

CADETTE SCREENWRITER BADGE – MEETING 1

Badge Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to create a screenplay for a show or movie.

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
25 minutes	What makes a good movie? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch a few short films and make observations about what makes them good. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with internet access or short films from the library <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
15 minutes	Story (B)Rainstorm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brainstorm ideas for a story to write. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
20 minutes	The Backstory...(+ Snack Chat) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a character's backstory and enjoy a healthy snack. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Small toys (such as small cartoon characters, animals, action figures, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Bag <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: What Makes a Good Movie?

Time: 25 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Decide what makes a good script good

Materials Needed: Computer with internet access or short films from a local library; paper; writing utensils

Prep Needed:

- (Optional) Go to your library before starting this activity to find a few short movies. Ask a librarian for suggestions!
- Pick three short films to watch on YouTube or Netflix (Disney shorts are a good jumping off point!).
 - While watching, take notes of things you notice during the film. Specifically: dialogue, pauses, characters, plot, music.



3. Compare notes with your troop to see what everyone else noticed.
4. As a group, decide what elements make up a good script. Use these criteria when you write your own script.

Activity #2: Story (B)Rainstorm

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Come up with an idea for a story

Materials Needed: Paper; writing utensils

1. Grab a sheet of paper and write down a few ideas for a story. This could be something that has happened to you or something made up entirely!
2. When everyone has written down an idea, crumple the piece of paper up in a ball. Then, throw all the ideas into the center of the room.
3. Taking turns, pick one piece of paper, and read it aloud. As a group, talk about ways that this story can be expanded.
4. Continue doing this until all the pieces of paper have been read.
5. Remember to write down notes for any story ideas that you like!

Activity #3: The Backstory... (+ Snack Chat)

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Get to know your characters

Materials Needed: Small toys (preferably cartoon characters, animals, or action figures); bag; healthy snack

Prep Needed:

- (Optional) Ask everyone to bring their own small toy/object to the meeting.
1. Place all the toys into a bag. Everyone should grab a toy from the bag.
 2. Once you have your toy, create its persona. You will have about 10 minutes to think up answers to the following:
 - What does this person do during the day?
 - Where does this person live?
 - Where did they grow up?
 - What is their family like?
 - What is their personality like?
 3. After 10 minutes, come back together and have everyone share their character's backstory. While sharing your story, enjoy a healthy snack and listen to what everyone came up with.

Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster

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

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Go to a production put on by a community theater; think about what their scripts looked like.
 - Go to the local library to check out other screen plays or scripts.



- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a local writer or writing professor to talk about how they develop their characters.
 - Invite someone who is involved with a theater program to talk about what it is like to put a script in action.

