Yup'ik/Cup'ik Culture Badge

Level: Junior
Requirements: Complete 6 of the following activities

1. **Map it!** Find the Yup'ik regions and two Cup'ik villages of Chevak and Mekoryuk on a map of Alaska. Label the main rivers and as many villages in this area as you can find. Sprinkle your map with sketches of animals important to people in this area.

2. **Got the Beat?** An important part of Yup'ik and Cup'ik dances is the drumming. Watch a Yup'ik or Cup'ik dance performance (live or on video), paying special attention to the rhythm of the drumming. Traditionally, what occasions are cause for dancing and drumming?

3. **Making Connections** Invite a Yup'ik or Cup'ik elder to visit your troop or group. Prepare questions ahead of time to find out what life was like when she/he was young. How has today's lifestyle changed from traditional times? How has current technology been integrated into traditional practices? Learn a few new phrases in her/his language.

4. **Plants and Animals** What plants and animals are important to the survival of people in this area? What skills are essential to be a successful hunter/fisher/trapper, and what tools are required? How are different animals used for survival? Traditionally, Yup'ik and Cup'ik use seasonal camps for fishing, hunting, and gathering. Put together a seasonal illustration (four illustrations, one for each season) of typical subsistence activities.

5. **What's Up?** Review a current copy of *The Bristol Bay Times, The Delta Discovery,* or *The Tundra Drums* to see what people/events are making the news today, and discuss with your troop or group. Make a list of Alaska Native words you find in the newspaper.

6. **Pen Pals** With an adult’s help, write a letter to a girl in one of the villages in this area of Alaska. Find out what her typical day is like, and tell her about yours.

7. **AFN** The Alaska Federation of Natives was incorporated in 1970, and is still in existence today. What issues led to the formation of the organization, and how does this compare to the issues that the AFN is concerned with today? Who is the current president of the AFN?

(continued on next page)
8. **Native Legends / Story Time!** Learn more about Yup’ik/Cup’ik legends, myths, and folklore. Ask an elder or a tradition bearer to tell you some of the legends and stories, or read a story from Akuignert Ciulianta – Echoes From the Past, edited by Susan Henry or Yup’ik Lore: Oral Traditions of an Eskimo People – Yuut Qanemciit: Yupiit Cayaraita Qanrutkumallirt, edited by Edward A. Tennant and Joseph N. Bitar. Children’s books about life in this area of Alaska include: Dance on a Sealskin by Barbara Winslow; The Eye of the Needle and The Hungry Giant of the Tundra retold by Teri Sloat; How the Crane Got Its Blue Eyes: a Yup’ik Legend as told by Jean Cook, written by Elsie Jimmy (CD-ROM presents it in both Yup’ik Eskimo and English); Kitaq Goes Ice Fishing by Margaret Nicolai; and What Girls Should Do When Eskimo Dancing by Rosalie Lincoln. What have you learned from reading the story? Discuss with your troop or group.

9. **Native Games** Learn about Native youth games in the state of Alaska and World Eskimo-Indian Olympics (www.weio.org). How are these competitions an important part of skill development? Watch a competition (live or on video), and practice one event until you improve your performance.

“Waqaa” (Greetings) – Yup’ik & Cup’ik

**Additional Resources:**
- Bilingual poster of Yup’ik Values
- Cassette: “Yup’ik Stories Read Aloud/Yugchetun Qulirat Naaqumalriit Erinairissuutmun,” recorded in Yup’ik and Translated by Anna W. Jacobsen
- The Eye of the Needle, retold by Teri Sloat
- How the Crane Got Its Blue Eyes: a Yup’ik Legend, as told by Jean Cook, written by Elsie Jimmy (comes with a CD-ROM that presents it in both Yup’ik Eskimo and English)
- The Hungry Giant of the Tundra, retold by Teri Sloat
- I Am... by Loddie Ayaprun Jones (illustrations of Yup’ik Eskimo Masks)
- Kitaq Goes Ice Fishing, by Margaret Nicolai
- Lower Kuskokwim School District (www.lkswd.org)
- Photo layout of Toksook Bay Community’s dance festival
- Stories of the Seasons by Jane Sutherland Niebergall
- What Girls Should Do When Eskimo Dancing by Rosalie Lincoln
- Yup’ik/English calendar (outdated)

⇒ Available in the Yup’ik/Cup’ik Culture Kit in the Girl Scouts Susitna Council office

ENTION is expressed to the Alaska Native Heritage Center for recommendations in the development of this project and for permission to use the cultural symbols for badge and try-it designs.