USA Girl Scouts Overseas
Paris, France

Women in Paris

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The requirements for this patch take you back in history to learn about the lives and accomplishments of historical French and American women who lived in the Paris. The list also includes one notable woman who is still living. You may complete all of the requirements online and if you are lucky enough to be able to visit Paris, take the time to visit the historical sites that are listed.

Minimum time: 1-2 days online research.

Learn about Marie Curie and at least 3 other famous women on this list by answering questions about them. Go further and learn about more of them! If you are in Paris, have fun completing the **GO VISIT** portion of the requirements.

1. Marie Curie – Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist
2. Gertrude Stein – American writer and art collector
3. Coco Chanel – French fashion designer
4. Christine Lagarde – French anti-trust and labor lawyer and politician
5. Josephine Baker – American born French dancer, singer, actress and civil rights activist
6. Nadia Boulanger – French musical conductor and educator

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1. **Marie Curie** was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist.
    a. How old was Marie Curie when she left Poland to study in Paris to earn her higher degrees and to conduct her scientific research?

    b. What pioneering research did Marie Curie perform?

    c. Marie Curie named the first chemical element that she discovered after her native country Poland. What is the name of that element?

    d. What prestigious prize did Marie Curie win, along with her husband Pierre, in 1903?

    e. What prestigious prize did Marie Curie win in 1911?

    f. What was so unique about the fact that Marie Curie won these two prizes?

    g. Marie Curie founded two major medical research centers. What are their names and where are they located?

    h. When and of what illness did Marie Curie die?

    i. If you are in Paris, **GO VISIT**: the tomb of Pierre and Marie Curie, at the Panthéon.

2. **Gertrude Stein** was an American writer of novels, poetry and plays and a fervent collector of Modernist art. She lived in Paris from 1903 to 1938.
    a. Where did Gertrude Stein attend university?

    b. Where did Gertrude Stein live in Paris from 1903 to 1938?

    c. The Stein home was a renowned Saturday evening gathering place for both expatriate American artists and writers. What was the nature of these literary gatherings?

    d. Name 4 artists or writers who frequently attended Gertrude Stein's Saturday evening gatherings.

e. What is the name of the 2011 film by Woody Allen that depicts life during the time Gertrude Stein lived in Paris?

f. Who painted the "Portrait of Gertrude Stein" in 1906?

g. If you are in Paris, **GO VISIT**: 27 rue de Fleurus where Gertrude Stein spent much of her life.

3. **Coco Chanel** was a French fashion designer and founder of the *Chanel* brand.
   a. What was Coco Chanel's birth name?

   b. In what type of hospital was Coco Chanel born?

   c. In what type of home was Coco Chanel raised?

   d. What trade did she learn while she was living in this home?

   e. From what uncomfortable undergarment did Coco Chanel liberate women?

   f. What is the name of the most famous dress created by Coco Chanel that "every woman must have in their wardrobe"?

   g. What is the name of Coco Chanel's most famous perfume?

   h. What business decision did Coco Chanel make at the beginning of World War II?

   i. Where did Coco Chanel live during World War II and why was this location controversial?

   j. What was thought to have been Coco Chanel's role during World War II?

   k. Who sat in the front row seats at Coco Chanel's funeral in January 1971?

   l. If you are in Paris, **GO VISIT**: the Chanel boutique at 31 rue Cambon.

4. **Christine Lagarde** is a French antitrust and labor lawyer as well as a politician.
    a. At what sport did Christine Lagarde excel when she was growing up?

    b. Where did Christine Lagarde work as a lawyer in the U.S.?

    c. What was the last position Christine Lagarde held before returning to France to work for the French government in 2005?

    d. Christine Lagarde was the first woman ever in charge of economic policy in France. Name two of the French ministerial posts that she held before 2011.

    e. To what position was Christine Lagarde appointed in July 2011?

    f. If you are in Paris, **GO SEE**: Bercy, the Ministry of Finance. It is not possible to tour this building; it may only be viewed from the exterior.

5. **Josephine Baker** was an American born French dancer, singer, actress and civil rights activist.
    a. Where was Josephine Baker born and what was her birth name?

    b. Where did Josephine Baker first begin performing?

    c. When and where did she first perform in France?

    d. What were her nicknames?

    e. What was significant about the fact that Josephine Baker starred in the movie *Zouzou*?

    f. When and how did she become a French citizen?

    g. How did Josephine Baker aid the French and its allies during World War II?

h. What happened to her when she arrived to perform in New York in 1950?

i. As a result of this experience, Josephine Baker became very involved in the Civil Rights Movement and refused to perform in front of segregated audiences. What does this mean?

j. Josephine Baker started adopting children from many different countries during the Civil Rights Movement. What did she call her family and name four of the countries from which she adopted her children.

k. What was unique about her funeral?

l. If you are in Paris, **GO VISIT**: "Place Joséphine Baker" in the Montparnasse Quarter of Paris.

6. **Nadia Boulanger** was a French musical conductor and educator.

a. How old was Nadia Boulanger when she first became interested in music?

b. Name 3 of the important first prizes Nadia Boulanger won between 1898 and 1904 at the Conservatoire.

c. Where and why did Nadia Boulanger start teaching music lessons in 1904 when she was 17 years old?

d. Before World War I, Nadia Boulanger performed in many concerts and continued to teach music. After World War I, in 1919, where and what did she begin teaching?

e. Nadia Boulanger toured America and London and became the first woman ever to conduct many symphony orchestras. Name three of them.

f. She lived in the US during World War II and taught at many famous music schools. Name 3 of them.

g. Name 3 of Nadia Boulanger's most famous students.

h. If you are in Paris, **GO VISIT**: the Montmartre Cemetery where Nadia Boulanger is buried.

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USA Girl Scouts Overseas
Paris, France

Women in Paris

ANSWER KEY

The requirements for this patch take you back in history to learn about the lives and accomplishments of historical French and American women who lived in the Paris. The list also includes one notable woman who is still living. You may complete all of the requirements online and if you are lucky enough to be able to visit Paris, take the time to visit the historical sites that are listed.

Minimum time: 1-2 days online research.

Learn about Marie Curie and at least 3 other famous women on this list by answering questions about them. Go further and learn about more of them! If you are in Paris, have fun completing the **GO VISIT** portion of the requirements.

1. Marie Curie – Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist
2. Gertrude Stein – American writer and art collector
3. Coco Chanel – French fashion designer
4. Christine Lagarde – French anti-trust and labor lawyer and politician
5. Josephine Baker – American born French dancer, singer, actress and civil rights activist
6. Nadia Boulanger – French musical conductor and educator

1. **Marie Curie** was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist.
    a. How old was Marie Curie when she left Poland to study in Paris to earn her higher degrees and to conduct her scientific research?
    She left Poland in 1891, at the age of 24, to study and to conduct research in Paris.
    b. What pioneering research did Marie Curie perform?
    Research on radioactivity.
    c. Marie Curie named the first chemical element that she discovered after her native country Poland. What is the name of that element?
    She isolated her first chemical element in 1898 and named it polonium.
    d. What prestigious prize did Marie Curie win, along with her husband Pierre, in 1903?
    The Noble Prize in Physics.
    e. What prestigious prize did Marie Curie win in 1911?
    The Noble Prize in Chemistry.
    f. What was so unique about the fact that Marie Curie won these two prizes?
    She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win twice, and the only person to win twice in multiple sciences.
    g. Marie Curie founded two major medical research centers. What are their names and where are they located?
    The research centers are named *Curie Institutes* and they are located in Paris, France and in Warsaw, Poland.
    h. When and of what illness did Marie Curie die?
    On the fourth of July 1934, Marie Curie died due to her long-term exposure to radiation.
    i. If you are in Paris, **GO VISIT**: the tomb of Pierre and Marie Curie, at the Panthéon.

2. **Gertrude Stein** was an American writer of novels, poetry and plays and a fervent collector of Modernist art. She lived in Paris from 1903 to 1938.
    a. Where did Gertrude Stein attend university?
    Radcliffe College, which was, at that time, an annex of Harvard University.
    b. Where did Gertrude Stein live in Paris from 1903 to 1938?
    27 rue de Fleurus.
    c. The Stein home was a renowned Saturday evening gathering place for both expatriate American artists and writers. What was the nature of these literary gatherings?
    The gatherings in the Stein home brought together artists and writers who discussed their ideas and helped to define modern literature and art.
    d. Name 4 artists or writers who frequently attended Gertrude Stein's Saturday evening gatherings.
    Possible answers include: Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sinclair

Lewis, Ezra Pound, Thornton Wilder, Sherwood Anderson, Francis Cyril Rose, René Crevel, Élisabeth de Gramont, Francis Picabia, Claribel Cone, Mildred Aldrich, Carl Van Vechten and Henri Matisse.

e. What is the name of the 2011 film by Woody Allen that depicts life during the time Gertrude Stein lived in Paris?
"Midnight in Paris"

f. Who painted the "Portrait of Gertrude Stein" in 1906?
Pablo Picasso.

g. If you are in Paris, **GO VISIT**: 27 rue de Fleurus where Gertrude Stein spent much of her life.

3. **Coco Chanel** was a French fashion designer and founder of the *Chanel* brand.

a. What was Coco Chanel's birth name?
Gabrielle Bonheur Chanel

b. In what type of hospital was Coco Chanel born?
She was born in a charity hospital because her parents were very poor and unable to care for her.

c. In what type of home was Coco Chanel raised?
Coco Chanel was raised in a home for abandoned and orphaned girls.

d. What trade did she learn while she was living in this home?
She learned the seamstress trade and also sang in a cabaret for military officers.

e. From what uncomfortable undergarment did Coco Chanel liberate women?
She liberated women from the constraints of wearing corsets.

f. What is the name of the most famous dress created by Coco Chanel that "every woman must have in their wardrobe"?
The "Little Black Dress".

g. What is the name of Coco Chanel's most famous perfume?
Chanel N° 5

h. What business decision did Coco Chanel make at the beginning of World War II?
She closed her shops, claiming it was not a time for fashion, causing 3000 women to lose their jobs.

i. Where did Coco Chanel live during World War II and why was this location controversial?
She lived at the Ritz Hotel, which was where many of the important German military staff preferred to live.

j. What was thought to have been Coco Chanel's role during World War II?
She was thought to have been a German spy who could influence Winston Churchill.

k. Who sat in the front row seats at Coco Chanel's funeral in January 1971?
Her fashion models.

l. If you are in Paris, **GO VISIT**: the Chanel boutique at 31 rue Cambon.

4. **Christine Lagarde** is a French antitrust and labor lawyer as well as a politician.
    a. At what sport did Christine Lagarde excel when she was growing up?
    As a teenager, she was a member of the French national synchronized swimming team.
    b. Where did Christine Lagarde work as a lawyer in the U.S.?
    The major international law firm Baker & McKenzie in Chicago, Illinois.
    c. What was the last position Christine Lagarde held before returning to France to work for the French government in 2005?
    She was the first female chairman of the law firm Baker & McKenzie and president of their global strategic committee.
    d. Christine Lagarde was the first woman ever in charge of economic policy in France. Name two of the French ministerial posts that she held before 2011.
    Possible answers include Minister of Economic Affairs, Finance and Employment, Minister of Agriculture and Fishing, and Minister of Trade.
    e. To what position was Christine Lagarde appointed in July 2011?
    She was appointed to the position of managing director of the International Monetary Fund.
    f. If you are in Paris, **GO SEE**: Bercy, the Ministry of Finance. It is not possible to tour this building; it may only be viewed from the exterior.

5. **Josephine Baker** was an American born French dancer, singer, actress and civil rights activist.
    a. Where was Josephine Baker born and what was her birth name?
    St. Louis, Missouri. Freda Josephine McDonald.
    b. Where did Josephine Baker first begin performing?
    She danced on street corners and was recruited for the Saint Louis vaudeville show at the age of 15.
    c. When and where did she first perform in France?
    She performed on October 2, 1925, at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and became an instant success.
    d. What were her nicknames?
    "Black Pearl," "Bronze Venus" and the "Creole Goddess"
    e. What was significant about the fact that Josephine Baker starred in the movie *Zouzou*?
    She was the first black woman to star in a major motion picture and to become a world-famous entertainer.
    f. When and how did she become a French citizen?
    She became a French citizen in 1937, just before World Word II, when she married a Frenchman.
    g. How did Josephine Baker aid the French and its allies during World War II?
    She frequently performed at embassies and ministries throughout Europe and charmed the people she met while gathering information. When she travelled to perform in neutral countries, she carried information for transmission to England, about airfields,

harbors, and German troop concentrations in the West of France. The information would be written in invisible ink on Josephine's sheet music.

h. What happened to her when she arrived to perform in New York in 1950?
She and her husband were refused reservations at 36 hotels because she was black.

i. As a result of this experience, Josephine Baker became very involved in the Civil Rights Movement and refused to perform in front of segregated audiences. What does this mean?
A segregated audience is an audience with people of only one color. Thanks to her, many shows in America accepted mixed audiences even in some of the most segregated cities.

j. Josephine Baker started adopting children from many different countries during the Civil Rights Movement. What did she call her family and name four of the countries from which she adopted her children.
She called her family her "Rainbow Tribe" and the children came from France, Morocco, Korea, Japan, Colombia, Finland, Israel, Algeria, Ivory Coast and Venezuela.

k. What was unique about her funeral?
She is the only American-born woman to receive full French military honors at her funeral.

l. If you are in Paris, **GO VISIT**: "Place Joséphine Baker" in the Montparnasse Quarter of Paris.

6. **Nadia Boulanger** was a French musical conductor and educator.

a. How old was Nadia Boulanger when she first became interested in music?
She was five years old when she suddenly became very interested in music. Before that time, she was upset by music and would run and hide when she heard music.

b. Name 3 of the important first prizes Nadia Boulanger won between 1898 and 1904 at the Conservatoire.
Possible answers include: 1898 – solfège; 1903 – harmony; 1904 - organ, *accompagnement au piano* and fugue (composition)

c. Where and why did Nadia Boulanger start teaching music lessons in 1904 when she was 17 years old?
She began teaching from the family home because, after her father died, there was not enough money to support the family.

d. Before World War I, Nadia Boulanger performed in many concerts and continued to teach music. After World War I, in 1919, where and what did she begin teaching?
She was invited to teach classes in harmony, counterpoint, musical analysis, organ and composition at the École normale de musique de Paris.

e. Nadia Boulanger toured America and London and became the first woman ever to conduct many symphony orchestras. Name three of them.
Possible answers include: The Royal Philharmonic Society in London, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Washington National Symphony Orchestra.

f. She lived in the US during World War II and taught at many famous music schools. Name 3 of them.
Possible answers include: Juilliard, Radcliffe, Wellesley, Longy, Mills, and Yale.

g. Name 3 of Nadia Boulanger's most famous students.
Possible answers include: Philip Glass, Quincy Jones, Marc Blitzstein, Elliott Carter, Virgil Thomson, and Aaron Copland.

h. If you are in Paris, **GO VISIT**: the Montmartre Cemetery where Nadia Boulanger is buried.