

# CADETTE COMPARISON SHOPPING BADGE

**Badge Purpose:** When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to go online to find the best deals on the best products in the safest way possible.

**Activity Plan Length:** 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin the meeting by reciting the Girl Scout Promise + Law</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster
15 minutes	Find the Best Deal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn to comparison shop online by web-browsing before you click "purchase."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer or phone with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pen
15 minutes	Let's Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare customer reviews online and discuss how they can influence our buying decisions.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer or phone with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pen
15 minutes	An Eye for Detail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the Online Comparison Chart to explore details and hidden costs when making an online purchase.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer or phone with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pen <input type="checkbox"/> Online Comparison Chart Worksheet (at the end of activity plan)
15 minutes	Buyer Beware Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about the warning signs for online fraud and discuss ways to be a disciplined shopper, while having a healthy snack.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack <input type="checkbox"/> Individual girl online fraud research that was done ahead of the meeting
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster

## Online Safety

Safety should be your number one priority whenever you are online. For starters, make sure you have permission to go online. If your parent or guardian has any concerns, you can partner up with them to complete this badge together. Never give away even a single clue about your personal life (birth date, street address, etc.). There's no need to enter credit card or payment information while completing this badge. ***You don't have to buy anything to earn this badge.*** If you do purchase something, you must have an adult's help and permission. Be sure to sign the internet safety pledge before you start!



## 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.

## Activity #1: Find the Best Deal

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Learn to comparison shop

Materials Needed: Computer or phone with internet access; paper; pen

1. Have you ever gone to the mall to buy a shirt, but then you find the same shirt for a lower price at a different store just after you bought it? This step is all about finding the best deal on your item *before* you purchase it. At the mall, you can learn to become a savvy shopper by doing your research at different stores first. The same is true for online shopping—different websites can have different prices for the same item.
2. Choose an item to research, like a TV or a camera. Split up into small groups and start searching for the item to purchase online.
3. Have each group share what they found with the larger group. Ask questions of each group like why would you recommend one website over another? Make sure you're comparing the same product. For example, a difference in price could be for a different model, so check the details.

## Activity #2: Let's Review

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Find out how to use online reviews

Materials Needed: Computer or phone with internet access; paper; pen

1. Price isn't the only factor to consider when shopping for an item online. It's also important to find out how well the item works, performs, or if it lives up to the hype. One way to find out the answers to these questions, and more, is through customer reviews.
2. Working individually, explore an item online and read the customer reviews. Each girl should collect five customer reviews for an item (each girl should explore different items this time).
3. Remember, the reviews don't have to be positive reviews! Sometimes, hearing that a product was unsatisfactory is more helpful than finding out that it was good. Consider yourself saved from a frustrating purchase by that customer who gave the negative review!
4. Come back together as a large group for sharing. Each girl should present her product to the large group, and read key quotes from the reviews. Take a vote on whether the group would purchase the product, based on the customer reviews each girl shared. Discuss how the reviews persuaded you one way or another.

## Activity #3: An Eye for Detail

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Check out the fine print

Materials Needed: Computer or phone with internet access; paper; pen; Online Comparison Chart Worksheet (at the end of activity plan)

Prep Needed:

- Print off copies of the Online Comparison worksheet (one per girl).
1. So now that you've explored how to find the best deal, and how to use customer reviews to your advantage. You may have an item you're ready to "purchase!" (*Remember, you don't have to actually purchase anything*



to earn this badge.) But wait! Did you check the fine print? The item that was the lowest price in Activity #1 may not be the lowest price when you add shipping costs, for example. What about being able to return the item? Is there a re-stocking fee if you need to send the item back? Do you have to pay tax on the item?

2. Break up into small groups, and use the Online Comparison Chart Worksheet to keep track of these details for the item you are exploring.
3. Present what you learned to the large group and make a recommendation of the best website to buy from based on your findings.

## Activity #4: Buyer Beware Snack Chat

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Investigate how to avoid online fraud and Step 5 – Know how to manage your online shopping

Materials Needed: Healthy snack; individual girl online fraud research that was done ahead of the meeting

Prep Needed:

- Each girl should research online fraud before the troop meeting, and come prepared to share at least 3 warning signs of a scam with the troop.
1. Most websites have us set up accounts with passwords for our privacy and protection. But it's true that there are some websites out there that don't have a shopper's best interests in mind. Either the website isn't secure, leaving it open to third-party hackers who steal personal information, or the website itself is collecting data that should never have to be shared for an online purchase. It's important to learn the warning signs and what to watch for when you're browsing online, so you can avoid the scamming or insecure websites.
  2. While having a healthy snack, have each girl present what she learned in her research before the troop meeting about online fraud and signs of scam.
  3. Some questions to consider:
    - What are some ways to tell if a website is secure?
    - What are some key warning signs to look out for?
    - What type of information (like your birth date or Social Security number) should you never have to give?
    - What are the safest ways to pay online?
    - Where can you look online to see if a website is legitimate or not?
  4. It's also important to know how to keep track of your online shopping habits so they don't get out of hand. Talk about ways that you can monitor your online shopping by being a disciplined shopper from the very beginning.

## 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:
  - Go to a shopping mall to explore items before you shop for them online. Notice the differences between in-person and online shopping.
- Speaker Ideas:



- Invite someone from the Better Business Bureau to talk to your troop about online safety and spotting the warning signs of fraud.
- Invite an expert on compulsive shopping—a therapist, counselor, or professor—to talk to your troop about “shopping addiction.” Learning about common warning signs of compulsive shopping and common issues that lead people to compulsively shop.



## Online Comparison Chart

Item: \_\_\_\_\_

	Website 1	Website 2	Website 3
Cost of item			
Shipping rates			
Taxes			
Any extra fees			
Charges for shipping an item back for return			
Restocking fees for return			
Policy is item is broken and needs to be returned			

