

Mai Fest

Spangdahlem Girl Scouts Neighborhood Patch Program



Maifest (Mayfest/May Fest in English) is the traditional German celebration of the arrival of spring. Manifest is still celebrated throughout Germany, and is one of mankind's oldest traditions. The celebration of nature's bright reawakening after winter's cold darkness, this originally ancient pagan festival later took on Christian religious significance and is now a colorful, joyous part of German history and culture. The custom of the maibaum (maypole) is believed to have begun in the tenth century, when villagers would erect a pole in the local square and decorate it with sausages, cakes and multicolored ribbons, and later decorated more elaborately to show off the history and crafts of the town. Dancing around the maypole, medieval citizens believed, would bring good luck and wealth.

Daisy Girl Scouts - #1 plus 2 others

Brownie Girl Scouts - #1 plus 3 others

Junior Girl Scouts - #1 plus 4 others

Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors - #1 plus 5 others

1. Visit at least 1 Mai Fest celebration.
2. Learn about Mai Fest.
3. Learn about the history of the Maibaum (Maypole).
4. Write about what happens to the Maibaum (Maypole) at night.
5. Draw a picture of the Maibaum (Maypole).
6. Write about your Mai Fest experience.
7. Learn a Mai Fest song.
8. Follow a Mai Fest Tradition such as MaiBells or Maikäfer.