

Make a G.I.S. Badge

Background:

Wherever in the world they went the G.I.S. proudly wore their World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) badge. The WAGGGS organisation was, and still is now, the umbrella of Guiding that joins all girls around the world together. When providing relief work and restarting Guide groups the WAGGGS badge would have been a universally recognised and trusted sign for the G.I.S. A symbol of common ground and unity when there may have been cultural or language barriers.

In the 1940s factories were still being used for the war effort, so no mass-produced badges! Unlike today, the final task for every wartime Guide completing a badge would be to sew one herself! Try your hand at making your own badge to commemorate this virtual VE day camp!

Badge design options:



Modern WAGGGS badge



1940s WAGGGS badge



G.I.S. badge

Time Taken to Complete:

This depends on how you want to make your badge. A fully embroidered version will take quite a while, however other ways of making a badge (like colouring or painting) will be a lot quicker.

Equipment Required:

- Small circle of blue material – cotton or felt work well. Try and avoid stretchy materials
- Needle
- Yellow Thread
- (See below if you don't have any sewing equipment)

Safety Precautions:

- **Needles are sharp!** Make sure you get an adult to show you how to handle a needle and thread if you are new to sewing. Keep fingers away from the point, and always be aware of where your needle is, especially when putting down your work – we don't want any pricked toes! Have a first aid kit with plasters to hand in case you prick a finger.

Variations to Activity:

Don't have a needle and thread? No problem! Here are some other options you can try depending on what resources you have:

- 1) Make a badge by cutting out shapes of fabric and gluing them together
- 2) Colour in a paper badge or sticker
- 3) Paint a round pebble and display it outside your house
- 4) Draw a chalk WAGGGS symbol outside on the ground (make sure you get permission and choose a safe spot to draw)
- 5) Get creative and find your own way of displaying your well-earned badge!

Challenge Yourself!

Here are some suggestions if you are looking for more of a challenge:

- Be resourceful, are there any scraps of material that you can use? **Don't forget to ask permission before cutting up anyone's favourite top!**
- Confident with sewing? Why not try some new techniques like using an embroidery hoop or using some new stitches – eg. a lashed backstitch
- Feeling creative? Why not design your own camp badge!
- Once you've made your badge, think about where you're going to put it. You could sew it on to your camp blanket, onto your uniform, or display it in a window.
- Research some of the symbolism of the WAGGGS badge – what do the 2 stars represent?

Hints and Tips:

- Don't worry if you're new to sewing, no-one's first badge is perfect! The G.I.S. had to learn a huge amount of new skills during their training, and the only trick is practise, practise, practice!

VIRTUAL VE DAY COMMEMORATIONS

- Find out if anyone in your family has sewing experience – maybe you could give them a call or video chat to get some tips!
- If you get stuck we're all on hand to help, so let us know if you've got any questions
- Post a picture of your creations when they're done on the Facebook page!

Photos:

