



Brownie Girl Scout Way Badge Activity Plan 1

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they will know how to practice and share the Girl Scout way.

Planning Guides Link: Global Citizenship and Girl Scout Sisterhood

Fun Patch Link: We Are Sisters

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 can tell others about Juliette Gordon Low and Girl Scout traditions
- They sing a new Girl Scout song
- They understand that their troop is a sisterhood

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.
- For more Girl Scout Brownie activity ideas, attend an Extra! Extra! For Girl Scout Brownie Leaders training session.

Resources

- This activity plan has been adapted from the *Brownie Girls Guide to Girl Scouting* Girl Scout Way 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.

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. Sing the Brownie Smile Song. Use repeat-after-me or sing as a group if girls know it by heart.

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!

Activity #1: Clean-up!

Badge Connection: Step – 4 Leave a place better than you found it

Time Allotment: 15 Minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies

Materials Needed:

- Large piece of paper or white board
- Writing utensils

Steps:

1. Explain to the girls the importance of leaving a place better than you found it. That could mean picking up trash, putting away supplies, or placing tables and chairs in the correct spot.

2. As a group, brainstorm different ways they can keep their meeting space clean. Write their ideas down a large piece of paper.
3. For many years, Girl Scouts all around the world have cleaned up their meeting spaces each time they gather together. Teach the girls this song to sing at clean-up time:

Brownie Tidying-Up Song
 (to the tune of "London Bridge")
 Weave the magic in and out,
 In and out, in and out,
 Weave the magic in and out,
 For we are Brownies.

We have tidied everything,
 Everything, everything,
 We have tidied everything,
 For we are Brownies.

Activity #2: Make a Sit-Up

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Enjoy Girl Scout traditions

Time Allotment: 30 Minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies
- Pre-cut the material in 15"x30" pieces (1 per girl)
- Pre-cut newspaper or foam padding to 13"x13"
- Hole punch material

Materials Needed:

- Squares of water proof material like oil cloth or plastic. (Vinyl table clothes work really well)
- Yarn
- Tape
- Newspaper or Foam padding
- Hole punch
- Permanent markers

Steps:

1. Explain to the girls what a sit-upon is and that it is a Girl Scout tradition. Over the years, many Girl Scouts have made sit-upons to use when the ground is damp or dirty. Today you get to make your very own sit-upon!
2. Give each girl a piece of material and have her fold each section in half so that you have a 15x15" sit-upon.
3. Stuff folded newspapers inside, or use squares of foam padding that you have precut to 13"x13" sections.
4. Use a hole punch about every inch all the way around about a half inch from the edge. This can be done prior to the meeting or, depending on the age and abilities of the girls, you can have them punch the holes.
5. Use yarn or string to sew around. Girls can use an overlay stitch or a straight stitch if they prefer. You may need to put a piece of tape on the end of your string to make it easier to insert through the holes.
6. Have each girl write her name on her sit-upon using a permanent marker.

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.
 - What are some of your favorite Girl Scout traditions?

- What are some of your favorite Girl Scout songs?
 - How do you keep your bedroom tidy?
 - Is it easier to tidy up at Girl Scouts or at Home? Why?
2. After enjoying snack, clean up your Girl Scout meeting space. See if the girls remember to sing the song they learned in Activity 1.

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
 - Take a trip to the library and learn more about Girl Scout traditions.
 - Attend a service unit or council-sponsored event so girls can see they are part of an even larger Girl Scout sisterhood.
- Speaker Ideas
 - Invite Girl Scout alumni to come and talk about Girl Scouts when they were a girl.
 - Invite an older Girl Scout troop to teach girls Girl Scout songs and traditions.

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

We had fun:

- Learning ways to leave our space better than we found it
- Learning the Brownie Tidying-Up Song
- Making our very own sit-upons

Continue the fun at home:

- Sing the song we learned while cleaning up at home
- Search the internet (with a parent helper) and learn about Girl Scout traditions
- 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!