

BROWNIE PHILANTHROPIST BADGE

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they will know how to help people in need.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
10 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law and sing the Brownie Smile song. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Brownie Smile song lyrics poster
10 minutes	Can I Be a Philanthropist? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls learn the meaning of philanthropy. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Chart paper <input type="checkbox"/> Marker <input type="checkbox"/> Sticky notes <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
15 minutes	Needs and Wants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls find out what every person needs. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Magazines, grocery ads, retail advertisements <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors <input type="checkbox"/> Poster board
15 minutes	Food Shelf Role-Playing + Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls put themselves in another person's shoes. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Canned or boxed foods, and/or pretend food <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack
20 minutes	Recycled Necklaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls use materials to "upcycle" old materials into a necklace. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Several old or worn pieces of clothing, linens, or fabric <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber bands (2 per girl)
10 minutes	Identifying Needs in an Emergency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls identify how to help in an emergency. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Sticky notes <input type="checkbox"/> Chart paper
10 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster and (optional) Brownie Smile song lyrics poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and sing the Brownie Smile song.

Activity #1: Can I Be a Philanthropist?

Time: 10 minutes



Badge Connection: Step 5 – Think (and act!) like a philanthropist

Materials Needed: Chart paper; poster board; sticky notes; pens

Prep Needed:

- Put the following chart at the top of the poster board:

Can I Be a Philanthropist?	
YES	NO

1. Before girls sit down, ask them to answer the question on the chart by placing a tally mark in the column they think is correct. Do not tell them the answer or what a philanthropist is.
2. Ask girls to describe ways that they have helped others. Ask if anyone has collected or donated money, or collected supplies to be donated to someone.
3. Ask girls if they know the definition of philanthropist.
 - **Philanthropist** is a big word for someone who makes sure people have what they need. Many philanthropists help by giving money or supplies.
4. Have them answer the question again – can you be a Philanthropist? YES!
5. Pass out a post-it note to each girl and ask them to write down a way that they have been a philanthropist.

Activity #2: Needs and Wants

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Learn what every person needs

Materials Needed: Magazines, grocery ads, or retail ads (ads should contain a variety of items); scissors; poster board; glue sticks

Prep Needed:

- At the top of a piece of poster board, write: “Needs vs. Wants”.
1. Have girls sort through the advertisements and cut out pictures of items that a family uses.
 2. Once they have a number of pictures, discuss the items as a group, and discuss whether each item is a need or a want.
 3. Have girls glue the pictures on the poster board with wants on one side and needs on the other.
 4. Ask the girls if they agree with all of the wants and needs that are on the poster board.

Activity #3: Food Shelf Role-Playing

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Investigate how to help people who are hungry

Materials Needed: (Optional) Canned or boxed foods, and/or pretend foods; healthy snack

1. Ask each girl to tell you the time of day she feels the most hungry (e.g. is it right before lunch or after school, etc.) Ask the girls to imagine what it would be like to feel hungry like that all the time. Explain that many people in the world feel that way and do not have enough to eat to be healthy and have energy.
2. Ask the girls if they have heard of a food bank or food shelf. Explain that a food shelf is a place where food had been donated and stored, and where people who cannot afford to buy what they need can come to get food for free.
3. Split girls into two groups. Tell the first group they will be acting out the role of the volunteers at a food shelf. Girls can take orders, organize the food that is available and hand out the orders. Tell the second group they will be the people coming to the food shelf. Have each girl order two or three foods. Ask the girls to think about what types of food they would order in that situation. Would they order healthy foods, something that



they are used to eating, or maybe their favorite food? What kind of foods do they think a food shelf should have?

Activity #4: Recycled Necklaces

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Find out how to help people who need clothing

Materials Needed: Several old or worn pieces clothing, linens, or fabric; rubber bands (2 per girl)

Prep Needed:

- Cut strips of fabric into long strips that are 1" wide.
1. Have each girl pick out three strips of fabric. They will be braiding 3 strips together. If the strips are short, they may choose additional strips and tie them together to make them long enough. Each strip should be long enough to form a necklace, plus 8 inches (4 inches on each end) to tie together.
 2. Hold 3 strips together and tie a rubber band 4 inches from the end. Have girls braid strips together until they get approximately 4 inches from the other end. Tie on the second rubber band. Tie loose ends together to form the necklace.
 3. As girls are working, explain that this one way to make use of old clothing, especially if parts of the clothes are damaged or strained. Another way to use old clothing that is still in good condition is to donate it to a secondhand store, such as Goodwill or the Salvation Army. Explain that people who need clothes can shop at secondhand stores and buy them for less money than they would spend at a store with new clothes. This helps people who don't have a lot of money to spend.
 4. Ask girls to think about the clothes in their closet and ask if they can identify one piece of clothing that does not fit anymore or is no longer something they want to wear. Make sure to communicate with the parents that girls might be looking for an article of clothing to donate.

Activity #4: Identifying Needs in an Emergency

Time: 10 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Know how to help in times of emergency

Materials Needed: Writing utensils; sticky notes; poster board

1. Explain that there are many kinds of emergencies that leave people in need of help. Help girls brainstorm a list of emergencies (fires, floods, tornados, illness, etc.).
2. Give each girl a sticky note and writing utensil. Ask the girls to write down or draw something that people would need after an emergency. They can think of basic needs such as food and clothing, or specific possessions.
3. Write "basic needs" on the top of the poster board. Have them post their notes on the poster.
4. Tell girls that there are organizations that help people after emergencies, such as the Red Cross. Explain that these organizations help with needs like food, shelter and medical care. The Red Cross requests donations of money so they can buy the items needed; unlike food shelves or places like Goodwill, they do not accept donations.

Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

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

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



More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Visit a local philanthropic group/organization to learn more about helping others.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a community member who volunteers for a local group/organization.
 - Invite a staff member from a local group/organization that helps the community.

