



Brownie Celebrating Community Badge Activity Plan 1

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll know about communities, how communities celebrate and what makes them special.

Planning Guide Link: Global Citizenship and Girl Scout Sisterhood

Fun Patch Link: Parade

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Involve Family and Friends: Participation from family and friends can enrich your troop's Girl Scout experience, both for the girls and for you. Use the suggestions below to make it easier for you to connect with additional support.

- Before the meeting:
 - Send a note to families to find those with interest in or expertise with the topic. Ask them to lead or support an activity or two, or even lead the whole meeting.
 - Offer this activity plan as a starting place and point out that they may choose alternative activities using the *Customize It!* section as a guide. For example: If an activity plan directs girls to sit outside and observe animal habitats, you may choose to go to the zoo and learn about animal habitats there instead.
- At home:
 - Encourage families to ask questions about their girls' badge activities. Some examples that work for any badge include: What did you learn? What surprised you? What does it make you think of trying next?
- Throughout the year:
 - Suggest to families ways that girls can share or display their Girl Scout accomplishments. Possibilities include a bulletin board, a scrapbook, a special memories box or family sharing time.

Girls Take the Lead: Include girl leadership through long-term planning, short-term meeting prep and specific activities at meetings.

- Long Term Planning
 - If you use "Plan Your Brownie Year", share this with the girls at the start of the year. Have them ask friends and family to help out with specific meetings or activities. Let the girls brainstorm ways to make the plans their own, such as thinking of related field trip activities. If a girl has experience with a field trip, ask her to be assistant tour guide.
 - If you are adapting the "Plan Your Brownie Year", get the girls' input on which badges to choose. Offer just a few choices in each category or timeframe to make decisions easier. Every girl should have at least one badge or journey she's excited about.
- Short Term Planning
 - Ask a family to help lead a badge. Make sure they have access to activity plans and any resources you might have. Keep additional requested materials to a minimum.
 - Choose two helpers to stay after a meeting for 15 minutes. Give them each an activity to introduce and either instruct or help guide at the next meeting.

- Before a meeting, ask everyone to vote on some aspect of the activity: draw posters or perform skits, open with a song or game, etc.
- Use a rotating list of helper tasks, called a 'kaper chart', to share responsibilities. Examples include acting as emcee of the meeting, leading an opening game, bringing a snack next meeting or taking attendance.
- At the Meeting
 - During the opening, have 1-2 girls share their answers to a get-to-know-you question.
 - Have girls fulfill their kaper chart responsibilities.
 - Try to find something in each activity that you can let girls decide or manage.

Customize It: If your group wants to expand work on this badge or simply try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to earn this award, including: completing the activities as listed in the *Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, completing two of these activity plans, attending a council-sponsored event or customizing activities. Pick the one(s) that work best for your group. Girls will know they have earned the award if:

- They can identify a community and its characteristics, such as symbols and songs
- They can demonstrate ways that communities celebrate or showcase their pride
- They have participated in a community celebration

Tips and Tools

- Check out ways to stay safe using Safety-Wise at <http://gsrv.gs/safetywise>.
- Ensure that your activities are accessible to everyone. Ask in advance if any special accommodations need to be made. If you have questions regarding specific adaptations, please contact River Valleys at 800-845-0787.

Resources

- This activity plan has been adapted from the *Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting Celebrating Community Badge*, which can be used for additional information and activities.

Getting Started

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Optional: Girl Scout Promise and Law printed out on poster board

Steps:

1. Welcome everyone to the meeting.
2. Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Use repeat-after-me or say it as a group if girls know it by heart.

Girl Scout Promise	Girl Scout Law
<i>On my honor, I will try:</i> To serve God and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.	<i>I will do my best to be</i> honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, <i>and to</i> respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

3. Sing the Brownie Smile Song. Use repeat-after-me or sing as a group, if girls know it by heart.

The Brownie Smile Song
I've got something in my pocket It belongs across my face I keep it very close at hand In a most convenient place I'm sure you wouldn't guess it If you guessed a long, long while So I'll take it out and put it on It's a great big Brownie Smile!

Activity #1: Community Collages

Badge Connection: Step 1—Explore community symbols

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Plain paper and/or construction paper
- Coloring utensils
- Scissors
- Glue
- Old magazines that age appropriate

Steps:

1. Ask the girls to define a "community" and to talk about what makes something a community. Instruct the girls to think of all the communities they are a part of.
 - Some examples may include Girl Scouts, schools, families, sports teams or recreation groups.
2. Pass out one sheet per girl and instruct them to create their own community collage by drawing one symbol or using one picture to represent each community of which they are a part.

- Tip: Encourage girls to be creative—they can draw symbols, cut out and glue images from old magazines or create their own cut-outs from construction paper.
3. As girls finish, encourage them to share what they created with a partner or gather back as a large group to share.

Activity #2: Snack Chat and Singing Symphony Swap

Badge Connection: Step 2—Sing Together

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Varies, according to snack served

Materials Needed:

- Snack items

Steps:

1. While enjoying snack, talk with the girls about how songs are ways communities celebrate who they are or make them unique and special from other communities. As a large group, ask the girls for examples of some songs that represent different communities. For example, “What songs do we sing in Girl Scouts?” Other examples include:
 - The National Anthem, Star Spangled Banner—represents the U.S.A.
 - Take Me Out to the Ball Game—represents an American Baseball tradition
2. After snack is finished, divide girls up into small groups and instruct them to brainstorm, teach each other and rehearse one song that represents a community. After 10 minutes, they will perform it for the large group.
 - If girls have a hard time getting started, ask them the following questions to help them get started:
 - Are there songs only your class or school knows?
 - Is there a special song a family member taught you?
 - Is there a song or chant that you learned at a particular camp or activity?
 - Since each group will only showcase one song, tell the girls this may require one girl to teach the song to the rest of the group. Encourage the girls to be considerate and caring by allowing all ideas to be shared as their group chooses which song they will prepare and perform.
3. After 10 minutes, ask each group to share and perform their community song to the larger group.

Activity #3: Brownie Pride Parade Party

Badge Connection: Step 3—Follow the parade

Time Allotment: 25 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies. Divide supplies evenly in separate spaces for each of the small groups.
- Prepare a walkway/space that will be the “parade route.”
- Optional: Set up music playing device (iPod or CD player.)
- Optional: Divide out candy bags to distribute to the parade walkers.

Materials Needed:

- Paper grocery bags
- Large-roll sheet paper or newspaper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Optional: Candy
- Optional: Music playing device (iPod or CD player)

Steps:

1. Tell the girls that they are going to be a part of the Brownie Pride Parade and split the girls into small groups in separate corners of the room.
2. Instruct each group to determine a team name, which will be represented in the Brownie Pride Parade.
3. Tell the girls to choose one person in their group to be the parade walker. The parade walker will be dressed up by the other girls in her group. The remaining girls get to be the parade designers who create the parade walker's outfit and get to watch the parade.
4. Next, the parade designers will create an outfit for their parade walker. The girls can use the paper and tape to create a fashionable outfit and accessories that represents their whole team. The parade walker will not participate in creating the outfit.
 - Example: The parade designers for the "Royal Queens" team may create a paper crown and a long robe for their parade walker.
 - Tip: Paper grocery bags can be crafted into a clothing item by cutting a hole for the head in the bottom of the bag and two arm holes on the sides.
5. Allow the girls to design and dress up their parade walkers for 15–20 minutes. Then, line up the parade walkers for the parade, and the designers along the parade walkway.
6. Play music (if applicable) and allow the parade walkers to march through and showcase their team pride through the parade route, tossing candy to the parade designers.

Wrapping Up

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Optional: Make New Friends printed on poster board

Steps:

1. Instruct girls to get into a Friendship Circle. Have girls stand in a circle and cross their right arm over their left, holding hands with the person on each side of them.
2. Sing "Make New Friends."

Make New Friends		
Verse One	Verse Two	Verse Three
Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, the other is gold.	A circle is round, it has no end. That's how long, I will be your friend.	You have one hand, I have the other. Put them together, We have each other.

3. After the song, ask everyone to be quiet.
4. Assign a girl to start the friendship squeeze by gently squeezing her neighbor's hand with her right hand. Then, that girl squeezes with her right hand. One by one, each girl passes the squeeze until it travels around the circle. When the squeeze returns to the girl who started, she says "Goodbye Sister Girl Scouts" and the girls unwrap and face outward instead of inward.
5. Optional: Have girls make a wish after their hand has been squeezed and before they pass the squeeze along. Girls can also put their right foot out into the circle when they receive the friendship squeeze, so that everyone can see it travel along the circle.

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Visit a local museum, city council, state capital or a famous landmark in your town.
 - Go to a local parade or annual festival in your community.
 - Attend a marching band concert or flag ceremony in your community.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite an experienced marcher, military member, city mayor or an older Girl Scout troop to your meeting to talk about the importance of communities.

Suggestions

Do you have any suggestions to improve this activity plan? Do you have ideas for other possible badge-earning activities? Please email troopsupport@girlscoutsv.org.

Family Follow-Up Email

Use the email below as a template to let families know what girls did at the meeting today. Feel free to add additional information, including:

- When and where you will be meeting next
- What activities you will do at the next meeting
- Family help or assistance that is needed
- Supplies or materials that girls will need to bring to the next meeting
- Reminders about important dates and upcoming activities

Hello Girl Scout Families:

We had a wonderful time today learning about communities and how they are special, and we are on our way to earning the Celebrating Community Badge.

We had fun:

- Thinking about the communities we are a part of and creating a community collage
- Singing and performing songs that represent different communities
- Having a fun "Brownie Pride Parade" of our own

Continue the fun at home:

- Take your Girl Scout on a hike or tour of your local community. Identify and learn together about the places, landmarks, museums, statues, plaques or gardens that make your hometown special.
- Attend or participate in a celebration in your local community together, such as a parade, festival or a grand opening ceremony.
- Look through the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* with your Brownie to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your Brownie to Girl Scouts!