



Junior Camper Badge Activity Plan 2

Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they will know how to have a great overnight camping trip at a campsite or cabin.

Planning Guides Link: Outdoor Awareness and Environmental Stewardship

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 Junior 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 Junior 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 on this award or simply try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to earn this award, including: completing the activities as listed in the Journeys or the *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 know how to plan for a camping adventure.
- They can demonstrate new camping skills.
- They can describe how to keep food safe during a camping trip and can list ideas for camp food.
- They know some fun nighttime camping activities.

Tips and Tools

- Check out ways to stay safe using Safety-Wise at troopsupport@girlscoutsrv.org.
- 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 Skill-Building Badge set for the *It's Your Planet—Love It!* Independence 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 them 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.
 - Name of Game: Spiderweb.
 - Equipment needed: Ball of yarn or the string. Girls form a circle.
 - The girl with the ball or yarn starts by calling out a girl's name and tossing the yarn to her, holding onto the end of the string. The girl who catches the ball must call out another girl's name and toss the ball to her. Create a spider web with the string, being sure to include everyone. Ask one girl to pull on her string while everyone else holds on. Ask: "How many girls can feel the string pulled?" Discuss the importance of group cooperation and an individual's contribution to the group.

Activity #1: Interview an Experienced Camper.

Award Connection: Step 1: Start planning your adventure

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Invite older Girl Scouts or parents with camping experience to the meeting to share their knowledge and answer questions. Encourage her to bring a few photos from her camping trips.
- Prepare a list of questions for her to answer or topics to discuss. Examples: How does she prepare for a camping trip? What does she bring? What is her favorite part of camping and why? What are her favorite camp foods or meals?

Materials Needed:

None

Steps:

1. Explain the purpose of the activity and introduce the speaker.
2. After the speaker shares, ask the Girl Scouts what questions they have about camping.
3. Thank the guest(s) and lead a round of applause.

Activity #2: Build a (Model) Campfire

Award Connection: Step 2: Gain a new camping skill

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather and/or purchase supplies. If you divide the troop into smaller groups for this activity, prepare a set of supplies for each group.
- Make copies of pages 6–7 from the Camper Badge in the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*—one set per group.

Materials Needed:

- Construction paper in the following colors: green, brown, black, red, yellow, orange.
- White paper, scissors, tape, markers or crayons.
- Use one or more of the following for “firewood:” pool noodles cut in thirds, brown craft paper, cardboard.
- Copies of page 7 of the Camper Badge in the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouts*.

Steps:

1. Explain the activity: “In this activity, we will pretend that Girl Scouts USA is sponsoring a contest to create a 2–3 minute video about how to build a campfire. The winning video will be used to train hundreds of Junior Girl Scouts across the nation. Videos will be judged on how well they cover all of the information on page seven of the Camper Badge in the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouts*. This page explains how to safely create a campfire.”
2. Divide girls into groups (optional).
3. Distribute supplies to each group.
4. Allow 10 minutes for girls to create and practice their presentations.
5. Each group presents. Leaders determine how many of the five steps and safety tips were included in each presentation. The group that includes the most wins.
6. Announce the winner.

Activity #3: Snack Chat

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple award steps

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Steps:

1. Provide a snack similar to one they would eat if they were camping such as trail mix.
2. While enjoying the snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
 - Has anyone ever been camping? If so, where did you go?
 - What do you think is the ideal length of time for a camping trip? Why?
 - How do you think Girl Scout camping was different 50 years ago? How was it similar?

Activity #4: Fun Around the Campfire

Award Connection: Step 5: Head out on your trip—have some nighttime fun.

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- This activity occurs outside after dark. Adjust your meeting time if needed to ensure it will be dark during this activity. Inform parents of new meeting time (if applicable).
- Confirm flashlights are working. Replace batteries, if needed.
- If you are not familiar with Girl Scout campfire songs and games, contact your service unit or Girl Scouts River Valleys for more information. If your guest speaker from Activity #1 is a Girl Scout, you could invite her to stay for the rest of the meeting and lead the songs. Be sure to discuss with her prior to the meeting.
- Your local library may have copies of books of traditional Girl Scout songs such as *Sing Together* or *The Ditty Bag*, which include sheet music or CDs of Melinda Carroll's *Girl Scouts Greatest Hits*.

Materials Needed:

- Flashlights: One for every two girl. Use flashlights to simulate the flames of a campfire.

Steps:

1. Move the winning pretend campfire from Activity #2 to the outdoor gathering spot. Add flashlights and turn them on to simulate the campfire.
2. Sing campfire songs.
3. Play games. Knowing some easy games that are safe for campfire spaces (no running!) is always a good idea; storytelling and guessing games are popular. Start a round of Telephone using some fun facts the girls learned today. Play Twenty Questions, try Charades, ask Girl Scout trivia questions or write a community story (going around the circle, everyone contributes one sentence at a time).

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:
 - Learn about camping supplies and gear at a store that sells camping supplies.
 - Explore a state park or nature center.
 - Participate in one of the camping trips offered by the Girl Scouts River Valleys.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Camping expert from a store that sells camping supplies.
 - Parents of Girl Scouts who have camping experience.
 - Older Girl Scouts who have camping experience at a Girl Scout camp or wilderness camping.
 - Someone from a nature center such as a naturalist.

Suggestions

Do you have any suggestions to improve this activity plan? Do you have ideas for other possible badge-earning activities? Please email troopssupport@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 creating a fun and safe camping experience and are on our way to earning the Junior Camper Badge.

We had fun:

- Learning about camping from a guest speaker.
- Building a pretend fire using the Girl Scout best practices.
- Eating a snack that we could bring on a camping trip.
- Playing nighttime camping activities.

Continue the fun at home:

- Play a game of flashlight tag.
- Plan a real or fictional camping trip that matches your family's skill level and interest.
- Build a real campfire. Be sure to follow the instructions and safety tips on page 7 in the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* Junior Camper Badge.

- Check the Minnesota and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources websites for camping-related events and opportunities.
- Look through the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* Junior Camper Badge with your Girl Scout to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your girl to Girl Scouts!