



# Do-It-Yourself Badge Worksheet

## Junior Girl Scouts "Local Lore" Badge

Every town has a story. Every town had people and events that helped make it what it is today. How much do you really know about where you live? Find out more about Grand Rapids with these badge activities.

You will be able to complete or gather information that will allow you to complete requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7 for this badge.

### **Word of Mouth:**

*Find out about a story, legend, monument, or landmark.*

Landmarks are sometimes buildings that are gone. Grand Rapids City Hall, built in 1889 and torn down in 1969, is one. *C is for City Hall* tells the story of the rise and fall of this building.

### **It's All on the Maps:**

*How has your community changed? Locate a map of your town that is at least 25 years old. Compare that map with one from today. What has changed? What has remained the same? Are all the changes for the better? Which ones would you like to undo? Why?*

The answer to many of these questions can be found by looking at maps of Grand Rapids from different time periods. Look for maps in the *Streets of Old Grand Rapids* Train Station and in the overlook at the top of the stairs to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Check the information rack at the entrance to the Museum for a current map in the Grand Rapids Visitors Guide.

### **From Above:**

*Look at aerial photos of your community made over a period of time. What story do these photos tell about changes in your community?*

*C is for City Hall* has two aerial views of downtown Grand Rapids, 1952 and 1977. What are the differences? A similar view can be seen from the windows of the Museum Café and the window at the top of the south stairs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor next to *P is for Pewter*. What changes do you see?

### **Tour Your Community:**

Start at *C is for City Hall* and play with the magnetic wall while you learn different architectural styles. Take a walk in *Streets of Old Grand Rapids*. Find three different examples of architecture. Look at the shops. Study the mural of downtown across from the Print Shop and the neighborhood mural across from Voigt Herposheimers. When and why were the buildings built? What types of

materials were used? Try sketching, photographing, or writing down information about the buildings.

Look out the windows of the Museum to the east side of the river. The newest buildings are mainly glass and steel. Many older buildings along the river and downtown are brick. Look over the drawings of furniture factories on the large map in *Furniture City*. Examine the cut-away model of the furniture factory.

***Sing Someone's Praises:***

*Create a story, song or poem about the efforts of one person who has had a major impact on your city or town.* Learn about Roger B. Chaffee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor by the Planetarium. He was an astronaut who grew up in Grand Rapids. *V is for Veteran's* contains stories about local men and women who served in the armed forces. *Anishinabek* and *Newcomers* tell stories of people from long ago and today who have made a difference in West Michigan.

***Take a Trip:***

*What new things did you learn about local history during your visit to the Grand Rapids Public Museum?*