

CADETTE FINDING COMMON GROUND BADGE – MEETING 1

Badge Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll know strategies for bringing people together to find common ground.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin the meeting by reciting the Girl Scout Promise + Law. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster
20 minutes	Pleased to Meet You <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn differences and similarities between girls. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Venn diagram handout <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
30 minutes	Four Corners Debate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore debate topics by sharing opinions and trying to persuade others. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper or poster board <input type="checkbox"/> Markers <input type="checkbox"/> Sticky notes <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
10 minutes	Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the activities while having a healthy snack. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster

Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Activity #1: Pleased to Meet You

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 — Get to know someone different from you

Materials Needed: Venn diagram handout; writing utensils

Prep Needed:

- Print out copies of the Venn diagram handout (at the end of the activity plan).

- Everyone has their own thoughts, opinions, feelings, and beliefs. But it's still easy to assume that others think and feel the same way that we do, especially our closest friends. But what if you love bowling and your friend



hates it? What if your friend really likes a certain movie but you thought it was awful? Does this mean that you can't find common ground?

2. Pair up in teams of two to dig deeper into what you know about your friends, what you don't know about your friends, and where you share interests in common. Explore these interests (and disinterests) using the Venn diagram handout.
3. Working together on one handout per pair, each girl should write down a few things that they like or dislike on opposite sides of the Venn diagram circles. Notice the differences and the similarities. Where do you overlap? Use the middle space where the circles overlap on the handout to record things that you both agree on. You've found common ground!
4. Now switch the groups and pair up with a different girl. Repeat the process with a fresh handout and see what similarities and differences you discover between you.
5. If there's time, share something that surprised you about this process with the larger group.
6. (Optional: If your troop meets in a space with other people around, you could also do this activity by interviewing fellow students, neighbors, or family members. You may find even more differences by branching out, but you may be surprised to find similarities—common ground—too.)

Activity #2: Four Corners Debate

Time: 30

minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 — Explore civil debate

Materials Needed: Paper; markers; sticky notes; writing utensils

Prep Needed:

- Make four posters or signs that say Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree.
1. Debate is the cornerstone of our democracy—our government has relied on it for sharing different opinions since the very beginning. It's important to learn how to express your opinions by using facts and information to back them up, so you can persuade others to see things your way. It's also important to learn how to listen to the other side to hear viewpoints you may not have considered before. The best decisions are made when we have all the information—from both sides.
 2. A debate topic is a simple statement describing a specific view point (i.e. "junk food should be banned in schools" or "school should be year-round"). There are two teams in a traditional debate—the "pro" side (arguing for the statement) and the "con" side (arguing against the statement). Each team takes turns trying to convince the audience to agree with their position by using facts, logic, and persuasion to make their point.
 3. For this debate style, you are going to get moving. Place the four signs (strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree) in four corners of your meeting space. A designated girl leader or adult leader will read a debate topic aloud and then each girl will move to the sign that corresponds with her opinion on that topic. Possible debate topics include:
 - Students should wear uniforms in school.
 - Kids should be able to spend their allowance any way they wish.
 - Wearing a helmet when riding a bike should be mandatory.
 - Junk food should be banned in schools.
 - Cell phones should be allowed in school.
 - Peer pressure is more useful than harmful.
 - ...the list goes on! Come up with your own debate topics too!
 4. Once you're sorted into the four corners of agreement/disagreement for one topic, take a moment to write why you support or don't support the statement on a sticky note. Add your sticky note to the sign. Talk with the girls in your corner about your reasons for supporting or not supporting the statement and come up with one group statement that you all agree on.
 5. Share your group statements with the large group. Open the floor for discussion on the topic—remember to keep it civil and respectful. Did anyone's points sway your opinion or change your mind about the topic? Take a moment to switch positions and move around the room again if needed. Then share why you moved positions—did another girl offer a compelling argument that you hadn't considered before?



6. If there's time, repeat the process for more debate topics and keep the debate—and yourselves—moving!

Activity #3: Snack Chat

Time: 10 minutes

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps

Materials Needed: Healthy snack

1. While enjoying a healthy snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
 - What was the most surprising thing you learned by talking about similarities and differences?
 - What was the funniest thing you learned that you have in common with another girl?
 - How can you apply the skills learned in the four corners debate activity to everyday life?
 - Why do you think it's important to listen to all sides of a debate before reaching a conclusion?
 - What are some other debate topics you'd like to discuss with your troop?

Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

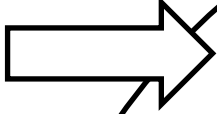
More to Explore

- Field Trip/Other Ideas:
 - Interview someone with a different background, belief, or opinion than you. Look for common ground as you listen to their story. Share your similarities.
 - Watch a political candidate debate, or an Intelligence Squared debate (<https://www.intelligencesquaredus.org/>) and discuss it.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a debate team teacher or coach to your meeting to talk about the art of debating.
 - Invite students from a debate team to your meeting to share their experience.



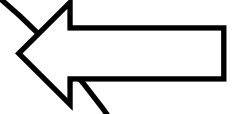
Person 1:

Write some things you
like and dislike here



Person 2:

Write some things you
like and dislike here



When you've found some
things you agree on, write
them here. You have found
common ground!



