Share the Aloha Spirit

A Nanea™ Event
This easy-to-use planner will help you host an engaging event based on Nanea Mitchell, our newest BeForever character. Girls will be entertained by the games and activities we’ve included for your store’s use. Start planning an event today.

Printable Activities Components

- Make-a-Difference Posters
- Aloha Postcard craft sheets
- Nanea Activity Booklets
- Hawaiian Flower Crown craft sheets

Getting Started

After reading through the planner, choose the mix of activities that suits your store and customers.

Place signage in your children’s section or near the cash register to promote the event. Post a sign-up sheet in your store and encourage girls to bring their dolls.

Advertise the event with announcements in your store’s newsletter; at local schools and libraries; to Girl Scout troops; and in your local newspaper. An example of promotional copy is provided below.

“Join us for an event inspired by American Girl’s newest BeForever™ character, Nanea Mitchell™. Nanea’s barefoot island life in Honolulu, Hawaii, would be perfect—if only her family didn’t treat her like a baby. She may be the youngest, but she still wants to “dip her paddle in” and be useful. Her generous heart embodies the spirit of aloha: the understanding that everyone is connected and that joy and pain are shared. At this upcoming event, girls will learn about Nanea’s story and her life in Hawaii in the 1940s!”

For each girl you expect to attend, make a copy of the reproducible activity sheets. Also, gather supplies, including pens and pencils, crayons, colored pencils, colored markers, safety scissors, adhesive dots, and tape or glue sticks. You should plan on setting up a large table for the craft activities.

Consider displaying Nanea’s books in or near the area where you’re hosting the event.
Activities & Games

Here’s a selection of activities you can use to promote Nanea’s book line. Host an event with a mix of activities that suits your customers’ interests and the space, time, and staff you have available.

Story Summary

Welcome the participants to the event. Introduce Nanea as American Girl’s newest BeForever character. Her stories are about “dipping your paddle in,” as they say in Hawaii—lending a hand in support of a common goal.

Talking prompt:
Nanea is growing up in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1941, and though she may be the youngest in her family, she still wants to “dip her paddle in” and be useful. She loves spending time with her best friends, practicing hula with her grandmother, Tutu (TOO-too), and playing with her dog, Mele (MEH-leh). Then, on Sunday, December 7, the unthinkable happens and Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, the naval base in Honolulu. The attack stuns the entire country and pushes the United States to officially join in the fighting of World War Two. Nanea faces many changes to her previously peaceful life on the island, and she worries for the safety of her family and friends. Still, wartime cannot sink her aloha spirit: the idea that everyone is connected to one another. Nanea learns that there is no trouble too big and no helper too small to make a difference. She knows that kokua (KOH-KOO-ah)—doing good deeds—isn’t just for wartime, but for all the time.

Icebreaker: Let’s Talk Story

Gather the girls in a circle. Use the talking prompt below to start the activity.

Talking prompt:
Much of Hawaii’s social and cultural history has been passed down from one generation to the next through stories. This oral history is shared by “talking story.” The term also refers to the more casual chatting between relatives, friends, and neighbors. To get started today, let’s go around and introduce ourselves to one another and share a little bit of our own stories. Share your name with the group, and then tell us about your favorite hobby and why you love it!

Craft: Aloha Postcards

Supplies:
• Aloha Postcard craft sheets
• coloring supplies, pens, and pencils
• tape or glue sticks
• safety scissors

Pre-event preparation:
Download and print enough of the reproducible craft sheets to give to all attendees. Set up a table with coloring supplies and tape or glue sticks.
Pass out the blank postcards and decoration sheets and use the talking prompt below to introduce the activity.

**Talking prompt:**
How many of you have ever sent a postcard in the mail to friends or family? *(wait for participant responses)* It’s a very fun way of sending a beautiful piece of mail and a little letter to someone, right? Well, imagine in Nanea’s time, during the 1940s, when they didn’t have texting, e-mail, or video chat. Snail mail was one of the only ways that Nanea could communicate with people far away. Nanea would write letters to her grandparents in Oregon, and when Nanea’s friend Donna moved to San Francisco, they kept in touch via letters. During the war, mail was reviewed, or *censored*, so that sensitive information wouldn’t accidentally fall into enemy hands. It took weeks for mail to be delivered.

Today we have lots of ways to communicate quickly and often with our friends and family, which makes receiving a real letter in the mail very special. Today, we’ll color and decorate these postcards so that you can send a note to someone special. Carefully cut out the colorful decorations and use coloring supplies to make your postcards beautiful, and if you have time, write a note to a friend.

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**Craft: Hawaiian Flower Crown**

**Supplies:**
- Hawaiian Flower Crown craft sheets
- safety scissors
- adhesive dots or tape
- pencils or pens

**Pre-event preparation:**
Download and print enough of the reproducible craft sheets to give to all attendees. Set up a table with scissors and adhesive dots or tape.

Pass out craft sheets and use the talking prompt below to introduce the activity.

**Talking prompt:**
For hula performances, Nanea wears different costumes that might include a beautiful flower in her hair, a lei around her neck, or a flower crown. Today, we’re making our own beautiful—or as they would say in Hawaii, *nani* (NAH-knee)—flower crowns.

1. Cut out and connect the three headband strips with tape to create one long headband.
2. Cut out the flowers and leaves that you’d like to use to decorate your crown.
3. Lay out the flower and leaf pieces on the long green headband strip. You can layer the flowers on top of one another!
4. To add some dimension to your crown, wrap the flower petals around a pencil or pen so that they curl up slightly.
5. Once you’ve designed your crown and curled the flower petals, use adhesive dots or tape to attach the flowers and leaves to the headband.
6. Carefully cut along the slit lines on both ends of the headband strip, and ask a friend to help you secure the crown to your head by sliding the slits together.
Game: Kumu Hula Says

Supplies:
- Nanea Activity Booklets
- staples or paperclips

Pre-event preparation:
Download and print enough of the reproducible activity booklets to give to all attendees. You can staple or paperclip the booklets together.

This game is a variation on “Simon Says,” and you can organize the game into two rounds to accommodate the whole group if necessary. Gather the girls in an open space so that they can stand up and move around. One group can play the game while the other group watches (you can pass out the activity booklets for the girls to do while they’re waiting), and then the groups can switch. Introduce the game with the prompt below.

Talking prompt:
Nanea loves taking hula lessons from her grandmother, Tutu, and practices hard to get her steps and choreography just right. Tutu is a kumu hula (KOO-moo HOO-lah), or a master teacher, and Nanea and her older sister have taken lessons from Tutu since they were small children. Nanea decides to teach a few dance moves to her dog, Mele, just for fun, but then she realizes that a dancing dog would lift the spirits of the soldiers. With Tutu’s encouragement, Nanea introduces Hula Dog, and their performance is a hit! Nanea and Mele bring a little bit of joy to the soldiers, and Nanea learns that even her pup can make a difference in the war effort.

Today, we’re going to play a fun game inspired by “Simon Says” called “Kumu Hula Says.” Remember that Nanea’s grandmother Tutu was a master teacher, or kumu hula? Just like in “Simon Says” the kumu hula, or leader, will call out a hula move and directions. If the leader gives directions without saying “kumu hula says” first and you do the move, you’ll be out. We’ll play multiple rounds, and the last girl standing wins!

To start, let’s go over the hula moves (demonstrate each move as you read the name and the description. You may want to go over the moves several times so the girls can remember them during the game):

- Huli (WHO-lee): turn around
- Hela (HEY-laa): point your right foot forward and sway your hips and body to the left, then point your left foot forward and sway your hips and body to the right
- Ami (AH-mee): rotate your hips counterclockwise without moving your shoulders
- Kaholo (ka-HO-lowh): take two steps to the left and then take two steps to the right
- Pau (POW): done, finished

Activity: Make-a-Difference Posters

Supplies:
- Make-a-Difference posters
- coloring supplies, pens, and pencils
There are lots of yummy foods featured in Nanea’s stories—some that are similar to foods found on the mainland during the 1940s, but many that are inspired by the tropical fare of the Hawaiian Islands.

One of Nanea’s favorite snacks is guava bread that her mom makes. Nanea loves sharing a warm, freshly baked loaf with her friends—and maybe a bite if she’s good!

Try out this recipe for guava bread, and share it with your friends and family!

Ingredients:

- ½ cup butter, softened
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ cup macadamia nuts, chopped
- ½ cup macadamia nuts, chopped
- • 1 (6 oz.) can frozen guava juice concentrate, thawed
- • ½ cup sour cream
- • ¼ tsp. cinnamon
- • ½ tsp. salt

Directions:

Aloha!

• Preheat oven to 350 degrees. • Grease a 9-inch loaf pan or 2 small loaf pans. • In a large mixing bowl, cream the butter, sugar, and vanilla extract
• In a separate bowl, combine the sour cream and juice.
• Alternate adding the dry ingredients and the juice mixture to the creamed mixture in the large bowl. Finally, stir in the nuts. • Pour the batter into the prepared pans and bake in the preheated oven for 1 hour, checking occasionally to ensure the loaf doesn’t overbake or burn.

Activity Booklets

Supplies:

- Nanea Activity Booklets
- staples or paperclips

Pre-event preparation:
Download and print enough of the reproducible activity booklets to give to all attendees. You can staple or paperclip the booklets together.

If there is still time after you’ve completed all of the activities, hand out the activity booklets to complete at the event. If the games and crafts take up the whole hour, send the booklets home with the girls.

Event Guidelines:

This event kit is recommended for girls ages 8 and up. Adult supervision of the activities is recommended. All the materials you use for crafts and games should be age graded as 8+.

Remember that materials may be reproduced only for use with an in-store American Girl event.

This event is designed to be free of charge. Please make every effort to accommodate all girls who are interested in this program.

Please remember to select child-appropriate craft supplies, such as safety scissors and nontoxic paints, glues, and markers.

Note: This planner includes activities related to Nanea’s stories, but girls do not need to have read the stories to enjoy and learn from the activities.
I MAKE A DIFFERENCE
AND “dip my paddle in” BY:

SUPPORT ___________________!

American Girl®

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Aloha!

This is an activity booklet filled with fun and inspired by Nanea and her stories. You’ve learned a lot about Nanea’s life in Hawaii today, and these activities will continue the fun for you when you leave today’s event. There are yummy recipes inspired by food Nanea eats, hairstyles to try out for your next hula performance or day at the beach, and a few fun puzzles.

Enjoy learning more about Nanea’s world!

There are lots of yummy foods featured in Nanea’s stories—some that are similar to foods found on the mainland during the 1940s, but many that are inspired by the tropical fare of the Hawaiian Islands.

One of Nanea’s favorite snacks is guava bread that her mom makes. Nanea loves sharing a warm, freshly baked loaf with her friends—and maybe a bite for Mele if she’s good!

Try out this recipe for guava bread, and share it with your friends and family! 🍊 Don’t forget to ask an adult for help, especially when using the oven.

**Ingredients:**

| • ½ cup butter, softened | • ½ tsp. salt |
| • ¼ cup sugar | • ¼ tsp. cinnamon |
| • 2 large eggs | • ½ cup sour cream |
| • 1 tsp. vanilla extract | • 1 (6 oz.) can frozen guava juice concentrate, thawed |
| • 2 cups flour | • ½ cup macadamia nuts, chopped |
| • 1 tsp. baking soda | |
| • 1 tsp. baking powder | |
| • Preheat oven to 350 degrees. | • Alternate adding the dry ingredients and the juice mixture to the creamed mixture in the large bowl. Finally, stir in the nuts, and make sure they are well distributed throughout. |

**Directions:**

1. Grease a 9-inch loaf pan or 2 small loaf pans.
2. In a large mixing bowl, cream the butter and sugar together, and then add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after adding each one. Stir in the vanilla.
3. In a medium mixing bowl, combine all the dry ingredients, and mix well.
4. In a separate bowl, combine the sour cream and juice.
5. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake in the preheated oven for 1 hour, checking occasionally to ensure the loaf doesn’t overbake or burn.

For an added treat, try this tasty tropical lemonade, the Sunshine Sipper, to go with your bread!

Pour 8 cups of plain lemonade and 1 cup of pineapple juice into a pitcher. Stir in 1½ cups of fresh pineapple chunks, ½ cup of mango chunks, and a few lime slices. (Ask an adult to help you with any slicing.)
Quiz: How Do You Dip Your Paddle In?

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Nanea was eager to find a way to help restore her island, family, and way of life. She looked for ways to “dip her paddle in” and eventually used her talent for hula to cheer up soldiers. She even taught her dog, Mele, how to do tricks and created an act for the two of them—it was a smash hit!

Maybe you're like Nanea and are trying to think of ways that you can help your community. As Nanea learned, there's no problem too big, and no helper too small, so take this quiz and see where your true helping talents lie!

1. I think it’s important that we all try to . . .
   a. save endangered animals.
   b. inspire others to dream big.
   c. help less fortunate people in times of need.
   d. make the world a greener place.

2. I get inspired when I hear a story about . . .
   a. a friend who visits her grandma in a nursing home every week.
   b. someone who worked really hard for her success.
   c. families who adopt another family over the holidays and donate gifts.
   d. a school that’s planting trees for Earth Day.

3. If I were to win $1 million, I would use some of the money to build . . .
   a. an animal hospital in my hometown.
   b. a school in Africa.
   c. a grocery store in a neighborhood that doesn’t have one.
   d. a public park in a city.

4. Sometimes I like to remind myself . . .
   a. to put others before myself.
   b. that nothing is impossible.
   c. that I’m lucky to have everything I do.
   d. to leave the world a better place than I found it.

5. I like to dream that one day, I’ll . . .
   a. foster dogs and cats until they find their forever homes.
   b. coach a sports team and help them win a championship.
   c. organize an art auction to raise money for a kids’ charity.
   d. invent a process that turns plastic bags into fabric for clothes.

6. I once had a birthday party . . .
   a. for my pet dog!
   b. where we wore costumes that showed what we wanted to be when we grow up.
   c. and asked for donations to a charity instead of presents.
   d. where we recycled trash into clever crafts.

7. I feel as if I’m helping most when I’m . . .
   a. spending time with someone face-to-face.
   b. attending a charity event.
   c. donating my time or resources to a great cause.
   d. able to see the difference I’ve made.

8. My friends tell me that I’m very . . .
   a. friendly and easy to get along with.
   b. confident and positive.
   c. gracious and appreciative for everything.
   d. responsible and aware of how my actions affect others.

9. I’m the kind of girl who . . .
   a. always wears a smile.
   b. tells my friend, “Great job!” when she gets an A on a test.
   c. will give my bracelet to a friend if she really likes it.
   d. picks up garbage when I see it on the sidewalk.
Learn Hawaiian!

The Hawaiian language is one of two official languages of the state of Hawaii, the other being English. There are only 13 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet. Use the words below to start practicing your Hawaiian.

Aloha (ah-LO-hah): Hello, good-bye, love, compassion
Ho’okipa (ho-oh-KEE-pah): Hospitality, to show hospitality
Mahalo (mah-HAH-loh): Thank you
Puka (POO-kah): Hole. Puka shells have holes in the center.
Nani (NAH-nee): Beautiful
Ono (OH-no): Delicious
Kokua (KOH-KOO-ah): A good deed
Mele Kalikimake (MEH-leh kah-lee-kee-MAH-kah): Merry Christmas
Makaukau (MAH-kow-KOW): Ready, prepared
Komo mai (KOH-mo my): Welcome!

You can find other Hawaiian words in Nanea’s books, and in this word search! Find the ten words above in this puzzle.

Quiz Answers:

If you picked mostly a’s, you’re an . . .
Animal-Shelter Volunteer
You love to help others—especially the furry critters. See what kind of food and supplies your local animal shelter needs, or ask your family if all of you can sign up to help walk pets on the weekends. Organizing a craft sale or bake sale could raise money for the local animal shelter, too!

If you picked mostly b’s, you’re a . . .
Marathon Volunteer
You’re super friendly and supportive. Passing out water on the sidelines of a race and cheering on the competitors is fun, and it makes you feel good, too. Marathon runners work hard and appreciate encouragement from helpers like you. Maybe you’ll get inspired to run a long-distance race yourself one day.

If you picked mostly c’s, you’re a . . .
Food-Pantry Volunteer
Food pantries always need help and supplies. Check online to see exactly what the pantry is looking for, or ask a parent if you can go in to help organize the incoming donations, discard expired food, or deliver supplies in your community. Every little bit can make a big difference for a lot of people!

If you picked mostly d’s, you’re a . . .
Nature Volunteer
You can help make the world a better place! Science museums, local nature preserves, and public parks all need volunteers. There are lots of ways to get your whole family involved, from helping keep green spaces clean to planting new flowers to grooming hiking trails. And you can help the environment by recycling, conserving electricity, and reusing items when possible.

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Perfect Luau Looks!

Though Nanea often wears her long hair down, with a big, beautiful flower tucked behind her ear, we have a few Nanea-inspired looks that you might try for your next luau or day at the beach.

Fishtail Braid

1. Divide hair into two sections, one in each hand.
2. Pick up a small piece of hair from the outside of the left section. Cross it over and add it to the inside of the right section.
3. Pick up a small piece of hair from the outside of the right section and cross it over to the inside of the left section.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you reach the end of the braid. Secure with an elastic band.

Swirly Bun

A bun is great for both hot days in the tropical sun and fancy events. Nanea may have worn her hair up in a bun like this for a hula performance or for a special party! Add a flower to really rock Nanea’s island style!

1. Gather your hair into a ponytail in the spot where you want your bun to be. Secure with an elastic band.
2. Twist the ponytail and wrap it around the elastic. You can make the bun tight or let it be looser.
3. Tuck the end of the ponytail under the bun, and insert a bobby pin to hold it in place.
4. Add more bobby pins around the edges of the bun.
Get Ready to Luau!

Luau is fun celebrated in Hawaii for different occasions, such as birthdays and weddings, that include yummy food, friendship, and dancing. Nanea and her sister performed a hula together at their brother’s birthday luau.

These pictures represent things you might see, hear, and eat at a luau. Can you fill in the crossword using the pictures as hints?
Missing Mele!

When Pearl Harbor was attacked, the noise frightened Mele, and she ran away from home. Nanea was terribly worried. Can you use the maze below to help Mele find her way home to Nanea?
Color in this Hawaii-inspired drawing!
A lei is a wreath or necklace made of flowers or leaves. It takes practice, patience, and a gentle hand to make a lei, and leis are often given as a sign of affection to visitors to Hawaii. Tradition says that if you offer your lei to the ocean instead of keeping it as a souvenir, you will surely return to the islands one day.
The Hawaiian Islands are an archipelago that stretches nearly 1,500 miles and consists of eight major islands. Formed by volcanic activity, the islands feature breathtaking landscapes and unique topography, such as the Diamond Head natural landmark on Oahu.
Aloha Postcard Craft

A dance and art form created by the people of Hawaii, hula involves hand motions and foot and hip movements set to chants and music. Hand movements can represent everything from a wave rolling onto the shore to an emotion such as love or happiness. Hula is often taught in groups, called a hula, by a kumu, a teacher.

Nanea
M Mitchell™

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