



Junior Flowers Badge Activity Plan 1

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they will know all that's wonderful about flowers.

Planning Guides Link: Outdoor Awareness and Environmental Stewardship

Fun Patch Link: Floral Arrangement

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 *Junior 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 have learned about the science of at least one type of flower
- They have learned how flowers can help people
- They have made at least one creative flower project

Tips and Tools

- Girls should have adult supervision when using any potentially dangerous tools, such as knives or scissors.
- 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 *Junior Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting Flowers 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. Play a game so girls get to know each other better. Use the example below if needed.
 - Pile Up: Girls sit on chairs in a circle. Choose a leader who will have a list of “yes” or “no” questions, such as “Do you have on brown shoes?”, “Are you wearing a ring?”, “Is your favorite color purple?” As the questions are asked, those that can answer “yes” move one chair to the right. Those that answer “no” don’t move. Girls will end up “piled-up” on chairs.

Activity #1: The Science of Flowers

Badge Connection: Step 1—Uncover the science of one flower

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed

- Find a location close to your meeting site with many flowers or bring flowers to the meeting

Materials Needed:

- Flowers, either indoors or outdoors.
- Paper
- Drawing and coloring utensils

Steps:

1. As girls are looking at the flowers, ask them what they think about them and if they have a favorite.
2. Have them describe the parts of the flower they can see.
3. Let girls know they are going to do one of the things a botanist might do.
4. Ask if they know what a botanist does. Explain that botanists often draw what they see.
5. Have each girl choose a flower and spend time drawing all of its details on paper.
6. Once finished, have girls share their pictures and one new thing that they discovered about their flowers.

Activity #2: Colorful Flowers

Badge Connection: Step 2—Look under the petals

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- White flowers—Carnations work well (one per girl, if possible)
- Multiple colors of food dye
- Bowls or small containers
- Towels (paper or scrap cloth)

Steps:

1. Flowers aren't just pretty. They may look like they aren't doing a lot, but they're actually quite busy! Try this activity to see a flower's root system in action.
2. Fill small containers with water. Have the girls choose food dye colors and place dye in water to make the colors.
3. Cut the flowers' stems and direct girls to put their flowers into the container with their favorite color. The petals should soon turn that color!
4. Have the girls record and/or discuss their observations:
 - What part of the flower changed color first?
 - How long did it take?
 - Are some parts of the flower now darker than others?
5. When flowers are dyed, let them dry on a towel or wrap their stems in wet paper towels so girls can take them home.

Activity #3: Fruit in Disguise

Badge Connection: Step 3—Find out how flowers help people

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Make copies of the Fruit in Disguise game cards (one set for each group of three–five girls)
- Cut apart the Fruit in Disguise game cards

Materials Needed:

- Fruit in Disguise game cards

Steps:

1. Split the girls into teams of three–five players.
2. Explain to the girls that many flowers are fruits in disguise. Fruit comes from plants or trees that flower before producing fruit.
3. Give each team one set of the Fruit in Disguise game cards. Have each team try to match the correct fruit to its flower.
4. **Helpful hints:** Tell girls to look closely at the pictures. Looking at the flowers, leaves, stems or branches may give them clues. Many of the flowers look similar at first glance, so matching two together may be tricky!
5. Once teams are finished, go over the correct answers. Briefly discuss the girls observations:
 - Which flowers looked similar?
 - Which fruits were easy to match? Why?
 - Which fruits were difficult to match? Why?
 - Were there any that surprised you?

Answers:

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Apple | 4. Grapes | 7. Strawberry | 10. Banana |
| 2. Peach | 5. Pear | 8. Orange | 11. Lemon |
| 3. Cherry | 6. Plum | 9. Raspberry | 12. Kiwi |

Activity #4: Snack Chat

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Steps:

1. Prepare a healthy snack ahead of time. Need a suggestion? Try hibiscus tea and sliced apples!
 - Boil two quarts water in a large pot. Remove water from stove.
 - Add 6-8 hibiscus tea bags and let stand for 3-5 minutes. Remove the tea bags.
 - Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey or sugar (more to taste) and stir well.
 - Leave tea in pot until it comes to room temperature. Transfer to a sealed container and store in a refrigerator overnight.
 - Serve with sliced apples.
2. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
 - Do you have a favorite flower? What is it and why?
 - How do flowers help people?
 - Would you like to grow flowers inside or outside and why?
 - Where and when do you think it's okay to pick flowers?

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 arms 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 one 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 flower garden or greenhouse to learn more about the science of flowers.
 - Visit a florist to learn more about floral arrangements.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a botanist (teacher or florist) to talk to the girls about parts of the flower and/or flower families.

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 on the next page 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 the science of flowers and creating some flower projects; we are on our way to earning the Flowers Badge.

We had fun:

- Being a botanist and drawing a flower
- Seeing how flowers work through a colorful science experiment
- Learning about fruits and their flowers

Continue the fun at home:

- Help your Girl Scout plant and grow flowers.
- Make your own flowers, such as poppies made of tissue paper, tulips made of eggshells, or a poinsettia made of paper plates.

Thank you for bringing your Junior to Girl Scouts!

Fruit in Disguise Game Cards

<p>1.</p> 	
<p>2.</p> 	
<p>3.</p> 	
<p>4.</p> 	

5.



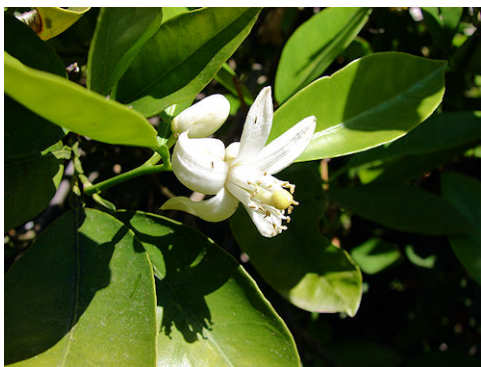
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11.



12.

