

IDAHO POTATO PROGRAM PACK



Program Age Levels: BR, JR, Cadette and Older
Purpose: This is a Council Own Badge.



IDAHO POTATO COUNCIL BADGE

Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council
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Program Age Levels: Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes and older.

Purpose: This is a Council's Own Patch

Requirements: All levels must complete #'s 1 and 2, plus

Brownies: Four others

Juniors: Six others

Cadettes and older: Eight others.

Idaho's first potato grower was not a farmer at all, but a Presbyterian missionary named Henry Harmon Spaulding.

He established a mission near Lapwai in northern Idaho in 1836 and developed a 15 acre plot to teach the Native Americans how to grow potatoes. The first crop was a failure, but the second year was quite good.

In 1860, Mormon pioneers moved northward from Salt Lake City to the present-day community of Franklin, just north of the Utah-Idaho border. The settlers lived in their wagons that first summer and built ditches, roads and houses after the crops were planted. They harvested 33 bushels of potatoes that year, and a few onions. Sixteen years later, those farmers and their neighbors in Utah, shipped more than 2.5 million pounds of potatoes to mining camps as far away as California.

In 1872, Luther Burbank planted some hybrid seeds from an Early Rose potato in his New England garden. Some of the seedlings were distinctly better in yield and size of tubers, than their Early Rose parents. He later took 10 tubers, which were called Burbanks, with him to California.

The potato that put Idaho on the map is not exactly a Burbank. The Burbank variety is a smooth-skinned, long white potato, and the present day Russet Burbank has a slightly rough, reticulated skin, commonly called netting.

According to Luther Burbank, the Russet Burbank was originated by Leon Sweet of Denver, Colorado, who had evidently selected a mutation of a Burbank. Luther Burbank didn't think the variant potato line was particularly attractive, but he acknowledged that it is "resistant to blight, which gives it exceptional value." Blight was a catch-all term in those days, but the Russet Burbank has shown better resistance to a number of potato tuber diseases. It was Idaho, however, that made the Russet Burbank famous.

The University of Idaho established its first agricultural experiment station at Aberdeen in the winter of 1911-12. Potatoes are still the most important research crop at the Aberdeen station. The first experiments in those early years dealt with seed-piece size, seed spacing, storage, bruising and fertilizer levels.

The Idaho Potato Commission began in 1937 as the Idaho Fruit and Vegetable Advertising Commission; the name was changed to the Idaho Advertising Commission in 1939 when promotion of apples and prunes was dropped. The name changed to Idaho Potato and Onion Commission in 1957 and again in 1967 to the Idaho Potato Commission, when onion growers formed their own promotional organization.

IDAHO POTATO PATCH ACTIVITIES

- 1.** Learn the parts of a potato (skin, cortex, pith, vascular ring, eyes and new stems) and learn the parts of the potato flower. Learn how to tell the difference between such types of potatoes as Russet Burbanks, Norchips (used for making potato chips), red potatoes, white potatoes and other cousins, such as yams and sweet potatoes.
- 2.** Learn about the life cycle of the potato and the various stages of growth. Learn how farmers plant potatoes from a potato seed that is not a regular seed. Learn how the potato plant makes potatoes in the ground.
3. Visit a potato processing plant or potato farm in your community.

4. Have a Potato Party:

Have girls list on a sheet of paper their five favorite ways to eat potatoes. Graph the results and fix the groups' favorite way to eat potatoes for your potato party.

or

Have each girl bring a potato. Let each girl wash and scrub her potato and bake them while doing the other activities. Set up a potato bar at the end of the meeting, letting each girl eat her potato.

or

Find out how other countries in the world fix potatoes and try one of these recipes. (example: Canada, potato pancakes; Germany, potato salad; France, potato soup)

and

Make potato shaped placemats for your potato party. Using brown paper bags, cut out large potato shapes. Use black crayons, pencils or markers to draw on the "eyes."

5. Potato Stamp Art:

Cut a potato in half. Use a cookie cutter and press it into the potato half. Use a paring knife to cut around your design so that it is raised from the rest of the potato half. Use various colors of tempera paint and place in shallow pans for the girls to dip their potato shapes for printing. Girls can dip the potatoes into the tempera and onto a sheet on construction paper. Be sure to rinse off your potato stamp before changing colors. Try making your own geometric designs, such as circles, triangles, squares, rectangles, etc. Older girls may enjoy experimenting more in depth in making full scale paintings with potato stamps, using various shapes for an entire painting, including the background and foreground.

6. Participate in the Idaho Annual Spud Celebration in Shelley, Idaho, in September.
7. Visit the Idaho Potato Official Internet Web Sites: <http://www.idahopotato.com>
8. Games:
Try three of the five games

Potato Relays:

- Have relay races using potato gunny sacks
- Have girls use large spoons to hold small potatoes. Set up relay teams and carry the potatoes without dropping them.

Potato Hop Scotch:

Cut 10 large potato shapes out of brown construction paper and number them from 1 to 10. Tape the shapes to the floor in proper sequence. Then let the girls take turns hopping from one potato to the other as everyone recites the rhyme below:

One potato, two potato
Three potato, four
Five potato, six potato
Seven potato, more.
Eight potato, nine potato.
Here is ten.
Now, let's start all over again.

Hot Potato Game:

Have girls stand in a circle with two fists held out in front of them. One girl is the "potato masher." The potato masher starts the game by pounding the fist next to her. Each girl pounds the fist next to her as they say the following rhyme:

One potato, two potato, three potato, four,
Five potato, six potato, seven potato, MORE.

The girl whose fist is pounded on "MORE" puts one fist behind her back. The game continues until only one girl has a fist remaining.

Musical Spuds:

This game is played like musical chairs. You know how hot a baked potato can be, so use a cool potato, but pretend it is hot. Play lively music appropriate to the game and have the girls pass around a potato as fast as they can. When the music stops, the person holding the potato is out. The game continues until only one person is left.

Pick Up Chips:

This game is played like pick up sticks, only you use a small bag of potato chips. Empty a bag of potato chips into a big pile on a table. The idea is to pick up one chip at a time so as not to have the entire mound fall. The team or player with the most chips wins. All girls really win because they get to eat their potato chips when the game is over.

9. Potato Estimation:
Get a 10 pound sack of potatoes. (Count them before the meeting.) Have the girls look at one of the potatoes to give them some basic size information before they try to estimate how many potatoes are in the bag. Pass out scratch paper and have the girls write down their estimation. Compare estimations and see which is closest. Discuss how each girl came up with her figure.
10. Read some fiction or non-fiction books about potatoes.
11. Write a song about potatoes.
12. Growing potatoes:

Use a clear plastic cup and grow a potato in some water. Choose a potato that is starting to grow stems. Poke toothpicks around the potato to help hold the potato in a cup of water. Set the cup in a sunny window and observe the root system over several weeks.

or

Grow your own potatoes by using a clay pot. Put several handfuls of soil into the pot and plant a potato with the eye-end up in the soil. Cover the pot with soil until the pot is half full. Place in a sunny spot and water. When the shoots start to come up, add more dirt, because the potato you planted is starting to make its own potatoes in the pot and needs more dirt to protect them. Observe the flowers that will begin to bloom. After about 6-8 weeks, tip the pot upside down and get your potatoes out of the bottom of your pot! If you want to grow a whole bunch of potatoes, try the same thing, only use a larger pot or plant some potatoes in a garden.

13. Develop a community service project and donate some of the potatoes from your garden to help feed the hungry. OR Participate in a community-gleaning project from nearby potato fields.
14. From the “Valuing Differences: Leader’s Resource Kit”, try the Potato Pals activity.

Use this chart to organize your troops chosen activities to accomplish this program.

Activity	Materials Needed
Example #1	List of Emergency Numbers, Poster Board, Markers

PROGRAM PACK EVALUATION

Troop _____ Service Unit _____ Age Level _____
Leader's Name _____
Address _____
Street City Zip _____
Phone (h) _____ (w) _____
Our troop of _____ girls worked on and completed the _____
_____ Patch Program.

Please complete the following evaluation with responses from the girls.

1. Why did you choose this program? _____

2. How much time did you spend on it? _____
3. What outside resources did you use? (people, facilities, equipment, etc.) _____

4. What part did you like best? _____

5. What would you do differently another time? _____

6. What are some things you learned to do for the first time or better? _____

7. How did the adults feel about the program?

Patches can be purchased at the council.

Other Program Packs Available

PROG001 SAFE AND SOUND AT HOME ALONE
PROG013 SIGN LANGUAGE
PROG015 RIDE THE OREGON TRAIL (THIS IS A COUNCIL OWN BADGE)
PROG016 VALUING DIFFERENCES
PROG018 GOOD TURN PROJECT
PROG029 ONE WARM COAT
PROG035 LEWIS AND CLARK
PROG036 HAND IN HAND
PROG060 MILK: IT DOES A BODY GOOD
PROG063 BROWNIE SMILES
PROG064 INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP: COUNTDOWN TO THINKING DAY
PROG065 DIMES FOR DAISY
PROG066 HEALTHY LIVING
PROG067 BULLYING STOPS HERE
PROG068 BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
PROG075 TREASURED MEMORIES
PROG086 CHICAS
PROG140 IDAHO POTATO (THIS IS A COUNCIL OWN BADGE)
PROG149 SEW EZ

