

Québec, c'est la fête!

Québec is known around the world for *joie de vivre*

– and we celebrate our love of life regularly!



For all branches

Look into some of the many festivals that take place all year round in the province.

- The Québec Winter Carnaval celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2014!
- Montréal plays host to Just for Laughs, the Festival de Jazz, museum day and dozens of film, cuisine and cultural festivals year round.

Festivals can be about music, dance, traditions, or local products when they come into season: ice fishing for les petits poissons des cheneaux (tommycod) in Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, blueberries in Lac St-Jean, and of course “le temps des sucres”(sugaring off) in sugar shacks all over the province. St-Jean has hot air balloons, Brome Lake has its fair, and St-Tite has a big Western Festival, right down to a rodeo and cowboy hats.

To complete the requirements for the badge:

DO a combination of suggested activities related to 1, 2 or more different Québec festivals, with actions that are age appropriate.

Sparks	2 suggestions	1 or more different festivals
Brownies	2 suggestions	2 or more different festivals
Guides	3 suggestions	1 or more different festivals
Pathfinder	3 suggestions	2 or more different festivals
Rangers	3 suggestions <i>+ a service element</i>	2 or more different festivals

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES *(or others that address the program goals)*

- **INFORM:** Let yourselves be inspired by a Québec festival, or more than one, in planning a series of meeting activities, a day event, or a camp or outing. Learn about the history or the origin of the festival(s) you choose and share with your unit.
- **SKILLS:** Many festivals highlight a particular skill, cuisine, craft, or tradition. Learn more about these by making a salute of your own to these features of that festival. Try a craft, or learn a dance or rhythm activity, or hold a theme or pot luck dinner exploring the local specialties seen there. Many traditional skills, ones that aren't around as much today, are celebrated. Wood carver, fiddler, handcrafter, lumberjack – important and valued skills in their day! Give one of these a try.



- **OUT OF THE ORDINARY!** Some local festivals are quite unique and a little unexpected – share these little known secrets with your unit – maybe contact the festival organisers for more information – or make a poster or banner to wish people well at their event!
- **HELP OUT:** Does your community hold a festival? Take on a role with your unit to assist your community or other volunteers with this event. Can you offer your support to promote the event or to manage an activity during the festival?
- **ROAD TRIP!** Travel to a festival event with your unit. The travel can be real or virtual – or even imaginary! This might be a nearby event, or something that involves longer travel, perhaps even a weekend away. Look at event information online or in brochures.
- **VIVE LE FESTIVAL!** Attending a festival? Be part of the action while you are there, explore and get a taste of the event. Take part in activities.
- **BUILD YOUR OWN:** Travel doesn't fit your timing or budget? Make your own festival in your own community. Consider what you will celebrate, whether it will be a salute to an existing festival, or one that celebrates your own town's history or tradition. Will you hold it in a location where you invite the public? Perhaps your unit can offer to add a dimension to a local event of another kind. Maybe you can even create a Girl Guide celebration at a festival and invite units nearby to take part.

Examples of activities that meet the challenge:

Sparks could hold a winter festival day of outdoor winter sports, snowshoeing, followed by traditional tastings of sugar on snow.

Brownies could choose a festival from a list that is brainstormed with assistance (tourism Québec website can help) and each girl can learn something about that festival to share over one or two or even several meetings. Girls can collect their favourite ideas from all the festivals shared and make a typical craft, learn a dance or make a poster celebrating the many kinds of celebrations they heard about.

Guides could look into the needs and plans of a local community festival. They can contact the organizers and see if they can be of service for the event: collecting tickets, distributing flyers, helping in activities for young children. They can make up posters about Girl Guides or a display of pamphlets and let the public know how great Girl Guides is!

Pathfinders and Rangers may travel to a festival: visit Québec for Carnaval! Research the activities offered, plan your visit, take part in the action of the fête. Sample typical foods. Learn about a tradition like the making of the ceinture flechée and give it a try in your own style. Experience the music, maybe try to play the spoons. Plan one of your meals to celebrate a different festival while you are away! Rangers may share their experience with younger girls.

See **Appendix** for more ideas