



# 70th Birthday Fun Facts

## How to Use Fun Facts

Choose from these ideas, or invent your own:

- Cut facts apart, put them in a container, and let Pioneer Clubs members take turns drawing one out and reading it aloud at each meeting this year.
- Have a goofily dressed "History Guy" or "History Diva" go from club to club announcing one fact per week. Or do this in an all-club time.

- Send several facts home with Parent Pages every time you use them.

## Create Your Own Fun Facts

Why not come up with another list of facts based on your own church's history with Pioneer Clubs?

In 1939, a 13-year-old girl named Harriet begged for someone to start a girls club. So a college freshman named Betty Whitaker started Girls Guild.

In 1940 you would have sung the Guild Song: "We daughters of the King, all glorious within, washed in the blood of Jesus, cleansed from every sin, serve now a living Savior by His Spirit led. Guild seeks to give the world God's Living Bread."

In 1940 the rank of "Royal Princess" was like a badge. To earn it, you would have had to memorize:

- all 14 verses of Psalm 19
- all 8 verses of Psalm 121
- all 12 verses of Isaiah 53

In 1940 your club handbook would have had only 9 pages.

Carol Erickson chose the key verse, Psalm 119:105, in 1941. She changed the club name to Pioneer Girls®.

In the 1940s, your Pioneer Clubs® colors would have been sky blue and tanager scarlet. (A tanager is a bird.) Your uniform would have been a jumper, blouse, and emblem.

In the 1943 Pioneer Girls® handbook, the "Courtesy Code of a Christian Girl" said: "We will listen to what our mother and father tell us to do; go to do what we are told; then we shall have time enough for our pleasures and fun as well as being of service to someone else."

In the 1940s through 1960s, your church's Pioneer Clubs® group would have been called a "fortalice." If your city had lots of fortalices, it would have been called a "fort," like in the Wild West.

In 1943, you would have been a Pilgrim if you were in grades 3-6, a Colonist if you were in grades 7-10 or an Explorer if you were in grades 11-12.

In 1943 businessman H.J. Taylor gave the Pioneer Girls® staff \$100 a month for six months to see if this new organization could really grow and become strong. And it did!

In the 1940s, not everyone worked on the same badges at the same time. When you were ready to work on a badge at home, you asked your Pioneer Clubs® leader for the badge packet that went with that badge. The badge packet contained materials and suggestions to help you.

In the 1940s, Lois Thiessen began the Pioneer Girls® Pal program. Each club member got a Pal, who was a woman from the church. Lois wanted each Pal to send a dollar to Pioneer Girls headquarters to raise money.

A 1945 badge said you were to bathe at least once a week.

In the 1940s, when you earned the rank of Pathfinder in the Colonist age division, the leader would light a red candle and carefully drip a few drops of wax on the back of your hand. Then the leader would press the Pathfinder pin into the wax to make an print. Next the pin would be pinned onto your uniform.

In 1948, Pioneer Girls® club members sent enough "shares" or offerings to headquarters to "adopt" a missionary. Louise Troup was going to Zululand, and the girls' money completely supported her. Eventually they were able to support seven missionaries.

In the 1950s when Joy Mackay became the director of Pioneer Girls®, all the Camp Cherith® camps were doing their own thing. Joy developed standards for the camps so that kids could go to camps that all met the same high standards.

In the 1950s and 1960s, your Pioneer Clubs® meeting would have begun when the leader called, "Catch up." Then the kids formed perfectly straight lines, standing at attention.

In the 1950s and 1960s, you could have read adventure novels featuring Pioneer Girls®. One was called "Pioneer Girls and the Mystery of the Missing Cocker" by Bernard and Marjorie Palmer. Another was called "Pioneer Girls and the Strange Adventures on Tomahawk Hill."

In the '50s and '60s, you would have sewed your badges to the sleeves of your blue uniform jacket.

On a Pioneer Clubs® campout in 1951, you could have made Marplemints:  
a toasted marshmallow  
between slices of apple and  
chocolate-covered mints.

For the Music badge in 1951, you would have learned how to direct singing by making hand motions for songs.

For the Natural Science achievement in the 1954 handbook, you would have kept a toad in an aquarium. You would have watched it shed and eat its skin.

In 1955, you could have earned a Sight-Seeing award, a Metalcraft award and a Model Building award.

A 1961 issue of the Pioneer Girls® kids magazine, *Trails*, showed off uniforms with blue jackets and skirts. It told kids to dress like a "space-age Pioneer Girl in uniform 'blues.'"

In the 1960s, when you attended 40 meetings in a row (no excuses allowed), you earned a gold attendance stripe to sew on your jacket sleeve. If you attended at least 36 out of 40, you earned a red attendance stripe.

In 1963, for the Nature Exploration award, you would have tried to smell at least three different animals and find out why they smelled that way.

In 1963, for the Marksman badge, you would have used an air rifle to shoot 10 targets, each with 5 shots, from a distance of 15 feet.

For the 25th anniversary in 1964, Pioneer Clubs® leaders towed a big covered wagon on a trailer behind their cars to visit Pioneer Clubs all over the country.

In 1970, Virginia Patterson became Pioneer Girls® president. She got right to work redoing the club books for kids and leaders. Now kids could have materials that used current and fun teaching methods and fit what kids are like at different ages.

For a Bible Exploration in 1974, your leader might have asked you ahead of time to help out by memorizing a poem called "Trees" or reporting on sheep to the other Pioneer Clubs® members.

In 1974, Pioneer Girls® built its very own headquarters building in Wheaton, Illinois. It had two stories, a kitchen, and lots of room for offices and a big warehouse.

In the 1970s, third and fourth grade girls were called Lavaliers.

In 1974, you could have made a pickle-burger by threading a sweet pickle onto a wire clothes hanger, wrapping raw ground beef around it, and roasting it over a campfire.

In 1977, first graders could join Pioneer Girls® for the first time. They were called Voyagers.

Pioneer Clubs got its first computer system in the 1979-1980 club year. It was so big it took up half a room.

In 1981, Pioneer Girls® became Pioneer Clubs® and boys joined the fun.

In the summer of 1981, Saguaro Camp Cherith® held the "First and Only Camp Cherith for Pioneer Boys in the World."

In the early '80s, third and fourth grade boys were called Sprinters. Their mascot was a cartoon cricket named Speedy who had gigantic track shoes on his feet.

In the early 1980s, your handbook would have contained seven Bible-in-Life Steps, or awards. You would have earned the Highest Honor Award if you completed all seven.

If you were a French Canadian in 1993, you could have attended les Clubs des Pionniers-Pionnieres® (cloob day pee-oh-nee-EH—pee-oh-nee-AIR).

Pioneer Clubs® staff members were able to email people outside the company headquarters starting in the early 1990s.

In 1995, the first college student received a scholarship from the Virginia C. Patterson Continuing Education Fund. Pioneer Clubs® started this program to honor President Virginia Patterson and help college students and Cherith® campers.

Skippy, the dog puppet for Skipper and Scooter Clubs, made its appearance in 1996.

Pioneer Clubs® launched its first website in the late 1990s.

The very first Kids for Kids hike was in 1998, and 60 churches participated. Kids could hike, bike, skate, or run to raise money to help more kids have Pioneer Clubs®.

In 1999, for the third and fourth grade Pathfinder My Land award, you would have drawn a picture of something your state or province is famous for. You would have found out if anyone famous had ever lived in your area.

Starting in 2003, small churches with not many kids could use the Pioneer Clubs® Discovery program, where all age-groups meet together.

If you have a large church with lots of kids, you can use the Pioneer Clubs® Exploring program. This combines large-group and small-group activities. It began in 2007.

Pioneer Clubs® started a Facebook page in 2008.

Churches have celebrated Pioneer Clubs Sunday since 1946. It's a day to spotlight club members and leaders and what God is doing in club. It's held on the second Sunday in February every year—unless the Superbowl will be the same day. Then it moves!

The longest running Pioneer Clubs® program is at a church in Michigan, which began in June 1944. In that year, World War II was being fought and bread cost 9 cents a pound.