

Sally Ride

“Science is fun. Science is curiosity. We all have natural curiosity. Science is a process of investigating. It's posing questions and coming up with a method. It's delving in.”

Sally Ride is best known for being the first American woman in space. Sally inspired young girls to explore STEM. Learn more about Sally Ride in this monthly patch!

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 15th of each month, we place an order. Patches take about a month to create and then we mail them to you. You will get a confirmation email once the patches are headed your way.

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Discover

1. NASA began looking for women astronauts in 1977. Sally saw an ad in the paper and applied for the job. She was one of only six women picked! Do some research about the Space Race, what was going on in space during this time period? Discuss with your troop what you find out!
2. Sally attended Stanford University in California. There she received a Bachelor of Science degree in physics. Furthering her studies at Stanford, she obtained a Master of Science degree in 1975 and a

doctorate in physics in 1978. What is the study of physics? Do some basic research about physics. How do you think this knowledge helped Sally become the first American woman in space?

3. Sally Ride was recognized time and again for her numerous contributions to the space program and her passion for space and science. She became part of the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2003. Did you know there was an Astronaut Hall of Fame? Who else is a part of the Astronaut Hall of Fame?
4. Sally was not only was the first American woman in space, she was also the youngest woman to go to space at the age of 32 and the only woman to go to space twice! With all these firsts how do you think Sally Ride felt? How would you feel to be the first woman to do something so monumental such as going into space? Discuss with your troop how Sally might have felt and how you would feel in a similar situation! What qualities and personality traits do you think Sally had to have to be successful on this mission of firsts?

Connect

5. When asked about her legacy Sally says “**I would like to be remembered** as someone who was not afraid to do what she wanted to do, and as someone who took risks along the way in order to achieve her goals. I want you to think about your legacy. What kind of person do you want to be remembered as? How do you want to change/make an impact on the world?
6. In late 2017, the U.S. Postal Service announced that Ride's image would appear on a stamp in 2018. The design portrays a painted portrait of Ride as she appeared around the time of her first spaceflight in 1983. Behind her is a space shuttle heading into space. Design your own Sally

Ride stamp. What would you put on it to honor her and to show what she achieved throughout her life?

7. After her time working for NASA; Sally wrote five space related **children's books**. **Write a short children's book about a subject you care about**. What would you want someone to know about your favorite subject in school or your favorite hobby? It can be a fiction or non-fiction short story, but make it about a topic you care about!
8. Sally was originally very interested in tennis. She began playing at age 10 and got a scholarship to attend Westlake School for Girls in Los Angeles. While in her teens, Ride was ranked in the top 20 nationally on the junior tennis circuit. During her sophomore year of college, she left Swarthmore University to pursue a career in tennis. Later she decided that college was a better option and enrolled at Stanford University to study physics. This is a wonderful example of the power to change your mind. **You can have multiple passions and that's totally okay. It's also okay to make a decision and then decide later that maybe you would like to do something different.** Can you think of a situation in your own **life that is similar to Sally's? Do you have multiple** things you are interested in and you had to pick between them? Discuss this with your troop.

Take Action

9. In 2001, Sally started her own company to create educational programs and products known as Sally Ride Science to help inspire girls and young women to pursue their interests in science and math. Develop an action plan to promote STEM to girls in your school, community, clubs, or extracurricular groups. Come up with STEM activities to do at your extracurricular activities, possibly talk to your teacher about adding an experiment/activity to your science unit. Could you start an

after school STEM club? Get creative! Anything you can do to help promote STEM to fellow girls is awesome!

10. Sally says she was fortunate to not have role models steer her away from her interest in STEM. She was never made to feel like her love of science was only normal for boys. Can you think of other stereotypes that girls deal with? How can we bust down the walls of those stereotypes? What can your troop do to change the way stereotypes impact us every day?

11. At the time of her success, **Sally didn't know she would be such** a big role model to so many young girls; she just knew she wanted to be an astronaut. Think about what it means to be a role model and leader. How do you embody what it means to be a role model for younger girls in your school or younger family members and friends? Define what it means to be a leader. Are there certain things that all leaders do? Take action to come up with a plan to become a better role model/leader. Is there an opportunity for you to step up as a leader in some aspect of your life?