

American Girls & American Girlhood WHS Research Assignment

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Object #1: Girl Scout Uniform

- ❖ Girl Scout uniform from mid 1920s
- ❖ Organization was created in 1912 for girls ages 10-18.
- ❖ In the 1950s efforts were made to desegregate the Girl Scout troops.
- ❖ Worn and donated by Dimetra Shivers who was a jazz singer and activist against racism.
- ❖ Kept in the Wisconsin Historical Museum Collections
- ❖ The uniform can be related to the keywords **gender** and **race** from class.



Object #2: Photo Album from Joy Camp

- ❖ Depicts the Joy Camp on Lake Raymond in Oneida County, WI during the 1940s.
- ❖ Photographer was Sue Ann Hackett who attended the camp from 1949-1951.
- ❖ Photos are held by the WHS and were obtained from Sue Ann herself.
- ❖ Most of the activities shown in the pictures show activities typically associated with **girlhood**.
- ❖ Many pictures depict the cultural appropriation of Native American tribes.



Written Text #1: *Camping for Girls* by Hortense Gardner Gregg

- ❖ Published in 1907 when Women's Suffrage was a heavy issue.
- ❖ Written by Hortense Gardner Gregg who was a successful poet, an avid outdoorswoman, and loved teaching young girls about nature.
- ❖ The book focuses on the basic steps required for a girl in the early 1900s to survive a camping trip.
- ❖ Emphasized the need for girls to challenge gender norms and pursue their own passions, similar to the girls in texts like *Little Women* and the American Girl Doll series who were sometimes viewed as **tomboys**.
- ❖ Challenges the traditional **domestic** role of women in society.

Why should we be weak! Why not be strong like our brothers? Did Nature intend that we should drag out our lives in such narrow ways of existence as most of us spend it to-day?

