



Celebrating Black History Month-Josephine Holloway SWAPS

Materials:

For campfire SWAP:

- yellow, red, and orange pipe cleaners or foam
- wooden sticks (either real or Popsicle sticks)
- safety pins
- glue (hot glue gun if possible)
- scissors
- markers

(**Optional** if you want to add marshmallow and stick to the campfire): brown pipe cleaner, white beads)

Activity:

1. Welcome the girls and recite the GS promise.
2. Introduction:
 - a. During the month of February, does anyone know what we celebrate?
 - b. February is Black History Month. This month we celebrate and learn about the achievements and history of Black Americans. Why is this important?
3. Today we are going to talk about an important African American Girl Scout who led the way for African American girls to be welcomed into Girl Scouts during a time of segregation. Her name was Josephine Holloway (share pictures with the girls)
 - a. Does anyone know what segregation means? Have you ever gone to a theme park and been told you couldn't ride something because you weren't tall enough? If so, you might have been disappointed or mad, but you still understood that these rules are there to keep you safe. But what if you were told you couldn't ride because of the color of your skin? For many years in America, segregation, the enforced and legal separation of racial groups, was a part of life. African Americans were treated very differently from white Americans and are treated differently even still today.
4. Who is Josephine Holloway and what was her impact on Girl Scouts (optional-share more pictures with girls):
 - a. Meet Josephine Holloway, a champion of diversity within the Girl Scout Movement and one of the first African American Girl Scout troop leaders.
 - b. A woman known as a "Hidden Heroine" for her significant but unrecognized contributions to Girl Scouting and civil rights, Holloway founded Middle Tennessee's first Girl Scout troop for African American girls in the 1920s and persevered for decades in her fight for a more inclusive future for young women across the state.
 - c. Josephine developed her passion for serving girls early on when she held a position at Nashville's Bethlehem Center, a shelter for at-risk women and children. No stranger to the work Girl Scouts did in the community, Josephine dreamed of bringing that kind of programming to girls at the center, and in 1924, she had the opportunity to do just that. By the end of the year, more than 300 girls there were engaged in Girl Scout-inspired activities.

- i. Charged with developing programs for Black girls and women, she attended a Girl Scout leader training with Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts, in January 1924. She then established the first African American Girl Scout troops in middle Tennessee. While these were troops in their structure and activities, they were not recognized by their local council due to local segregation.
- d. Nearly 10 years later, in 1933, Josephine made her first attempt to form an official troop for African American girls, but the Nashville Girl Scout Council denied her request. Of course, giving up is hardly the Girl Scout way, so Josephine pressed on, and in 1942, after much perseverance, the region's first African American Girl Scout troop was established.
- e. With decades of experience serving girls under her belt, Josephine had become a well-respected member of the community and an expert on girls' issues. She was eventually hired by Girl Scouts as a field advisor for Black troops, and she remained in that position until her retirement in 1963. She reportedly supervised over 2,000 African American girls and adults.
- f. Today, girls of all races, religions, and backgrounds gather at Camp Holloway, a historic camp established in her honor, to discover fun and friendship, and the power of girls working, learning, and exploring their world together.
 - i. Camp Holloway was a formative place for many young African American girls in the early days of desegregation. Founded by Josephine Groves Holloway in 1952, the simple plot of Holloway family farmland in Millersville, Tenn., just 20 miles north of Nashville gave African American children a rare opportunity to camp.

(optional: show video about Holloway: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQvuz_haF1o)

5. So today we are going to celebrate the inclusion and diversity that she paved for Girl Scouts and connect with our larger Girl Scout community by making SWAPS. SWAPS stands for "Special Watchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere." SWAPS are a huge tradition in Girl Scouts. They are small tokens of friendship that we trade with other Girl Scouts. If we partner with another group of Girl Scouts, we can trade with them our SWAPS and they can send us SWAPS they made.
6. We will be making a camp-themed SWAP to honor Camp Holloway and continue her vision for Girl Scouts to come!
7. Making the SWAPS (making the S'mores campfire SWAP):
 - a. Each girl will need three pipe cleaners or foam pieces (1 orange, 1 yellow, 1 orange)
 - i. girls will glue these pieces together
 - b. Next, girls should have two small Popsicle sticks or real sticks (if they are too long, you might have to cut them in half)
 - i. Have girls color the Popsicle sticks brown to make them look more like sticks if you decide to not use real sticks
 - c. Optional: Take two brown pipe cleaners and two white beads
 - i. Have girls put the white beads on the top of the pipe cleaner
 - ii. Hot glue gun the pipe cleaner to the rest of the swap
 - d. Last step is to glue on the pin to the back of the SWAP and add the tag (see below for the tags)
8. Close out the meeting

Additional Resources:



Swaps:



Campfire Girl Scout SWAP



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/748582769293160603/>

<http://akelascouncil.blogspot.com/2015/10/campfire-neckerchief-slides-for-cub.html>

Sources:

<https://blog.girlscouts.org/2015/02/honoring-josephine-holloway-during.html>

<https://www.tennessean.com/story/life/2019/07/23/nashville-princes-hot-chicken-influenced-by-girl-scout-troop-founder-marker-honors/1779238001/>

