



First-Year Brownie First Meeting Activity Plan

Purpose: When girls participate in their first Brownie meeting of the year, they'll learn about the Girl Scout Way and participate in an Investiture and re-dedication ceremony.

Planning Guides Link: Global Citizenship and Girl Scout Sisterhood

Award Link: Brownie Girl Scout Way, Steps 1, 3, 4 and 5

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 or expertise in the topic. Ask them to lead or support a specific activity/activities, or to lead the meeting.
 - Offer this activity plan as a starting place; 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 the girls and their families ways that they may 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* or Brownie Quest leadership journey; completing the Brownie Girl Scout Way activity plans; or customizing activities to your preference. Pick the one(s) that work best for your group. Girls will know they have earned the award if:

- They can tell others about Juliette Gordon Low or know other Girl Scout traditions, like the Brownie Elf story.
- They can sing a Girl Scout song anywhere.
- They understand that their troop is like a sisterhood and invest or rededicate themselves to the Girl Scout Promise.

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.
- Work with the girls to establish a list of behaviors that make a meeting successful and respectful of everyone's needs.

Resources

- You will want to have access to tables, chairs, and an open space for this meeting.
- This activity plan has been adapted from the *Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting and the Brownie 'Girl Scout Way' activity plan*, which can be used for additional information and activities.

Pre-meeting Activity: Brownie Uniform Coloring Sheet

Time Allotment: 15 minutes prior to meeting start time

Prep Needed:

- Print copies of the Brownie Uniform Coloring Sheet (1 per girl)
- Gather coloring utensils and set up at a designated table space.

Materials Needed:

- Brownie Uniform Coloring Sheets (1 per girl)
- Coloring utensils: Crayons, markers or colored pencils
- Optional: A copy of the Brownie uniform page in the Handbook Section of the Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting (pages 26-27)

Steps:

1. As the girls arrive, greet each girl and direct her to the table where she can color her own Brownie Uniform coloring sheet.
 - Optional: Display a picture of the Brownie uniform on pages 26-27 of the Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting.
2. When it is time to start the meeting, raise your hand in the 'Quiet Sign'. Explain that when your hand goes up, everyone's hand should go up, and everyone is quiet. Let the girls know the Quiet Sign will be used at every meeting.
 - Tip: You can make the Quiet Sign a game by seeing how fast everyone can be quiet.
3. Instruct girls to form a circle to begin the meeting.

Getting Started

Badge Connection: Step 3-Share Sisterhood and Step 4-Leave a place better than you found it

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Form chairs into a circle OR instruct everyone to sit in a circle as they come.
- Print out the attendance and meeting helper charts
- Optional: Print out any handouts or communications needed for parents

Materials Needed:

- A ball or bean bag (preferably soft material)
- Attendance chart
- Meeting helper chart
- Optional: Any handouts or communications for parents

Steps:

1. Ask everyone (girls and adults) to join you in a circle and explain that this is the 'Brownie Circle'. Welcome everyone to the meeting and introduce yourself.
2. Communicate rules about the following items customized to your troop:
 - Meeting dates and times
 - Bathroom/drinking fountain location and buddy system
 - Quiet Sign
 - Respect your Girl Scout sisters, leaders and parents
 - Any other expectations deemed necessary by troop
3. Explain that this year, Brownies will go on a special journey called the 'Brownie Quest'. Before beginning the Brownie quest, it is important to know what special talents and qualities everyone brings to the troop (girls and parents included). This will happen through a ball/bean bag toss introduction game.

4. How to play: One person will start with the ball and introduce herself/himself, and share one thing she/he is good at. The rule is, only the person who has the ball can talk. After introducing/sharing, that person tosses the ball to someone new and the game continues until all have introduced themselves and shared a talent.
5. Next, explain that part of being a Girl Scout Brownie is leaving places better than we found them. Discuss at the beginning of each Girl Scout meeting, you will assign meeting helpers, share ideas, make decisions, and talk as a group. Introduce the meeting helper roles, which are jobs that different girls can take responsibility to do or lead each meeting. These jobs will help our meetings to run smoothly, and for us as Girl Scouts to truly be good 'Brownie Elves'. Some meeting helper roles might include:
 - Attendance Helper: in charge of taking attendance
 - Girl Scout Promise Leader: leads group in reciting the Girl Scout Promise
 - Girl Scout Law Leader: leads group in reciting the Girl Scout Law
 - Material Helper: assists in passing out/collecting materials for an activity
 - Brownie Elf Helper: after the group cleans up, makes sure nothing is left behind
 - Snack Helper: assists in setting up/passing out snack
 - Friendship circle Helper: leads the friendship circle activity
 - Tip: Ask the girls if they have other ideas of meeting helper jobs they would like to add or help with.
6. Talk with the girls and assign meeting helpers for this meeting. Review what the roles and responsibilities are.
7. Tip: Switch out girls for roles every meeting and allow each girl the chance to have a meeting helper role. Keep track of who does what at each meeting.

Activity #1: Juliette Gordon Low Action Story

Badge Connection: Step 5—Enjoy Girl Scout traditions

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Juliette Gordon Low Action Story (below)

Steps:

1. Tell the girls it is time to move on to another fun game where we will learn about the woman who started Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low. Instruct the girls to form a circle standing up. This is an action story where you will read, and they will do. Instruct that when you say an 'action' word, the girls must perform the correct action or phrase that goes with that word. Practice the words and motions first so everyone understands what the 'action' words are.

'Action' words and Actions motions

- "Little Girls" = girls giggle loudly
- "Georgia" = girls wave and say, "Hi, y'all!"
- "Horses" = girls stamp their feet and say, "neigghhhhhhh!"
- "Lord/Lady Baden-Powell" = girls bow or curtsy formally and say, "How do you do?"
- "London" = girls sing, "London Bridge is falling down!"
- "Boy Scouts" = girls say, "Be prepared!"
- "Juliette Low" = girls join hands with the person next to them and sing, "Make new friends"
- "Girl Scouts/Scouting" = girls make the Girl Scout Sign and say, "On my honor!"
- "World" = girls spin around once with hands over their head (like a ballerina)

2. Read the story below at a slow pace so that girls can easily hear the action words. The ‘action’ words are **bolded/underlined** for your convenience. Pause after reading the action words so girls can catch them and do the corresponding actions or phrases accordingly.
 - Tip: You can have the girls listen and perform all the actions together as a group, or you can assign one ‘action word’ to a pair of girls, and they are responsible to perform the action for that word *only*.

Once upon a time there was a **little girl** named **Juliette Low** who lived in **Georgia** and loved to ride **horses**. In 1912, **Juliette Low** became interested in **Scouting** while visiting her friends, **Lord and Lady Baden-Powell**, who lived in **London**, England and who started the **Boy Scouts**.

She was fascinated by the work he was doing which he began in **London**. She studied with him for a while and decided to begin a troop of **Girl Scouts** for the **little girls** who liked to ride **horses** in **Georgia**. So **Juliette Low** said good-bye to the **Boy Scouts** in **London** and came home to **Georgia** with the ideas that **Lord Baden-Powell** gave her. She formed a group of **little girls** in Savannah, **Georgia**, who liked to ride **horses** and be together, into a troop of **Girl Scouts**. She did this on March 12th, 1912, and this first troop of eight **little girls** was the first **Girl Scout** troop in this part of the **world**.

This first **Girl Scout** troop was so successful that **Juliette Low** wanted to see **Girl Scout** troops all over the **world** because she knew that **Girl Scouting** would help **little girls** and big girls all over the **world** to become friends and help build **world** peace and good will.

Girl Scouting grew and grew. You are not only a member of your own **Girl Scout** troop but also a member of the largest **Girl Scouts** of the United States of America and the **World** Association of Girls Guides and **Girl Scouts**.

THE END

Activity #2: Share Sisterhood! Girl Scout traditions and Girl Scout Law game

Badge Connections: Step 3-Share Sisterhood and Step 5-Enjoy Girl Scout Traditions

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Print and cut up cards or paper strips: one card/strip per line of the Girl Scout Law

Materials Needed:

- Girl Scout Law Cards or paper strips (1 card per line of the law)

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.

Steps:

1. Explain that Girl Scouts has traditions—things that Girl Scouts have done for many years—that show respect, including:

1. Girl Scout Quiet Sign: When everyone is talking and it's time to be quiet, someone raises her right hand and stops talking. As others see her hand in the air, they raise their right hands and stop talking, too.
2. Girl Scout Handshake: Girls shake with their left hands and make the Girl Scout sign with their right hands.



2. Practice using the Girl Scout Quiet Sign and Girl Scout Handshake. When girls practice the Girl Scout handshake, have them introduce themselves to one another.
3. Ask girls how these Girl Scout traditions help them show respect for others.
4. Next, pair the girls up into partners and assign each pair one line of the Girl Scout law by giving them a card/paper strip. Each pair must make up a word, action, or phrase that represents or demonstrates their line of the law.
5. After a few minutes, gather as a large group to read through the Girl Scout Law. After each line of the law is read, pause to allow each pair of girls to perform their word, action or phrase.

Activity #3: Girl Scout Brownie Investiture and Rededication Ceremony

Badge Connections: Step 5-Enjoy Girl Scout Traditions and Step 1-Sing Everywhere

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Prior to the ceremony, have badge buddies (with adequate supervision) set up the pond area in the front of the room.
- Rededication takes place each year a girl or adult renews her membership in Girl Scouting. It does not matter if they are consecutive years or if there has been a break. As part of the ceremony, girls and adults participating in the rededication recite the Girl Scout Promise.
- Investiture takes place the **first time** a girl or an adult joins Girl Scouting.
- Rededication and Investiture can be conducted in the same ceremony. If you have girls/adults rededicating and investing at the same ceremony, do the rededicating first - then those girls and adults can assist with investiture.

Materials Needed:

- Girl Scout Promise (optional: printed out on a poster board)
- Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting: The Brownie Story (Page 18-21)
- Girl Scout Brownie Pins (1 per girl)
- A "pond" made of aluminum foil or any type of reflective material.
- Optional: Refreshments for girls and parents

Steps:

Note: You may design your own ceremony any way you wish; as long as it includes the opportunity for Brownies to re-dedicate or invest themselves to the Girl Scout Promise and receive their Girl Scout Brownie pins. Here is a sample design for a Girl Scout Brownie Investiture (year 1) ceremony:

1. Read the 'The Brownie Story' on pages 18-21 in the Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting to both girls and the audience.
2. Begin the ceremony with the girls knocking on the door to the ceremony room.

Leader: Who comes to the Girl Scout Brownie Woods?

Brownies: We do!

Leader: What do you want?

Brownies: We want to be Girl Scout Brownies!
Leader: Why?

3. *Each girl gives her reason why she wants to be a Girl Scout Brownie.*
4. Instruct the girls to recite the Girl Scout Promise. This can be done individually or as a group. Use repeat-after-me or say it as a group if girls know it by heart.

Girl Scout Promise
<p><i>On my honor, I will try: To serve God* and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.</i></p>

5. One at a time, the leader gives each girl the Girl Scout Handshake and pins on her Brownie pin, pinned upside down. Girls gather around the pond.

Leader: Now that you are all Girl Scout Brownies, each of you must perform three good deeds. Once you do your good deeds, tell me about them and I will turn your pin around!

6. *Sing a song, such as Make New Friends or the Brownie Smile Song.* Use repeat-after-me or sing as a group, if girls know it by heart.

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

The Brownie Smile Song
<p>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!</p>

7. Optional: Invite parents and girls to share refreshments.

Activity #4: 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.
 - How do you like to celebrate your birthday?
 - Talk about Juliette Gordon Low's birthday (October 31) and the birthday of Girl Scouts (March 12) and what you as a troop can do to throw birthday celebrations on one or both of these days.

- What Girl Scout traditions did you like learning about or doing today?
- What is your favorite song?
- How can we leave this meeting place looking better than when we arrived?
- When is a time you left a place better than you found it?
- Where are some other places outside of Girl Scouts where you can leave a place better than you found it?

Wrapping Up

Badge Connection: Step 1-Sing Everywhere and Step 5-Enjoy Girl Scout Traditions

Time Allotment: 10 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 nursing home/ assisted living complex and sing Girl Scout songs for the residents.
- Speaker Ideas
 - Invite Girl Scout alumni to come and talk about Girl Scouts when she was a girl, or assist in the Brownie Investiture and Rededication Ceremony.

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.

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 Girl Scout history and traditions and are on our way to earning the Girl Scout Way Badge.

We had fun:

- Participating in the Girl Scout Sisterhood through an Investiture/Rededication ceremony.
- Sharing the story of Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low and learning other traditions.
- Singing songs about Juliette Gordon Low.

Continue the fun at home:

- Have your Girl Scout teach you the songs we learned and make up new ones together.

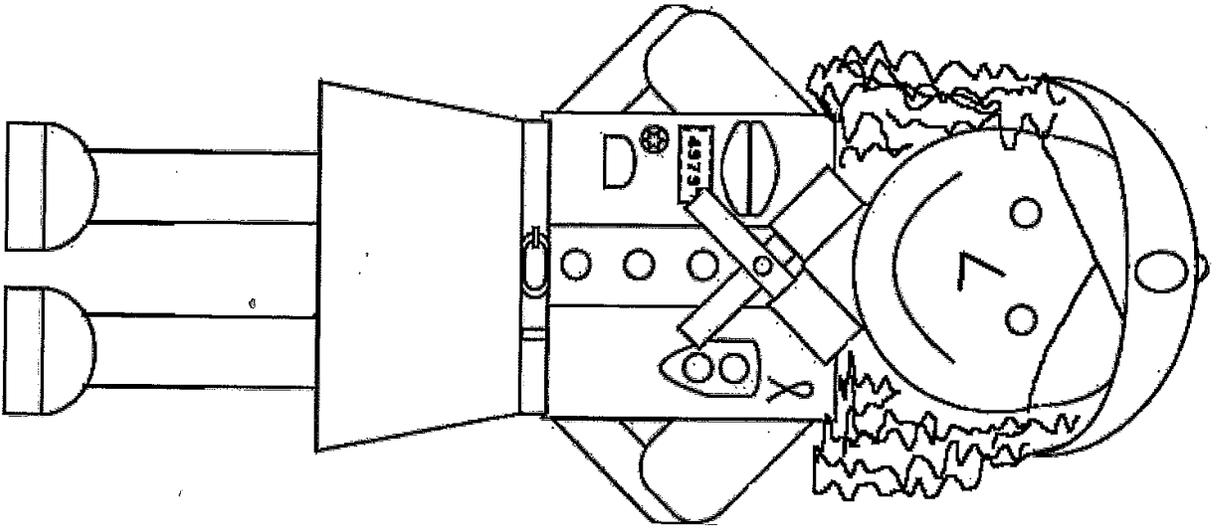
Make New Friends		
Verse One	Verse Two	Verse Three
Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, the other is gold.	A circle is round, it has no end. That's how long, I will be your friend.	You have one hand, I have the other. Put them together, We have each other.

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!

- Visit a library with your Girl Scout and find a book about Juliette Gordon Low.
- Tell a new friend about the Girl Scout sisterhood and why Girl Scouting is fun.

Thank you for bringing your girl to Girl Scouts!

Color the Brownie Uniform



Design your own Brownie Uniform

