

**Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Interest Project:
The Islands of Lake Erie**

Girls, ages 11-17 will enjoy 'getting their feet wet' and learning more about the Islands of Lake Erie.

You must complete 2 items from Skill Builders, 1 From Technology, 1 from Career Exploration, 1 from Service Projects and 2 more, from the areas of your choice.

Skill Builders:

1. In the Pelee Island Archipelago, there is an Island called Hen Island, surrounding it are Big Chicken Island, Chick Island and Little Chicken Island. Research this grouping of islands. Are they really islands at all?

2. Some Lake Erie Islands are inhabited, some are not. Are there differences in population between summer and winter months on any of the islands? Why?

3. Learn about a watershed on one of the islands. How does this affect the ecosystem?

4. What kinds of animals live on the Lake Erie Islands? Why do you think they chose this place as a habitat? How did they get there? Are any of them endangered? List a few reasons why they thrive and share your list with younger Girl Scouts.

5. After doing some research visit a Lake Erie Island. Pay close attention to your surroundings and if possible, take notes. How does this experience help you better understand the information you have already gathered on the Lake Erie Islands?

6. Surprise! You've just been invited to visit a Lake Erie Island of your choice for a year as an exchange student. This is a great opportunity, and you gratefully accept. But before you leave home, research the schools on the Lake Erie Island you will be visiting. Do they have uniforms? If so, what are they like? What subjects do they teach? What after school activities do they have? Are there any you would be interested in participating in? How many students are in the school? How many teachers? Study hard, and you'll be on your way to a Lake Erie Island in no time!

7. Lighthouses have always been important to water navigation. Are any still used on Lake Erie? Even with lighthouses in use, shipwrecks can occur and have (a lot) within the shallow waters of Lake Erie. Find out more about lighthouses and shipwrecks and share what you learn with your friends, around a campfire.

Technology:

1. Using a computer program such as Publisher or Word, create a brochure about a Lake Erie Island. It should include facts about the island's history, location, population, ecosystem, etc.. Share your brochure with others.

2. Some of us take for granted the fresh water that we use every day. How clean is the water in Lake Erie? What type of technology is used for water treatment on the Lake Erie Islands? Is it safe to drink? Research the tools and instruments used to find this out. Share your findings with your troop or group.

3. Some of the Lake Erie Islands don't allow cars and some require special documentation to travel to them. Find out the transportation options and the documentation requirements of each island and compare them in a chart. Share your findings.

4. If you had to choose a Lake Erie Island to live on, which would you choose and why? Consider things such as size, population, jobs, countries they belong to, weather, and others.

5. Research the importance of airplanes to the Lake Erie Islands. Why are planes so important to the islanders? Create a multimedia presentation to share with your friends, family or troop members.

6. What is Lake Effect Snow? How does it affect the Lake Erie Islands? How does it affect our weather here on the U.S. mainland?

Career Exploration:

1. Research some of the industries that Lake Erie Island residents work in. Why do you think they need this industry. What kinds of jobs do Islanders pursue? Do any of them interest you? Find out pay and education requirements, if any. How have these jobs changed over the past 100 years.

2. Talk to somebody who works in the fishing or farming industries, on a Lake Erie Island. Ask them about their profession, skill set, training, etc. Is their livelihood threatened by forces outside of the islands?

3. Research the main livelihood on Pelee island. Why do you think this job is important there? Write down your findings and share them with your group.

4. Tourism is one of the biggest industries for all of the Lake Erie Islands! Find out about at least 2 different careers (or at least jobs) that a person could do within this industry on one of the islands. Is that job available all year long?

5. Naturalists and scientists use the Lake Erie Islands to study animals, plants, soil and rocks. Would you like to become a naturalist? Find out more about the F.T. Stone Laboratory, of Ohio State which is located at Put In Bay, set up a field trip for your troop or classroom.

Service Projects:

1. Visit a Lake Erie Island. Find a service project you can participate in. It could be a litter pick up, a walk to raise awareness, an animal rescue, who knows? You can even create your own.

2. Create booklets about the wildlife on the Lake Erie Islands for Brownies. Be sure that the design and information is appealing to young girls. Colorful pictures and short descriptions, or activities, are perfect. Give copies to Brownies in your Service unit and teach them about island wildlife!

3. Learn about one of the tributaries of Lake Erie or the rivers that it flows into it. Is it clean? Pollution here means polluted beaches and lake water. Volunteer to participate in a river clean up in your area.

4. Research how trash and various types of pollution affect the beach and lake wildlife and how Islanders handle this messy problem. Once they do, how do they manage all that trash? If possible travel to a lake Erie island and clean up a beach.

5. There are many current issues pertaining to Lake Erie and her islands. Is wind energy a viable option? Are foreign water creatures threatening the ecosystem? Pick one concern and learn more about it. What do you think about this issue? Talk to others about it and work with other girls to change it!