



## Brownie Computer Expert Badge Activity Plan 1

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

**Planning Guides Link:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

**Fun Patch Link:** Computer Knowledge

**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 Girls 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 made or drawn something with a computer art program
- They can find facts and use other resources online
- They can connect with others online
- They know one way to have fun on a computer

### Tips and Tools

- You will need computers with internet access to complete this activity plan. One computer for every 2–3 girls is best. Here are some tips for finding computers to use:
  - Check with the local school, library, or community center. Be sure to ask about rules for computer use at their location and respect others who need to use the computers. If you are planning a snack, check with the employees on where an acceptable location to eat the snack would be.
  - If you have or can move to a location with wireless internet, ask parents if they have laptops the girls can use.
- Parents will need to sign the internet safety pledge as well as the girls. Parents can do this as girls come in, you can send the pledge home with the girls at an earlier meeting, or you can email the sheet to parents prior to the meeting. The pledge is included at the end of this activity plan. It can also be found in the *Brownie Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting* or online at <http://gsrv.gs/1DIm2OJ>.
- 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 Skill-Building Badge set for It's Your World-Change It!* Computer Expert 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.

<b>Girl Scout Promise</b>	<b>Girl Scout Law</b>
<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.

<b>The Brownie Smile Song</b>
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: Internet Safety Pledge**

Badge Connection: Connects to multiple badge steps.

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Make copies of the Internet Safety Pledge for each girl.
- Have parents sign the Internet Safety Pledge prior to the meeting.

Materials Needed:

- Internet Safety Pledge
- Pens/pencils

Steps:

1. Have the girls take turns reading the steps of the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge out loud.
2. Discuss what they think the pledge means and why it is important to follow it.
3. Have each girl sign the pledge before she is allowed to use a computer.

### **Activity #2: Computer Pictionary**

Badge Connection: Step 1—Paint or draw with an art program

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Ensure computers are turned on and have an appropriate art or drawing program.

- Write items on the notecards for girls to draw. These can be any items depending on the interests and abilities of your girls, for example: basketball, flower, cat, house. You should have at least one note card per girl.

Materials Needed:

- Computers with an art or drawing program loaded on them.
- Notecards
- Writing utensil

Steps:

1. In small groups, have the girls open the paint or drawing program on their computer. Give them about 3 minutes to figure out how to use the controls and practice drawing.
2. Split the girls into two teams. For larger groups, play multiple games with two teams each.
3. Have girls take turns drawing a note card and drawing the item listed. As she is drawing, her team will guess what she is drawing. Have teams take turns until everyone has had a chance to draw.

### **Activity #3: Snack Chat**

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Steps:

1. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
  - Has anyone used the internet to do research for school? What did you learn?
  - Does anyone play games on the computer? What do you like to play?
  - Have you ever drawn a picture or card on the computer to give as a gift? What program did you use? What did it look like?
  - Has anyone used the computer to talk to friends or family? Did you send an email, use a chat program, or video chat?
  - Do you have a computer in your house? What does your family use it for?
  - Of all these things you and your family do on a computer, what do you think people did before computers were invented? What do you think life was like before computers?

### **Activity #4: Girl Scout Search**

Badge Connection: Step 2—Find some cool facts

Time Allotment: 35 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Ensure that all computers are on and have an internet browser available.
- Find a location away from the computer where girls can do their craft.

Materials Needed:

- Computer with internet access and internet browser
- Coloring utensils
- Paper
- Writing utensils
- Optional: Printer, scissors, glue

Steps:

1. Tell the girls you will be making fact/picture pages about Girl Scouts. Have each group choose a Girl Scout topic to look up online. Some possible options are:
  - Girl Scout games
  - Girl Scout songs

- Girl Scout traditions
  - Juliette Gordon Low
  - Historical uniforms
  - Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys
  - Current badges and awards
  - Historical badges and awards
2. In their groups, have the girls find information about their topic online. Each girl will then choose one "item" in this category to make a fact page about, using the craft supplies available.
  3. Optional: Girls can also print pictures and facts, if printers are available.
  4. Combine the sheets into a collage or a "scrapbook".

## 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 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 store where you can purchase computers. Ask the sales associate questions about choosing the right computer for you.
  - 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.

## Suggestions

Do you have any suggestions to improve this activity plan? Do you have ideas for other possible badge-earning activities? Please email [troopsupport@girlscoutsrv.org](mailto:troopsupport@girlscoutsrv.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 ways we can use computers and are on our way to earning the Computer Expert Badge.

We had fun:

- Learning to stay safe on the internet.
- Playing Pictionary using a computer drawing program.
- Learning more about Girl Scouts on the internet.

Continue the fun at home:

- Make a card with your Girl Scout for a friend or family member on a computer.
- Search the internet with your Girl Scout to learn more about her favorite topics.
- 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!

## Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge\* for all Girl Scouts

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number(s), parent's or guardians' work address/telephone number(s), and the name and location of my school without the permission of my parent or guardian.
- I will tell an adult right away if I come across or receive any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will always follow the rules of Internet sites, including those rules that are based on age of use, parental approval and knowledge, and public laws.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents or guardians. If my parents or guardian agree to a meeting, I will arrange it in a public place and bring a parent or guardian along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parent or guardian.
- I will talk with my parent or guardian so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide on the time of day that I can be online, the length of time that I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.
- I will not use the Internet to collect money for Girl Scout products, and I will follow all safety guidelines related to Girl Scout product sales.
- I will practice online "netiquette" (good manners) at all times when online.
  - I won't spam others.
  - I will not bully nor will I tolerate bullying (and I will always tell a trusted adult if this is a problem).
  - I won't use bad language.
- I will be guided by the Girl Scout Promise and Law in all that I do online.

Signed,

Girl Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*The GSUSA Online Safety Pledge is based upon the Online Safety Pledge developed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: <http://www.missingkids.com/>. (Revised 2010)