



# October

## Monthly Patch Program Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

### Ida B. Wells

*“There must always be a remedy for wrong and injustice if we only know how to find it.”*

Ida B. Wells was a prominent journalist, educator, activist, researcher, and early leader in the civil rights movement. She was born into slavery in 1862 and led an anti-lynching crusade in the U.S. in the 1890s.



**Complete 3-Daisy, 4-Brownie, 5-Junior, 6-Cadette, and 7-Senior/Ambassador steps to earn your patch.**

All monthly patches are custom designed patches. Once we get the final number of patches after the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, we place an order. Patches take about a month to create and then we mail them to you.

*Order patch on-line by November 15<sup>th</sup> at [www.getyourgirlpower.org](http://www.getyourgirlpower.org)*



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### Discover

1. Who was Ida B. Wells? Find out more about her life and accomplishments. Research online or check out books from the library.
2. She was born into slavery in 1862. Although the Emancipation Proclamation intended to free enslaved people in 1863, not all were free. Discover which states allowed people to no longer be enslaved and which states did the Emancipation Proclamation not apply? What are your thoughts?
3. Ida grew up in Holly Springs, Mississippi and was the oldest of eight children. Her parents ensured their children were educated. Ida worked as an educator after her parents and infant brother died from Yellow Fever. She moved her siblings to Memphis, Tennessee and continued to work as an educator. Was it common for African-American women to be teachers in the 1880s? What were common occupations for women at this time? Compare and contrast the jobs women had in the 1880s to the jobs women have today. Do women today have more opportunity now than they did back then?
4. When Ida was 20, she challenged a railroad company for kicking her out of first class. She was ordered to move to a different car because of her race. In 1884 she sued the company claiming it violated the 1875 Civil Rights Act. She won in court, but the case was reversed on appeal. This setback started her journalism career, where she primarily documented obstacles she and other African Americans faced. Research some of Ida's articles and discover topics she covered. What challenges did she write about? What did she uncover?

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### Connect

5. Discover Yellow Fever, the disease that claimed the lives of Ida's mother, father, and infant brother. There were several American epidemics of yellow fever between 1793 and 1905. What are symptoms of the illness? How is the virus spread? Where were hotspots for the virus? Can it be passed through direct contact between people? When was a vaccine for Yellow Fever developed? What illnesses are similar to Yellow Fever, if any?
6. Ida wrote a detailed book in 1895 called *The Red Record*. She exposed the practice of lynching as a tactic designed to maintain white supremacy and limit African American opportunities for economic, social, and political power. In 1889, she became a co-owner of the newspaper *The Free Speech and Headlight*, where she primarily spoke out against racial injustice. With your troop, research different journalists and activists from this same time period. What were they writing about? Were they primarily men or women? Discuss inequity in today's world. What current issues are journalists writing about?
7. She was also involved in women's rights, specifically African American women, and co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909. Discover what the NAACP is and the accomplishments the group has made.
8. Ida B. Wells ran for Illinois state senator in 1930, though she did not win. Pretend it is 1930. With your troop, or a group of friends from your troop, consider a campaign during this time for senator. What issues would you like to raise awareness to? What problems would you hope to solve? How would you run your campaign? How would you get citizens to vote for you?

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### Take Action

9. The Alpha Suffrage Club was founded in part by Ida B. Wells, as she understood how race was tied to gender. Work done by Ida and the Alpha Suffrage Club played a significant role in the victory of woman suffrage in Illinois in 1913. The Illinois Equal Suffrage Act was passed that same year. With your troop, discover what the Illinois Equal Suffrage Act is. Pretend the Act has not been passed. How would you fight for women's right to vote for President of the United States? Create posters as if you were attending a rally.
  
10. Ida B. Wells wrote about injustices and topics passionate to her. Are there any issues in today's world or your world you are passionate about? (i.e. climate, racial inequity, a rule in school). Write a letter to the governor, president, principal, or someone with authority addressing the problem. Why are you passionate about the issue? How will you address the issue? Do others agree with you? Read the letter to your troop. If you want to take that extra step, send the letter to the person it is addressed.