

Patch Program

Explore Fredericksburg

In 1848, German immigrants founded the town of Fredericksburg which was named after Prince Frederick of Prussia. Its small-town charm, historic sites, and natural beauty deliver lots of options for earning your Explore Fredericksburg patch. Attractions and natural areas outside of Fredericksburg including Stonewall are also part of this patch curriculum.

Email the [GSCTX Girl Experience](#) team if you find any hidden gems that should be on the list.

Patches are available for purchase in the [GSCTX Retail Shop](#). Visit during store hours to see the latest merchandise offerings.

Grade level requirements:

- **Daisies to Ambassadors (grades K-12).** Explore a minimum of four places on this list.

Discover

Please check each location prior to your visit for up-to-date information. Use the [Explore Fredericksburg Patch Map](#) to help plan your outings. Note that peach picking and Gillespie County Country Schools sites are not marked on the map.

*Locations with a star require an admission fee.



Scan for map of
Explore Fredericksburg
patch locations

Introduction

- [Visitor Information Center](#), 302 East Austin Street, Fredericksburg (830) 997-6523.

At this location, you can pick up a free visitor guide, maps and brochures of area attractions including a [kids activity book](#).

History

- Stroll back in time with a [walking tour](#) along Main Street which is a National Historic District.
- *[Pioneer Museum](#), 325 West Main St, Fredericksburg (830) 990-8441
Learn about local culture and traditions at the Pioneer Museum. Allot about one hour for a self-guided tour through a one-room schoolhouse, log cabin, Sunday house, bath house, barn, and smokehouse that tell the story of Fredericksburg's pioneer era. Groups of 15 or more people can arrange for a 90-minute group tour at least three weeks in advance.
- [Marktplatz](#), 100 West Main Street, Fredericksburg (830) 997-7521
Relax at this five-acre park in the center of town with gardens, a large playground, and picnic tables. Be sure to visit the replica of the historic [Vereins Kirche](#) (Society's Church) which was the first church and school in town. From mid-November to January 1, try ice skating on the *[Eisbahn](#) in Kinder Halle Pavilion.
- [Fort Martin Scott Historic Site](#), 1606 East Main Street, Fredericksburg (830) 990-2018
Explore the first military outpost built in frontier Texas which was operated by the U.S. Army from 1848 to 1853 and briefly by the Confederate States Army during the Civil War. Activities include visiting garrison buildings and a late-1800's farm shed as well as hiking a one-mile loop trail from the north side of the historic site and along Baron's Creek.
- [Texas Rangers Heritage Center](#), 1618 Main Street, Fredericksburg (830) 997-2698
Stop by the Rangers Tower, take a picture next to the bronze 1850's Ranger on horseback sculpture, and pay your respects at the Ranger Ring of Honor memorial. *At one of the many special events held throughout the year, be inspired to become a better citizen by learning about the character traits – courage, determination, dedication, respect, and integrity – that define Texas Rangers.

- [*National Museum of the Pacific War](#), 311 East Austin Street, Fredericksburg (830) 997-8600

Learn in-depth about the Pacific War during World War II by visiting the George H. W. Bush Gallery of the Pacific War, the Plaza of the Presidents honoring U.S. presidents who served in World War II, the Japanese Garden of Peace, the Veterans Walk in the Memorial Courtyard, a gallery dedicated to Fredericksburg native Admiral Chester W. Nimitz (340 Main Street), and the Pacific Combat Zone (508 East Austin Street). Visits typically take 2-6 hours with the average visit lasting 3 hours.

Parks and Nature

- [Fredericksburg Nature Center](#) on Lady Bird Drive in Lady Bird Johnson Park, Fredericksburg (830) 997-4202

Immerse yourself in the outdoors while taking an easy hike along trails through many distinct habitats and get inspired by the pollinator garden. What wildflowers, plants, insects, and animals can you identify along the way? (Tip: Try out the iNaturalist app.) Bonus Activity: Earn your level's Outdoor Art badge while visiting the nature center.

- [Cross Mountain Park](#), North Milam St, Fredericksburg

This hill on the outskirts of downtown was a Native American lookout before German settlers arrived in the area and is topped by a lighted cross erected in 1946. Take the moderately steep but short climb to the top (elevation 1951 feet) to an overlook with a 360-degree view of the surrounding area.

- [Wildseed Farms](#), 100 Legacy Drive, (830) 990-1393, Fredericksburg

Wildseed Farms is the national's largest working wildflower farm. From March through October, walk along the half mile of wheelchair accessible trails surrounded by pollinator-loving, wildflower production fields and vineyards. Be sure to check the [bloom update!](#) Then look around the gift shop for wildflower seeds or the plant nursery to get inspiration for native and adaptive plants and succulents that you can plant at home.

- [Old Tunnel State Park](#), 10619 Old San Antonio Rd., Fredericksburg (866) 978-2287

Between May and October, observe about 3 million bats emerge from the tunnel. *Buy bat viewing tickets which are required to stay in the park after dark either [online](#) or calling (512) 389-8900. Year round, you can hike, look for wildlife, and bird-watch at no cost. Be sure to bring your own drinking water as none is available at the park. Bonus activity: Earn the GSCTX [Bat Patch](#) while you're there.

- *[Enchanted Rock State Natural Area](#), 16710 Ranch Road 965, Fredericksburg (830) 685-3636
Hike one of the [many trails](#) around Enchanted Rock, a pink granite dome rising 425 feet above the Texas Hill Country. While you're there, borrow an explorer pack and become a [Junior Ranger](#), give geocaching a try, or enjoy [stargazing](#) at this designated International Dark Sky Park. To purchase a day pass up to thirty days in advance or reserve a campsite, use the [online reservation system](#) or call 512-389-8900.

Animals

- *[Longneck Manor](#), 1749 Beyer Road, Fredericksburg (830) 362-8752
Get to know giraffes and rhinos up close as you feed them their favorite treats, learn about animal conservation efforts, and take a short tour of their facilities. Tickets cost \$50 for children ages 2-13 years old and \$95 for ages 14 and up. (Prices subject to change.) You must [book ahead](#).
- *[The Preserve](#), 650 Doublehorn Road, Fredericksburg (830) 992-0373
During the Elephant Experience, learn about Asian elephant care and conservation then give an elephant a bath while learning about grooming and foot care. On the Animal Expedition, interact with kangaroos, wallabies, Australian birds, and African giraffes while learning about what's involved in caring for the animals and what can be done to protect their species. Tickets are \$125 for the Elephant Experience and \$95 for the Animal Expedition. (Prices subject to change.) You must book ahead.

Other activities

- Glassblowing at [Enchanted Fredericksburg Ranch](#), 7991 Ranch Road 965, Fredericksburg (830) 321-7991
Discover how hot, molten glass is turned into a piece of art. Watch free glassblowing demonstrations on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (hours and dates subject to change).
- *Pick peaches – The Fredericksburg area is famous for its peaches. If you're working on this patch from mid-May to mid-August, be sure to [stop by an orchard](#). You may even be able to pick your own peaches.

Outside of Fredericksburg

- [Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site](#), 199 Park Road 52, Stonewall, TX 78761, (830) 644-2252
 - [Sauer-Beckmann Farm](#), 501 State Park Road 52, Stonewall (830) 644-2252
Find out how people care for animals, raise crops, and cook meals at this World War I-era farm. Take a self-guided tour and speak with rangers in period clothing.
 - Take the [Nature Trail](#) or drive to the east end of the park to see part of the Texas State Bison Herd. DO NOT enter their pasture. You may also catch a glimpse of part of the Texas Longhorn Herd. See how many kinds of birds you can spot from the bird blind.
 - The self-guided [LBJ Ranch tour](#) starts at the Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site visitor center and is part of the [Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park](#). Visit the one-room Junction School where LBJ learned to read, a reconstruction of LBJ's birthplace, the Johnson Family Cemetery, his grandparents' farmhouse, the [Texas White House](#), and the show-barn.
- [Gillespie County Country Schools Trail](#)
Visit a few of the historic, one-room schoolhouses around Gillespie County. [Make an appointment](#) if you want to tour a school's interior.

Lodging

- [*Fredericksburg Girl Scout House](#), 202 West Austin Street, Fredericksburg (800) 733-0011
Visiting from out of town? This is a great place in the heart of downtown to stay for a weekend troop trip! Make your reservation [online](#).
- [*Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park Campground](#), 432 Lady Bird Drive, Fredericksburg
This campground next to Lady Bird Municipal Park and along Live Oak Creek has primitive tent camping sites and reservable RV sites.

Take Action

As a Girl Scout, you can make the world a better place!

Share your story by completing this [online form](#).