

## BROWNIE COMPUTER EXPERT BADGE – MEETING 2

**Badge Purpose:** When girls have earned this badge, they'll know how to do many useful things on a computer.

**Activity Plan Length:** 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law and sing the Brownie Smile song.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Brownie Smile song lyrics poster
15 minutes	Take an Interactive Tour of the White House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls practice using an interactive website and learn about the White House.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Computers (one for each group of 2-3 girls) with internet access
15 minutes	Write to the President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls learn about using the computer to communicate safely.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Computers (one for each group of 2-3 girls) with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils
15 minutes	Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls enjoy snack and discuss how computers make our lives easier.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack
15 minutes	Game On! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls play computer games.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Computers (one for each group of 2-3 girls) with internet access
15 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: Take an Interactive Tour of the White House

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 — Take a trip online

Materials Needed: Computers (one for each group of 2-3 girls) with internet access

Prep Needed:

- Turn on computers and review the White House website to locate the interactive tour.
- We suggest checking with other parents, schools, libraries, or community centers to find enough computers, laptops, or tablets.

- Have the girls search for the White House website, or give them the address: [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)
- Ask them to find the interactive tour of the White House and click on the different levels and sections.



3. Ask girls to find the Blue Room. The President often uses this room to greet guests, and during the holidays, it serves as the location of the official White House's Christmas tree.
4. Ask girls to find the Oval Office, which is the official office of the President and the primary place of work.
5. Ask girls to find the Kitchen Garden, where the White House staff grows vegetables and produce to use for the First Family's meals and state dinners.

## Activity #2: Write to the President

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 — Make a connection

Materials Needed: Computers (one for each group of 2-3 girls) with internet access; scratch paper; pencils

Prep Needed:

- Before the meeting, ask the parent/guardian of each girl for an email address their girl can use to write a letter to the President.
1. Remind girls that they should never give out personal information on the internet, no matter who they are sharing it with. If they do have an email account, they should not give their email address to strangers.
  2. Explain to the girls that the internet can be used to connect with people around the world, even ones you don't know. Today we are going to write an email to the President of the United States.
  3. Girls should click the "Get in Touch" link in the top right-hand corner of the screen on the White House web page. Under "Message Type," select "Contact the President."
  4. In the "First Name" category, the girls in each group should enter all their first names. For example, "Alex, Jane, and Ruby".
  5. In the "Last Name" category, girls should enter their troop number. For example, "Girl Scout Troop 12345."
  6. In the address category, the girls can use the address of their closest GSRV service center. For example, "400 Robert Street S., St. Paul, MN 55107."
  7. In the email address category, girls **should not** enter their email address if they have one. They should enter the email address of their troop, troop leader, or parent.
  8. Girls should work together as a group to compose a subject line and letter. They may use the scratch paper and pencils as needed. Here are some things to think about if girls get stuck.
    - How has Girl Scouts helped you?
    - What great activities have you done in Girl Scouting?
    - What have you done in Girl Scouts to make the world a better place that you wish everyone else would do to?
    - What questions would you like to ask the President?
  9. Each group should have an adult review their email and then press send.

## Activity #3: Snack Chat

Time: 10 minutes

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps

Materials Needed: Healthy snack

1. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
  - Has anyone used the computer to talk to friends or family? Did you send an email, use a chat program, or video chat?
  - What do you think life was like before computers?
  - Do you think computers make life easier or harder? Why do you think so?



## Activity #4: Game On!

Time: 25 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 5 — Have more computer fun

Materials Needed: Computers (one for each group of 2-3 girls)

Prep Needed:

- Familiarize yourself with the websites below, in case the girls need assistance.
- 1. Ask each group to visit one of the following websites:
  - <http://www.nick.com/games/>
  - <http://disney.go.com/games/>
  - <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
- 2. Have girls take turns finding a game they haven't played before and playing the first level stage. Girls should only play one stage. If there's time, girls can visit another website from the list above.
- 3. Ask girls what their favorite game was. Did any girls play the same game?

## 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 store that sells computers and ask the sales associate about choosing a computer.
  - Visit a Daisy troop in your area and share the Girl Scout information pages you made with them.
- Speaker Ideas:
  - Invite a game designer or someone who builds computers to your meeting.
  - Invite a teacher to your meeting to talk about how to use computers to learn and have fun.

