

# **Community Historical Archaeology Project in Schools (CHAPS)**

## **University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley**

The CHAPS program at UTRGV is dedicated to engaging young people in the study of local history and archaeology. We are also the curators of the Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail, which spans the length of six counties. Scouts who earn this fun patch will earn a new respect for the rich history of the Rio Grande Valley. There are two ways to complete the requirements for this patch. One is a self-directed excursion along the RGV Civil War Trail. Alternatively, troop leaders may schedule an appointment with a CHAPS representative who will bring along the CHAPS Traveling Trunk for scouts to explore.

**Self-Guided Excursion:** Leaders will travel with their troop to three different stops on the Rio Grande Civil War Trail. Girl Scouts will work as a group or independently to complete a graphic organizer for each of the three points of interest.

### **Points of Interest by County:**

#### **Starr County:**

- Old Rio Grande City Cemetery
- Ringgold Barracks – check out Revive Fort Ringgold on Facebook for information on trolley tours.
- Robert E. Lee House

#### **Cameron County:**

- Fort Brown (UTRGV – Brownsville Campus)
- Old City Cemetery and Museum
- Palmito Ranch
- Palo Alto Battlefield
- Point Isabel Museum and Lighthouse
- Stillman House and Museum

#### **Hidalgo County:**

- City of Hidalgo – Pump house
- La Sal del Rey (for Juniors, Cadettes and Seniors)
- Museum of South Texas History (paying special attention to the Civil War exhibits)

**Other points of interest are listed on the Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail map, however some do not have markers or displays that would be instructive to Girl Scouts. Each map contains a QR code through which scouts can listen to instructional podcasts about each location.**

**Materials needed:**

- Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail maps - at your local Girl Scout office
- Graphic organizers – see below
- Pencils and crayons/colored pencils

**Daisies:** Troop leader may complete one graphic organizer with the troop. A total of three should be completed.

**Brownies:** Brownies may work in small groups to complete each graphic organizer.

**Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors:** These scouts should work independently to complete the requirements.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Visiting Historic Places – Graphic Organizer – Handout

Use this handout to take notes and draw a picture of something you see at a historic place.

**What is the name of this place?**

**What did you learn about this place?**

**What do you see?**

**Draw a picture of something you see here:**

**List three details about this place:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### **Exploring the Civil War Traveling Trunk:**

Troop leaders may schedule an appointment with a CHAPS representative who will bring along the CHAPS Traveling Trunk for scouts to explore. The trunk contains uniforms, both Union and Confederate, as well as nurse's uniforms, flags, currency, medals, canteens and more! After the presentation, the CHAPS representative will give each scout a small take-home project that the scout can present at their next meeting. Daisies and Brownies will be given a genealogy/oral history activity. Juniors, Cadettes and Seniors will be given a camp life cooking activity to try.

**To schedule a Traveling Trunk demonstration, please contact the CHAPS Program Manager:**

**Roseann Bacha-Garza**

**CHAPS Program Manager**

**Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools**

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