

CADETTE FINDING COMMON GROUND BADGE – MEETING 2

Badge Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll know strategies for bringing people together to find common ground.

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
20 minutes	Can We All Agree? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work together to make decisions for the troop. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
20 minutes	A Compromising Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about the art of compromise to achieve a common goal while having a healthy snack. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack that includes 3-4 different food items, but not enough of each item for every girl <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
20 minutes	Conflict Resolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role-play mediating a conflict that needs a resolution. 	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Steps to Formal Mediation handout <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
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: Can We All Agree?

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 — Make decisions in a group

Materials Needed: Paper; writing utensils



1. Group decision-making can be a challenge. Everyone has their own ideas and opinions, and lots of individual preferences can make it hard to find a solution that works for everyone. It may not be easy to make decisions as a group, but it's an important skill to develop.
2. There are lots of decisions to make in a girl-led Girl Scout troop:
 - Is your troop planning a Take Action project or a camping trip?
 - What about a service project or field trip?
 - How will your troop governance look? Do you want to have troop patrols? Elected girl leader positions?
 - How do you want to spend your cookie earnings? Do you want to donate to a charity or plan field trips? Or both?
 - What will the snack for the next meeting be?
3. Choose one of the following decision-making methods for answering one of these questions—or a unique question that applies to your troop. If you find that one method isn't working, try another!
 - **Majority rules:** Poll your group. Ask everyone in your group for her top three options. Write down the two most popular options and then take a vote. The option with the most votes wins. Deciding based on a majority vote means that some girls may be disappointed that their choice didn't win.
 - **Consensus or compromise:** The group may disagree at first on your chosen topic. Discuss the issue until you arrive at a decision that everyone can accept. This is almost like a mini-debate and can take more time. Reaching a consensus means that everyone in the group agrees on the decision, even though some girls may have made compromises to get there.
 - **Pick at random:** Have everyone write her choice on a slip of paper. Put them in a hat, and choose at random. You could also flip a coin or draw straws. Deciding by random means that at least one girl will be happy with the decision, and others will have to agree to go with it.
4. Did you finalize a solution? How did the process go? What are the pros and cons of each decision-making method? Discuss with the group how it felt to share your opinions and have this experience as a troop.

Activity #2: A Compromising Snack Chat

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 — Understand a Compromise

Materials Needed: Healthy snack that includes 3-4 different food items, but not enough of each item for every girl (i.e. 10 cookies, 8 granola bars, 9 apples, and 10 yogurts for 12 girls); paper; writing utensils

1. Have you ever had friends over for dinner but didn't have enough food for everyone? That's what's going to happen in this snack chat and you'll have to find a way to compromise to make sure everyone gets what they want and need.
2. Wash your hands and prep the food together. Notice how many of each food item you have. Ideally, there should not be enough of any one item for everyone to have the same portion of that food.
3. How will you decide who gets what food items? For example, if there are cookies and apples but not enough for everyone, who gets a cookie and who gets an apple? Is there a way to share some items? Do some girls not like certain items but really love others? Make a list of who wants what and see if there are natural splits that make the division work well.
4. If there is a conflict, that is, if everyone wants one specific item and there isn't enough to go around, start talking about how to compromise. Ask for all the information as you make your group decision on the snacks: allergies, preferences, and other situations that would make it unfair for one girl to get more or less than another girl.
5. Compromise is often called "give and take." Find out what each girl isn't willing to budge on (the foods that she must have) and which foods she's willing to give up. Go around the room and share your thoughts. Remember, you just spent time making a group decision, so you know how important it is to listen to everyone! Also, keep in mind that compromise means that not everyone will be 100% happy with what they get, but they will be 100% happy with the decision that was reached. Being willing to give up something for the good of the group is a great skill!
6. Once you've reached a compromise that makes everyone happy, enjoy your snack!



Activity #3: Conflict Resolution

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 5 — Find common ground through mediation

Materials Needed: 6 Steps of Formal Mediation handout (at the end of this activity plan); writing utensils

1. You've spent a lot of time learning about differing opinions, debates, group decision-making and compromise. But what happens when you have a conflict with someone and it can't be easily resolved? Conflict is a natural part of life. Maybe you and your friend disagree about something, or family members are in a stalemate about an issue at home. Let's explore ways to resolve these conflicts with mediation.
2. Review the 6 Steps of Formal Mediation:
 - 1) **Give your opening remarks:** Review the conflict and set ground rules.
 - 2) **State the problem:** Let both people state their positions.
 - 3) **Gather information:** Ask open-ended questions (those without yes or no answers) to get to the heart of each person's position.
 - 4) **Summarize:** Summarize the conflict based on what you've heard.
 - 5) **Brainstorm solutions:** Brainstorm together about possible solutions.
 - 6) **Reach an agreement:** Offer ideas about where you think there is common ground. If the two sides don't agree, go back to step 4, and keep going until you reach an agreement.
3. It seems easy enough to work through the process on paper, but what happens when emotions come into play and you have to work it out in person? Practicing conflict by role-playing can help prepare you for solving real conflicts when they come up in your life.
4. Split up into groups of three girls and pass out the handout, "6 Steps of Formal Mediation." Choose one of the sample conflicts below (or come up with your own!) to practice mediation using the handout. Two girls should play each role in the conflict, and the third girl should play the mediator, asking questions to keep the process moving forward.
 1. Sheila and Alice chose the same topic for the science fair at school and their teacher said that only one of the girls can do the topic. Each girl really wants this topic. How will they choose who gets it?
 2. Maria's mom won't let her go to a concert with her friends because she says Maria's too young. This makes Maria upset. Is there a way for Maria and her mom to reach an agreement about this?
 3. Kendra's friend, Zoe, told the class a secret that Kendra shared in confidence. Zoe thought it would make people like her if she shared information about someone else. How can Kendra and Zoe fix this?
 4. Mya's dad really wants her to try out for the track team but she doesn't really like to run that much. She feels pressured to be on the team because her dad was a track star. How can Mya and her dad talk about this?
 5. Sara and Julie are friends but Julie often makes snide comments about Sara's height. Sara is hurt by the comments. Julie is jealous of Sara's height. What do Sara and Julie need to do to resolve this?
 6. Angela wants to be a vegetarian but her mom won't take her seriously. When her mom serves her meat again, Angela yells at her. How can Angela and her mom work it out?
5. Come back together in the large group and share some of the experiences you had in the mediation role-plays. Did each party feel like they were heard? Was it hard to get beyond a certain step? Did your group have to go back and start over? Were you able to reach a final resolution that pleased everyone?
6. If there's time, mix up the groups and try it again with different scenarios.

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 public court proceeding to witness the judge or jury listening to both sides of the situation before handing down a verdict.
 - Visit a local police department to talk with the officers about conflict resolution and mediation in their profession.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a teacher, school principal, or school counselor to speak to your group on conflict resolution and mediation in the schools.
 - Invite a student or professor in law or conflict resolution to visit your group to share their real-life experiences in conflict resolution.



6 Steps of Formal Mediation

Use the table to jot down your thoughts and your progress as you attempt to reach a resolution with your team.

Conflict: _____

<div>1. Give your opening remarks: Review the conflict and set ground rules.</div>	<div>2. State the problem: Let both people state their positions.</div>
<div>3. Gather information: Ask open-ended questions (those without yes or no answers) to get to the heart of each person’s position.</div>	<div>4. Summarize: Summarize the conflict based on what you’ve heard.</div>
<div>5. Brainstorm solutions: Brainstorm together about possible solutions.</div>	<div>6. Reach an agreement: Offer ideas about where you think there is common ground. If the two sides don’t agree, go back to step 4, and keep going until you reach an agreement.</div>