

## CADETTE BUDGETING BADGE

**Badge Purpose:** When you've earned this badge, you'll be able to keep track of your money, save for things you need and want, and help others by giving.

**Activity Plan Length:** 1.5 hours

| Time       | Activity  | Materials Needed  |
|------------|---|---|
| 15 minutes | Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin the meeting by reciting the Girl Scout Promise + Law</li> </ul>  | <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster   |
| 10 minutes | Show Me the Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep a spending log to track where your money goes for a week.</li> </ul>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Journal or notebook<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pen  |
| 20 minutes | The Budget Game <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice making a budget that reflects your values, goals, and experiences.</li> </ul>                       | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 pony beads per group of 2 – 4 girls<br><input type="checkbox"/> Copies of The Budget Game (at the end of activity plan) |
| 15 minutes | Money in the Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do some research to find out all about banks and credit unions.</li> </ul>                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer or phone with internet access<br><input type="checkbox"/> Journal or notebook<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pen     |
| 20 minutes | Giving Back Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brainstorm ideas for your troop budget and charitable giving while having a healthy snack.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper<br><input type="checkbox"/> Writing and coloring utensils<br><input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack                  |
| 10 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: Show Me the Money

Time: 10 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Learn to track your spending

Materials Needed: Journal or notebook; pen

Prep Needed:



- Do this activity before your troop meeting so you can talk about the results together.
1. The first step in learning how to budget your money is to pay attention to where your money goes in the first place. A good budget should include all the things that we need for a given period (monthly budget, for example). If we make a budget that doesn't accurately reflect how much money we typically spend on things, or artificially inflates how much income we have, it's not going to balance at the end.
  2. Make a spending log and keep track of how you spend your money for a week.

Example:

| Day          | Item                                  | Amount         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Monday       | Snack from the school vending machine | \$1.00         |
| Tuesday      | Birthday present for Mom              | \$10.00        |
| Friday       | Snack from the school vending machine | \$0.75         |
| Saturday     | Matinee movie ticket                  | \$5.00         |
| Saturday     | New shirt on sale                     | \$12.00        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                                       | <b>\$28.75</b> |

3. Notice the categories where you spend your money. The example above has four categories: **food, gifts, entertainment, and clothing**. See if your spending has other categories that you can use for your budget.
4. Talk about your weekly money tracking log with your troop. Was it hard to remember to record things after you bought them? What was surprising to learn after seeing it written down? Does your log represent a typical week for you?

## Activity #2: The Budget Game

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Practice budgeting for your values and Step 5 – Create a budget that focuses on your values

Materials Needed: 20 pony beads per group of 2 – 4 girls; copies of The Budget Game

Prep Needed:

- Print copies of The Budget Game (one per group of 2 – 4 girls).
1. Divide into groups of 2 – 4 girls. Pass out 20 pony beads per group and a copy of The Budget Game.
  2. Read the instructions on the game sheet and have fun making decisions about real-life budget scenarios!
  3. If there's time, mix up your groups and try the game again to see if different budgets are created.

## Activity #3: Money in the Bank

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Learn to track your spending and Step 3 – Find out about ways to save money

Materials Needed: Computer or phone with internet access; journal or notebook; pen

Prep Needed:

- (Optional) If you plan on completing step 3, set up a field trip to a bank or credit union or schedule a visit from a bank or credit union representative before your meeting.
1. Now that you know how you want to spend your money in the future (using your new budget you made in The Budget Game), you'll need to figure out a place to keep your money. A piggy bank at home? Stuffed under your mattress? Those may be good options for smaller amounts of money, but for larger amounts, a bank or credit union is a safer bet.
  2. In small groups, learn about banks and credit unions by doing some research online. Explore:
    - What is the difference between a bank and a credit union?
    - How are checking and savings accounts alike? How are they different?



- What is the minimum age requirement for opening an account? See if you can start saving now by opening an account (with parental support)!
3. (Optional) Take a field trip to a bank or a credit union and talk to a representative to find out all you can about how they operate. Or, invite someone from a bank or a credit union to your troop meeting to talk to your troop about how banking works.

## Activity #4: Giving Back Snack Chat

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Practice budgeting for your values, Step 4 – Explore different ways to give, and Step 5 – Create a budget that focuses on your values

Materials Needed: Paper; writing and coloring utensils; healthy snack

Prep Needed:

- Assign nonprofit organizations to each girl—or groups of girls—to research before the troop meeting.
1. Does your troop have a plan for your cookie earnings? If you're thinking about sharing some of the money with a nonprofit organization, take this time to explore the options and make decisions as a troop.
  2. While having a healthy snack, take turns presenting your research on nonprofit organizations to troop members. Ask questions about the organizations to find out what they do, who they support, and why their work matters.
  3. Discuss what matters to you as a troop and choose the nonprofit organization that best aligns with your troop values. Remember the Girl Scout Law as you're sharing and discussing! There may be many opinions on troop charitable giving—do your best as a troop to come to an agreement on which organization you want to support.
  4. How much troop money do you want to share with this organization? To decide that, you'll need to know how much money your troop needs for your other activities, events, and service projects you may have planned. Does your troop have a budget? Connect with your troop leaders to find out how much money is allocated for troop activities already, and how much may be leftover to give. Finalize the troop budget together.
  5. Optional: If your troop decided to include charitable giving in the budget, follow through with plans to make your donation! Arrange a visit of the nonprofit organization so you can see their work in action, if possible.

## Wrapping Up

Time: 10 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 Ideas:
  - Visit a bank or a credit union to learn more about how they work.
  - Go grocery shopping with a list and budget. Pretend to shop around the store, comparing prices and adding up costs along the way to see if you can stay within the budget, and still get everything on the list.
- Speaker Ideas:
  - Invite a banker or a financial planner to your troop meeting, and ask them for tips on budgeting and tracking spending.
  - Invite someone from an organization you wish to support through charitable giving to your troop meeting. Ask them to share their group's mission, and how your gift would benefit the organization.



# The Budget Game

Starting with 20 pony beads each (representing your “income”), each group must decide how to budget based on life circumstances, values, and goals. The number of squares next to an item is how many beads that item “costs” (i.e. three squares = three beads).

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Housing</b><br><br>Living with family, sharing some expenses <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Living with friends in a rented apartment <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Living alone in a rented apartment <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Food</b><br><br>Cook at home, dinner out once per week <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Frequent fast food meals, cook some meals at home <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>All meals from restaurants or take out <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Clothing</b><br><br>Wear current wardrobe (no cost)<br><br>Buy clothes at a discount or thrift store <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Buy clothes at a department store <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Shop for designer clothes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Transportation</b><br><br>Walk or bike (no cost)<br><br>Uber or Lyft <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Buy a used car and fuel/insurance <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Buy a new car and fuel/insurance <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>         |
| <b>Recreation/Leisure</b><br><br>Hiking, walking, visiting with friends (no cost)<br><br>TV, snacks, picnics, driving around <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Books, DVDs, going to movies <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Going to concerts and spectator sports <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>                        | <b>Savings/Giving</b><br><br>Put your change in a piggy bank (no cost)<br><br>Save 5% of your income <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Save 10% of your income <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br><br>Give to charity <input type="checkbox"/>  |

## Questions:

- Why did you choose the items you did?
- How did your values influence your decisions?
- How did your life experiences influence your decisions?
- How did your goals influence your decisions?
- Compare your choices with other groups and discuss the differences.

## Optional scenarios for more rounds of decision-making:

- Your income has been cut to 13 beads. What will you give up to create your new budget? Make changes until you have only 13 beads on your sheet.
- Your car needs repairs, you lose 2 beads. Where will those beads come from?
- The rent in your solo apartment just went up 1 bead. How does this affect your housing decision? Will you reallocate beads from another area to keep living there, or will you move in with friends or family?
- You just got a 2-bead raise! Decide where it should be spent.

Adapted from Utah State University Extension “Bean Game” <http://extension.usu.edu/utah/>

