

**Girl Scouts Louisiana East  
Black History Month: *Amistad*  
Patch Program for Girl Scout Juniors – Ambassadors**



In celebration of Black History Month, Girl Scouts Louisiana East, in association with the Amistad Research Center at Tulane, has established the following *Amistad* Patch Program. Designed to be answered individually or worked on as a troop, the program is progressive in nature, so that Girl Scout Juniors need only answer the first 10 questions, Girl Scout Cadettes the first 20 questions, and Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors all 31 questions.

This program is intended to educate Girl Scouts about the *Amistad* and its tragic history. Amistad became a symbol in the movement to abolish slavery after a group of African captives aboard the *Amistad* ship revolted.

A replica of the original ship, *Freedom Schooner Amistad*, departed its home port of New Haven, CT on June 21, 2007 for its 2007-2008 Atlantic Freedom Tour, an 18-month journey commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the United Kingdom and next year in the United States. The historic transatlantic voyage promotes the values of understanding and unity represented by *Amistad* itself. To find out more about the *Amistad* Atlantic Freedom Tour, visit [www.amistadamerica.org](http://www.amistadamerica.org).

Special thanks to Christopher Harter of the Amistad Research Center at Tulane for his assistance in creating the questions for this program. All of these questions can be answered online or via the books listed on the bibliography page at <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/amistad/AMISTD.HTM>. Another recommended site with an introduction is the *Exploring Amistad* site from Mystic Seaport at <http://amistad.mysticseaport.org/main/welcome.html>.

## **Girl Scout Junior Questions**

### **Suggested Badge focus: *My Heritage, Celebrating People***

1. The *Amistad* Africans were captured and transported to Cuba from Africa beginning in what year?
2. The path of slave ships from Africa to the Americas was known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Two Spanish planters, Jose Ruiz and Pedro Montes, purchased \_\_\_ adults and \_\_\_ children in Havana, Cuba, and attempted to transport them on the *Amistad* to another port city on the island.
4. What was the name of the individual who is often considered the leader of the revolt onboard the *Amistad*?
5. Which former U.S. President helped defend the *Amistad* Africans during their trial before the United States Supreme Court?
  - a. George Washington
  - b. John Quincy Adams
  - c. Thomas Jefferson
  - d. James Monroe
6. Who was the President of the United States during the time of the *Amistad* Revolt?
7. Draw a picture of the *Amistad*.
8. On a map, draw the route taken by the *Amistad*.
9. Which American lawyer defended the *Amistad* Africans and later became the governor of Connecticut and a U.S. Senator?
10. The *Amistad* was what kind of ship? What are the different criteria for each?
  - a. Schooner
  - b. Frigate
  - c. Row boat
  - d. Man of War

### **Girl Scout Cadette Questions**

**Suggested Interest Project focus: *A World of Understanding, Heritage Hunt, Law and Order***

1. The name of the ship that transported the *Amistad* Africans from Sierra Leone to Cuba was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Name five of the *Amistad* Africans.
3. What information did Cinque learn from the ship's cook that made him decide that the African captives onboard the *Amistad* should revolt?
4. When the *Amistad* Africans took command of the *Amistad*, they commanded their surviving captors (Ruiz and Montes) to take them home. How did they know which direction to sail?
5. How did the *Amistad* eventually reach the eastern coast of the United States?
6. What were the names of the Mende speakers found on the shipping docks of New York who aided the legal defense of the *Amistad* Africans?
7. Little is known about the lives of the *Amistad* Africans after they returned to Sierra Leone. Create your own versions of the biographies of the *Amistad* Africans after they returned home.
8. Artist Hale Woodruff produced a series of murals about the *Amistad* Revolt, titled *Mutiny, Trial, and Return*. Describe in your own words what is portrayed in the painting of your choice.
9. Christian abolitionists including \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ formed the "Amistad Committee" to raise funds for the legal defense of the *Amistad* Africans.
10. Write a brief biography of Lewis Tappan.

### **Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador Questions**

**Suggested Interest Project focus: *A World of Understanding, Heritage Hunt, Law and Order***

1. Name the United States naval ship that intercepted the *Amistad*?
2. Make a timeline (month and year) of the key events that comprised the *Amistad* event.
3. Watch the Steven Spielberg movie, *Amistad*. In what ways does the movie differ from the historical facts?
4. Which of the *Amistad* captives returned to the U.S.? Provide a brief summary of her life after the *Amistad* Revolt.
5. A portion of the transcript of the Supreme Court hearing can be found at [www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/amistad/AMI\\_SCT2.HTM](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/amistad/AMI_SCT2.HTM). Provide brief summaries in your own words of the Argument of the Government and the Argument for the *Amistad* Captives.
6. Should the *Amistad* Case be considered a landmark Supreme Court decision?
7. The *Exploring Amistad* website at <http://amistad.mysticseaport.org/library/news/welcome.html> provides examples of the conflicting coverage of the *Amistad* trial in contemporary newspapers. Click the "List All Newspaper Articles" at the bottom of the page and provide examples of newspaper articles that were

- supportive and unsupportive of the defense of the Amistad Africans.
8. Where did the USS *Washington* intercept the *Amistad*?
  9. Why did the sailors onboard the USS *Washington* accept the story of Ruiz and Montes and not the *Amistad* Africans?
  10. After the Supreme Court trial, the *Amistad* Committee joined other abolitionist organizations to form the \_\_\_\_\_, which became the largest abolitionist association in the United States.

To receive a list of answers to these questions, submit an email to [program@gsle.org](mailto:program@gsle.org) with the subject line of “*Amistad* Answers,” and the Microsoft Word document will be returned with the reply message.

## Black History Month Patch Order Form

Troop # \_\_\_\_\_ Service Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

Leader name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail or fax order form to:**

Girl Scouts Louisiana East  
 841 S. Clearview Parkway  
 New Orleans, LA  
 70121-3119  
 Fax: (504) 733-8219

Comments about this program: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of patches \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$1.50 ea. (includes tax) = \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & handling (needed if mailing) + \$1.00

**Total** = \_\_\_\_\_

