

CADETTE NETIQUETTE BADGE – MEETING 1

Badge Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to make—and keep—your online world a positive place.

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	The Speed of Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the pros and cons of being able to communicate quickly via technology. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal or notebook (netiquette journal) <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
20 minutes	Create an Online Kindness Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think of ways to spread kindness to friends and family via technology, and repair hurt feelings. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Netiquette journal <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Colored pencils or markers <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Phone or computer with internet access
20 minutes	Social Media Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While having a healthy snack, discuss social media profiles, and why we post what we do on social media. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack <input type="checkbox"/> Netiquette journal <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Phone or computer with internet access
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.
- Before you start working on this badge, be sure to sign the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge.
 - bit.ly/GSInternetPledge
- If you are going online for any of these activities, be sure to do so with a trusted adult.



Activity #1: The Speed of Communication

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Explore “oops!” and “wow!” moments

Materials Needed: Journal or notebook (netiquette journal); writing utensils

Prep Needed:

- Optional: Survey friends and family members before your discussion to hear about some of their “oops!” and “wow!” moments online. Be sure to keep their stories anonymous.
1. Etiquette, in a nutshell, means using good manners. “Netiquette” means using those same manners that you would apply in person when you’re on your phone, computer, or device (a.k.a. the “net”). That can be easier said than done. Some things we would never say or do to a person in real life become tempting when we’re online without that face-to-face accountability. Your job in earning this badge is to build up your netiquette power so you are ready to make the right choices when you’re online, too.
 2. Online communication via email, text, and social media apps has made it extremely easy to communicate quickly with each other. But that same ease-of-use can lead to problems when we go too fast and hit “send” before thinking it through. This can lead to an “oops!” moment.
 3. On the other hand, having the ability to quickly send a few words, an emoji, or a loving photo to someone who needs a pick-me-up is a bonus in this era of fast-paced communication. That’s a “wow!” moment that can really brighten someone’s day.
 4. Brainstorm “oops!” and “wow!” moments that you have experienced, whether you were the sender or the receiver. What tips can you learn from these situations?
 5. Start a netiquette journal to record some of these lessons. It may seem counter-intuitive to write on paper about the internet, but slowing down to record your feelings about experiences that happened online can be helpful to process today’s speed of communication.
 6. Remember, if you share stories that involve others, you should keep it anonymous to prevent further embarrassment or consequences from the “oops!” moments.

Activity #2: Create an Online Kindness Practice

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Dig into stories of “ouch”—and repair some hurt if necessary

Materials Needed: Netiquette journal; writing utensils; colored pencils or markers; (optional) phone or computer with internet access

1. Some of those “oops!” moments you learned about in Activity #1 can lead to “ouch” moments if the receiver was hurt by what happened. It’s so easy to misunderstand a text message, email, or social media comment and take a negative meaning from it, even if that wasn’t the intention.
2. Imagine a world where everyone tried to insert more “wow!” moments into their relationships with the help of technology. What do you think that would look like?
3. For this activity, use your netiquette journal to brainstorm how you can create more of those “wow!” moments with an online kindness practice. Devote yourself to sharing messages of love, praise, and support for your friends and family online (and on your phone) for two weeks. You could send a text message, email, or social media comment. Just imagine how good your network of friends and family will feel after this focused online kindness practice!
4. Next, unleash your inner artist and design your own emoji in your journal. With permission from a trusted adult, you can go online to explore emoji software to make your creation digital.
5. If you do have some “ouch” moments from past misunderstandings with friends, take the time to repair them with this online kindness practice. Try to craft a message that cannot be misunderstood (run it by other trusted friends first if you’re not sure), and know that it can often take some time to repair hurt feelings. But the best way to do it is to start somewhere. A text that says “Hey, I’m thinking about you today!” can inspire a face-to-face conversation so you can really connect with your friend about whatever happened.



Activity #3: Social Media Snack Chat

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Decide what makes a great social media profile

Materials Needed: Healthy snack; netiquette journal; writing utensils; (optional) phone or computer with internet access

1. Social media profiles can be honest portrayals of who we are, or they can sometimes represent the ideal of who we *want* to be. While having a healthy snack, spend time discussing the following questions about social media profiles:
 - Why do you choose to post or share certain information in your profile? Do you try to share your most authentic self?
 - What do you like to see on other people's profiles—and what would you prefer *not* to see?
 - How is what you share online different from what you share face-to-face? Why?
 - What do you think would happen if everyone's online presence was a truly authentic reflection of themselves? Would this help social relationships and etiquette?
2. Write some of your thoughts in your netiquette journal.

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 computer store to learn about security settings on devices that can help protect you and your information.
 - Connect with an Information Technology (IT) department at a local business or school/university. Arrange a visit to learn about email scams (phishing), and what to watch for when you're online.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a school computer teacher or a computer security expert to talk to your group about internet security and how to tell the difference between public and private settings on computers and devices.
 - Talk to older Girl Scouts about what they have learned from their texting and social media experiences.

