great Fire of London

The Great Fire of London starts in Pudding Lane and the city burns for 5 days, miraculously only killing 9 people.

Activities: Find out about the Great Fire of London, and put on a play for your unit. Look at the fire precautions and exits in your unit place and home, carry out a fire drill.

Take it further: Visit a Fire Station and find out about fire prevention.

Badge Links: Fire Safety Interest Badge

19th September - International talk like a pirate day

Started in 2002 as a fun idea between friends, International Talk like a Pirate Day has turned into an international phenomenon that shows no sign of letting up.

Activities: Have a pirate evening, dress up, drink grog and hunt for treasure.

Take it further: Visit an old fashioned sailing vessel such as SS Great Britain in Bristol. Find out about life on board and see if you can have a go at climbing the rigging. Have a water day and try sailing, windsurfing or canoeing.

Badge Links: Water Sports and Water Safety

Mid September - London Fashion Week

Held at Somerset House in London, Mid-September and Mid-February each year, the London Fashion Weeks attract designers from all over the world to launch their new collections.

Activities: Have a bin bag fashion evening, finish with a cat walk show. Design an item or accessory, and make out of fabric or other materials.

Badge Links: Brownie Designer Interest Badge, Pasion for Fashion Go For It

Harvest Festival - Near 22nd September

In the UK Harvest festival is traditionally held on the Sunday near or of the Harvest Moon. This is the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox (22 or 23 September). The celebrations usually include singing hymns, saying prayers and decorating churches with donations of food and fruit, to give thanks for a successful harvest over the summer. The food is often donated to the needy.

Activities: Do some Harvest crafts, make shakers from corn, collect donations of food for your local food bank.

Take it further: Invite a representative from your local food bank to visit, or go and help out sorting and distributing food for them. Visit a farm to learn about the harvesting they do, and the type of crops grown near you. Grow your own vegetables, and then create a meal you have grown entirely by yourself.

Badge Links: Guides Community Action, Brownies Gardener Interest Badge

September Evenings - Warm dark nights

In September the nights are drawing in, but it is still warm enough to get out in the evening after dark

Activities: Hold a glow in the dark night, or go stargazing at your units. Go for a night hike, with torches.

Take it further: Go on a bat walk, or an overnight hike, arriving back in time for breakfast.

8th - 11th September 2016 - Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's architecture and culture by allowing visitors free access to interesting properties that are either not usually open, or would normally charge an entrance fee.

Activities: Discuss your local Heritage sites, debate what is appropriate to protect and why. Draw up a list of other buildings, areas or monuments in your area which they think need protecting and why.

Take it further: Visit a heritage site on one of their open days, or arrange to visit another time.

Web Link: <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

26 September - European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages (EDL) is held annually on the 26 September to celebrate language and cultural diversity.

Activities: Have a different language night, where you can only speak in your chosen language. Or have certain objects which must be referred to in a foreign language. Discuss the languages you know about and which countries they are spoken in.

Take it further: Learn a new language, get a native speaker to come and talk to your unit. Organise a trip abroad, even without leaving your meeting place. Try some international food and learn their names.

Badge Links: World Traveller, World Guiding, World Cultures

Web Links: <http://edl.ecml.at/> Look at the teachers packs for more ideas and activities.

Other ideas for September

Back to school – look at educational challenges in developing countries

October

Birth Flower: Marigold
Birth Stone: Tourmaline

Second Tuesday in October - Ada Lovelace Day

An international celebration of the achievements of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Ada worked with the inventor of the first computer, and is often referred to as “the first computer programmer”
Activities: Invite a local computer expert to show you some simple programming skills, and then have a go yourself. Look at for a simple programming package. Create slime, build a tower from marshmallows and spaghetti, build a catapult or elastic band car from junk and see whose works the best.

Take it further: Visit Barclays for a coding session, get your girls to search Pinterest.com for “STEM Kids” for loads of great ideas, then follow up with the favourite experiment they want to try.

Badge Links: Science or Science Investigator Interest badge, or Experiment Go For It.

Web Links: <http://www.barclays.co.uk/DigitalEagles/BarclaysCodePlayground/P1242686640999>

31st October - Halloween

Originally a celebration to ward off evil spirits, Halloween is now celebrated by holding parties, dressing up, carving pumpkins and going trick or treating.

Activities: Hold a Halloween evening: fancy dress, spooky themed food, spooky music. Play traditional Halloween games such as Apple bobbing, or something new such as pumpkin bowling. Choose a favourite Halloween craft to do; make bats, spooky scenes, ghostly friends. Play Halloween Bingo

Take it further: Go on a ghost walk around your local city, see if there are guided tours. Visit a local haunted house and go ghost spotting, or organise a spooky sleepover.

1st October 1908 - First Ford model T produced

The Ford Model T was the first affordable car produced in the US. Produced by mass production for the citizens of the US, it seated 2 people, and they sold almost 15,000,000 cars.

Activities: Have a car themed evening; discuss the pros and cons of every household having 1 or more cars. Make cardboard cars and have a “Drive In Movie” night.

Take it Further: Go for a walk car spotting; different makes, colours, styles. Visit a car manufacturing plant to see how they are assembled. Visit a local mechanics or garage and learn basic car maintenance, how to change a tyre and top up water and oil. Older girls may take an off road driving experience. Try Go-Carting or Quad biking

Badge Links: Road Safety, Personal Safety

1st October 1946 - Mensa started

This society is open to anybody providing their IQ is in the top 98th percentile. There are no other requirements.

Activities: Have a puzzling evening; from jigsaws to Sudoku, logical games and code breaking.

1st October 1971- Walt Disney Resort Opens

In 1971 Disney World opened. The theme park near Orlando, Florida has rides, attractions, and events as well as the Disney characters, parades and shops.

Activities: Discuss your favourite Disney Move. Who are the main characters and what is the plot? Do some Disney themed crafts, or have a dressing up evening.

Take it further: Visit your local theme park, have a Disney Princess themed sleepover, or even take a trip to Disneyland Paris

1st October 1982 - EPCOT (Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow) Opens

Epcot is the second Disney park to open in Florida and features pavilions representing eleven countries from around the world including culture, history, foods and shops selling some of the goods you would find in each country.

Activities: Learn about the 11 countries represented at the original EPCOT centre. Think about how technology is changing and design something for use in the future to make lives easier or better.

Take it further: Create your own mini EPCOT, each patrol or six research a country and provide examples of the history, culture, traditional goods and food from their chosen location, for the rest of the unit to share.

27th October 1728 - Birth of James Cook

The British navigator was born in Yorkshire. He explored New Zealand, Australia, and the Hawaiian Islands.

Activities: Hold a New Zealand or Australian themed evening. Have a BBQ and try sports such as cricket, or rugby. Watch the New Zealand Haka and make up your own in your sixes or patrols. Have a Hawaiian evening with grass skirts, coconuts and mocktails. Finish up with hula hooping or trying to limbo.

Take it further: Try some exploration of your own. Navigate around your area using a map, or play map related games. For older girls, drop them in a secret location with just a map and time each group to see how long it take them to return to a pre-arranged location.

Badge Links: Finding your Way Interest badge

Other ideas for October

Ocktoberfest

5th November - Guy Fawkes Night (Bonfire Night)

On the 5 November 1605, Guy Fawkes was arrested while guarding explosives which the Gunpowder Plotters had placed beneath the House of Lords. To celebrate the fact that King James I had survived the attempt on his life, people lit bonfires around London, and months later the introduction of the Observance of 5th November Act enforced an annual public day of thanksgiving for the plot's failure. Now we celebrate by having bonfires, burning effigies of Guy Fawkes and having fireworks.

Activities: Make Edible sparkles with chocolate fingers & sprinkles, cupcake bonfires or edible firework art. Chalk firework pictures on black paper. Make a poster to remind people about keeping pets indoors around this time. Have a dark evening and some indoor fireworks. Make a Guy Fawkes from old clothes and stuffed with newspapers. *Take it further:* Hold a campfire and toast marshmallows. Have a leader set off fireworks, or have sparklers. Act out the story of Guy Fawkes. Take it outside, and combine it with a bonfire evening.

5th November - Tar Barrels

In the town of Ottery St Mary in Devon, there is a custom, originated in the 17th century which involves people racing through the streets of the town, carrying flaming wooden barrels of burning tar on their backs.

Activities: Have a mock Tar Barrels evening; decorate a small tub to look like a flaming Tar Barrel. Race around your meeting place, or create an obstacle course to tackle while carrying the barrel. Make a poster about fire safety on Bonfire night.

Take it further: Find out what to do if your clothing were to catch fire, and practise the stop, drop and roll. Visit a Fire Station and learn about Bonfire Safety

Badge Links: Brownies Fire safety

Hedgehog Hotels

An important ritual on the day before lighting a bonfire is to make sure no hedgehogs have curled up to hibernate underneath the piles of wood.

Activities: Make a hedgehog hotel in a corner of your garden, meeting place or park. Learn what food to put out to feed hedgehogs if you find one in your garden.

Take it further: Visit a Hedgehog Sanctuary or raise money for one.

11th November - Armistice Day & Remembrance Sunday

The 11th November and Remembrance Sunday (when the 11th is not a Sunday) are days to commemorate those who gave their lives for their country in both world wars, and in conflicts since. The treaty of peace for World War 1 was signed on the 11 November 1918 at Compiègne in France. In London, the Queen, Prime Minister and other dignitaries lay wreaths and observe a minute's silence. Around the country, Guides, Scouts and other organisations join together in their community to remember those who gave their lives.

Activities: Attend your local act of remembrance. Make poppies or a wreath to lay at your local war memorial. Try assembling the poppy blindfolded, or one handed to empathise with the injured service personal producing them.

Take it further: Invite your local British Legion, Army, Navy or RAF representative to come and talk to the unit. Do some fundraising for a military support fund like the Poppy fund.

Web Links: <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

BBC Children In Need

This is an annual event to raise money for British children's charities, culminating in a televised fundraising event on the Friday night, in the middle of November.

Activities: Get involved; there is normally a theme publicised a few months before. Apply for a fundraising pack and run a cake sale, sponsored event, dressing up or collections.

Take it further: Apply to take your unit to your local televised activities. Get a giant cheque and present your fundraising to your local television production live on air.

30th November - St Andrew's Day (Patron Saint of Scotland)

St. Andrew's Day is regarded as Scotland's national day.

Activities: Colour in the Scotland flag, and know how it fits into the Union Flag

Other ideas for November

Diwali

December

Birth Flower: Poinsettia

Birth Stone: Turquoise

1st December - World AIDS Day

A day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV, and providing education about prevention and treatments.

Activities: Hold a fundraising activity to raise money and awareness. Learn about AIDS around the world.

Winter Solstice

The winter solstice is the time when Pagans celebrate Yule; the rebirth of the sun, and the beginning of Winter. It is the longest night and shortest day of the year with less than 12 hours of daylight. It occurs every year around the 20th December and is a time to spend with friends and family, exchange gifts and honour the sun. Homes are decorated with red, green and white decorations. The holiday is typically celebrated at Stonehenge and visitors watch the sun rise to see how it casts a line that directly connects the major stones.

Activities: Find out why the date changes day each year. Make a wreath with evergreen or holly.

Take it further: Visit Stonehenge or another druid site local to you. If you can't visit one, how about bringing Stonehenge to you? Make a scale model, or your own version using anything from biscuits, to cardboard boxes, to the girls in your group. Shine a torch to represent the sun, and see if you can line up your principal stones.

Christmas Eve / Christmas Day / Boxing Day

Christmas is the biggest celebration in the UK, celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Activities: Find your favourite Christmas craft; make a tree or table decoration, Christmas cards or festive sweets. Find out why it is called Boxing Day, learn about a Victorian Christmas.

Take it further: Christmas Dinner, letters to Santa and swapping of gifts. Why not have a Christmas party, or visit your local care home or hospice to sing carols. Visit a local grotto, or somewhere like a National Trust property which is running late night events.

Late November to late December - Hanukkah

Hanukkah, or the "Festival of Light," is celebrated by Jews all over the world, to commemorate the taking back of the Temple of Jerusalem from the Romans over two thousand years ago.

Activities: Find out about Hanukkah, do some Hanukkah crafts.

Take it further: Try Latkes (fried potato pancakes) Invite someone from a local Jewish community to talk about the celebration, sing songs and play a game with a "dreidl," or spinning top with four flat sides.

26th December - Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a non-religious African-American celebration that was established in 1966, based on various African harvest celebrations. It begins on December 26 and continues for 7 days

Activities: Find out more about the celebration and do some crafts, or try some food.

31st December - New Years Eve / Hogmany

New Years Eve is celebrated around the world.

Activities: Make firework pictures or hold a New Years Eve party with fizz, snacks and a countdown. Find out what time (in GMT) other countries celebrate New Years Eve, and know why they are at different times to us. Sing Old Lang Syne whilst holding hands with your friends.

Take it further: Have a New Years Eve party in the morning of the 31st and watch the celebrations at midday from New Zealand and Australia.

More ideas for December

Cold weather, ice and snow, skating or skiing

12 Month Challenge Badge - Record Sheet





Name: _____

Unit: _____

Use this sheet to keep a record of what you have done to achieve your 12 Month Challenge badge. For each month write or draw a picture of what you did, and then colour in the month.

Use the bottom box to describe your celebration, and add the date when you received your badge.

 January		 February	
 March		 April	
 May		 June	
 July		 August	
 September		 October	
 November		 December	

Celebration:

Badge Presented: _____ Signed: _____

Girlguiding Branding Confirmation

Please see below e-mail confirmation that this Challenge, Badge, and Website meet Girlguiding Branding requirements. In line with their concern, and our own of the same point, we have increased the badge size from 2” to 2.5”

From: Branding Matters

 2 [▶ Show details](#) [🔒 Block](#)

Hi Clare,

Thank you for sending this through, it looks like a lot of time has gone into it!

All of the branding on the badge, website and document is absolutely fine.

My only concern is whether the challenge name and unit name will be legible at the font size it is but if the badge maker can get the detail then that should be no problem.

Best

Mia

Mia Churcher
Marketing Officer

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Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good. We give them a space to have fun.

From: Clare Sellick [mailto:clare.sellick@btinternet.com]