The Mona Bismarck Foundation

Patch Requirements:

****Question #1 from Part 1 and Part 2 are required for all levels**

Girl Scout Brownies: Complete 4 questions
Girl Scout Juniors: Complete 6 questions
Girl Scout Cadettes and Seniors: Complete 8 questions
Girl Scout Ambassadors: Complete 10 questions

Part 1: The life of Mona Bismarck

1) The Countess Mona Bismarck was born Mona Travis Strader in 1899 in Louisville, Kentucky.

a. On what day was she born?
b. Look at a map of the USA and find the state of Kentucky. What are the bordering states?
c. List at least (5) facts or trivia about the state of Kentucky.

2) At the age of five years old Mona went to live with her paternal grandmother. There she was educated as a southern gentlewoman, learning to take care of a home, how to sew and do embroidery, and to be well-mannered. These qualities remained with her throughout her life.

a. What are some of the characteristics of someone considered to be a gentlewoman?
b. Choose a floral cross stitch pattern to embroider. See if you can find the Goldenrod (Kentucky State Flower) or an Orchid (one of Mona's favorites).

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3) Proper etiquette, which includes learning customs and rules for polite behavior, was a very important part of Mona's education.

a. List at least (5) basic manners to follow in everyday life or while at the dinner table.
b. Learn to write a proper thank you note. What things should be included?

4) In 1926, Mona married Harrison Williams and became known for her impeccable style and elegance. She was a muse of many fashion designers.

a. Inspirational Style

1. What is the definition of a muse?
2. What year was she voted the best dressed woman of the year?
3. Who were the great fashion designers she inspired?

OR

b. Balenciaga

Cristobal Balenciaga was one of Mona's favorite fashion designers.

1. What was his nationality?
2. Research the designs of Balenciaga from 1950-1970. His designs were known for their fluid lines, draping and waistlines that created special effects.
3. Draw an evening gown for Mona in the style of Balenciaga

5) Mona Bismarck had her portrait made by a number of artists. Quite a few can be seen at the Mona Bismarck Foundation in Paris. Two very important artists were the photographer Cecil Beaton and the painter Salvador Dali.

a. Sir Cecil Beaton

Cecil Beaton (1904-1980) was known as the most celebrated British portrait photographer of the 20th century, and was known for his images of elegance, glamour and style.

1. At what age did he acquire his first camera?
2. Research the portraiture of Cecil Beaton and list at least (3) other portraits that he has done.
3. He also became a successful stage and costume designer and won (2) Academy awards for Costume design; one in 1958 and the other in 1964. Which films were associated with these awards?
4. View the photos taken by Cecil Beaton at the Mona Bismarck Foundation.

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b. Dali

Salvador Dali (1904-1989)was a painter born in Spain. As a youth he attended the San Fernando Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid and has his first solo exhibition in 1925 at the age of 21 in Barcelona. His first exhibition is Paris was in 1929, soon after he joined the "surrealists" and was later known as the leader of the Surrealist movement.

1. View the portrait painted by Salvador Dali at the Mona Bismarck Foundation.
2. Define Surrealism.
3. Play the "Surrealist Game" (www.salvadordalimuseum.org/activities/activities.html)

OR

Make a collage from old magazines using one of the techniques listed below. Collage was a very important techniques used by the Surrealists. It was a way of taking completely unlike objects or images and putting them together in the same piece of art to surprise and even shock—the same way that dreams can do.

They liked to use three techniques:

1. **Juxtaposition** (putting two different things side by side that don't normally go together);
2. **Dislocation** (when objects are placed where they shouldn't be); and
3. **Transformation** (turning something familiar into something unusual).

Part 2: The Mona Bismarck Foundation

The Mona Bismarck Foundation was created during the 1980's by the late American philanthropist Countess Mona Bismarck to promote artistic, literary, scientific and educational activities, particularly those which further Franco-American friendship.

1) The Mona Bismarck Foundations Paris Cultural Center is located in the Countess' former townhouse overlooking the Eiffel Tower.

   a. How many non-profit Franco-American associations are housed at the Paris Cultural Center?
   b. Select one association (other than Girl Scouts) and research what they bring to the American community in Paris.

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2) What is a foundation?

3) Imagine that you were to create your own foundation.

a. What would the mission of your foundation be?
b. Who would benefit from your foundation?
c. Where would it be located and why?

4) Take a tour of the Mona Bismarck Foundation in Paris. (*Contact the MBF for a tour of the building* ***www.monabismarck.org***)

5) Visit the current art exhibit which is being presented, (entrance is free).

6) Participate in an event held at the Mona Bismarck Foundation. Connect to **www.parisgirlscouts.org** event calendar for information.

7) Earn service hours by volunteering at the the Mona Bismarck Foundation. Connect to **www.parisgirlscouts.org** event calendar for information.

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