

BROWNIE ECO FRIEND BADGE – MEETING 1

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll have found new ways to protect their natural world and the living things in it.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster
20 minutes	Nature Detectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls explore the many living things that inhabit the world around them. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars (one per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Magnifying glasses (one per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Detectives handout <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Clipboards
20 minutes	I Speak for the Trees (and Other Animals) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls learn to care for and protect wildlife. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper plates (one per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Glue <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors <input type="checkbox"/> Construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> Coloring utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Wooden craft sticks <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Tape <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Pompoms, googly eyes, and other decorative materials
15 minutes	Our Nature Show <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls share what they have learned about being a friend to nature. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Masks (from Activity #2) <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack <input type="checkbox"/> Beverages
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster

Note to Adults/Leaders

Girls will be heading outside during this first activity. Make proper arrangements prior to working on this badge. Have girls dress appropriately for the weather.

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: Nature Detectives

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Think of ways to help the outdoors and Step 2 – Observe outdoor spaces

Materials Needed: Binoculars (one per girl); magnifying glasses (one per girl); Nature Detectives handout; writing utensils; (optional) clipboards

Prep Needed:

- If you're unable to find enough binoculars, have girls break off into groups and share binoculars.
 - Print out copies of the Nature Detectives handout.
1. Tell girls that today, they'll be doing some investigative work as Nature Detectives. Hand each girl a binocular and magnifying glass (or break off into small groups and share resources). Before the group heads outside for a hike together, review some "clues" to be on the lookout for:
 - **Search Low.** Who lives here? Use your magnifying glass to investigate what lives on the ground. If you see a large rock, gently turn it over to see if anything lives underneath. What's at the base of a tree? What's hiding under a bush?
 - **Search High.** Who lives here? Use your binoculars to investigate what lives in the upper branches of a tree, or way up in the sky. Are there nests in the branches, or are any animals scrambling up the trunk to search for food? Can you see any wildlife flying in the sky?
 2. After your hike, have girls jot down their observations on the Nature Detectives handout.

Activity #2: I Speak for the Trees (and Other Animals)

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Take care of wildlife

Materials Needed: Paper plates (one per girl); glue; scissors; construction paper; coloring utensils; wooden craft sticks; (optional) tape; (optional) pompoms, googly eyes, and other decorative materials

1. Now that you've observed the many different types of living creatures that inhabit the outdoors, let's explore how we can protect our new friends.
2. Ask girls to review their Nature Detectives handout. Girls can either work in groups, or individually. Ask girls to pick one of the creatures in the left-hand column (under "I saw a...").
3. Put yourself in the shoes of this creature (it can be an animal or plant). If they had a voice, what would they like other people to know about them? For example, if you picked "ant," you might say, "I'm an ant! I live on the ground. I may be little, but I'm strong! I make my house out of sand, dirt, or by digging holes into trees. Because I'm so small, it's easy to step on me. You can protect me by staying on trails when you walk, and being careful not to disturb my ant hill, etc."
4. If girls are unsure what their living creature needs to thrive, provide nature books or search online for more information.



5. Then, have girls create masks for the creature they will be “speaking” for. Below are some mask examples:



Activity #3: Our Nature Show

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Think of ways to help the outdoors and Step 4 – Take care of wildlife

Materials Needed: Masks (from Activity #2); healthy snack; beverages

Prep Needed:

- Invite family and friends to this last portion of the meeting to watch the girls’ performance.
1. After girls have completed their masks, have them present their facts and findings to family and friends.
 2. Enjoy some light refreshments after the performance.

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 Ideas:
 - Visit a nature center to learn more about the animals that live in your area.
 - Take a “virtual field trip” to learn about the long-lasting effects of wildlife fires across the United States (<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/TakeAction/Wildfire-virtual-field-trips>).
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a land conservationist to your meeting to talk about the ways people can help protect nature.
 - Invite someone who volunteers or works for a wildlife rescue agency to talk about their job.



NATURE DETECTIVES

I saw a...	What does this living thing need to survive?	How can I be a friend to this living thing?
Example: Ant	Food A place to live Water	I can watch where I'm stepping so I don't squash their ant hills.

