



## Brownie Computer Expert Badge Activity Plan 2

**Badge Purpose:** When girls have earned this badge, they'll know how to do many useful things on a computer.

**Planning Guides Link:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

**Fun Patch Link:** Computer Knowledge

**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 have made or drawn something with a computer art program
- They can find facts and use other resources online
- They can connect with others online
- They know one way to have fun on a computer

### Tips and Tools

- You will need computers with internet access to complete this activity plan. One computer for every 2–3 girls is best. Here are some tips for finding computers to use:
  - Check with the local school, library, or community center. Be sure to ask about rules for computer use at their location and respect others who need to use the computers. If you are planning a snack, check with the employees on where an acceptable location to eat the snack would be.
  - If you have or can move to a location with wireless internet, ask parents if they have laptops the girls can use.
- Make sure that every girl (as well as her parent) has signed the Girl Scout internet safety pledge described and found in Activity Plan #1.
- 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 *Brownie Skill-Building Badge set for It's Your World-Change It!* Computer Expert Badge, which can be used for additional information and activities.

## Getting Started

Time Allotment: 10 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.

<b>Girl Scout Promise</b>	<b>Girl Scout Law</b>
<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.

<b>The Brownie Smile Song</b>
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: Take an interactive tour of the White House

Badge Connection: Step 3—Take a trip online

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Ensure computers are turned on and have web browsers opened.
- Review the White House website to know where to find the interactive tour.

Materials Needed:

- Computers with Internet access

Steps:

1. Have the girls search for the White House website, or give them the address: [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)
2. Ask them to find the interactive tour of the White House and click on the different levels and sections.
3. Ask girls to find the Blue Room. The President often uses this room to greet guests, and during the holidays it is the location of the official White House's Christmas tree.
4. Ask girls to find the Oval Office, which is the official office of the President and the primary place of work.

5. Ask girls to find the Kitchen Garden, where the White House staff grows vegetables and produce to use for the First Family's meals and state dinners.

### **Activity #2: Write to the President**

Badge Connection: Step 4—Make a connection

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Before the meeting, contact all girls' parents/guardians. Inform them that girls will need an email adult's address to use for an activity and to please write this down and send it with their girl(s) if they have one for them to use.

Materials Needed:

- Computers with Internet access
- Scratch paper
- Pencils

Steps:

1. Remind girls that they should never give out personal information on the internet, no matter who they are sharing it with. If they do have an email account, they should not give their email address to strangers.
2. Explain to the girls that the internet can be used to connect with people around the world, even ones you don't know. Today we are going to write an email to the president of the United States.
3. Girls should click the "contact us" link in the top right-hand corner of the screen on the White House web page. They should then click the "submit your questions and comments here" link in the center of the page. This will take them to a form to contact the President.
4. In the "First Name" category, the girls in each group should enter all their first names. For example "Alex, Jane, and Ruby".
5. In the "Last Name" category, girls should enter their troop number, For example "Girl Scout Troop 12345"
6. In the email address category girls **should not** enter their email address if they have one. They should enter the email address of their troop, troop leader, or parent. If they do not have any of these addresses, they can enter [troopsupport@girlscoutsrv.org](mailto:troopsupport@girlscoutsrv.org) this will come to River Valleys and we will do our best to forward any return messages to the girls. If girls use this address, please ensure that they enter a troop number.
7. Girls may enter "MN" for their state. **They should not enter any other information into the fields.**
8. Girls should work together as a group to compose a subject line and letter. They may use the scratch paper and pencils as needed. Here are some things to think about if girls get stuck.
  - a) How has Girl Scouts helped you?
  - b) What great activities have you done in Girl Scouting?
  - c) What have you done in Girl Scouts to make the world a better place that you wish everyone else would do to?
  - d) What questions would you like to ask the President?
9. Each group should have an adult review their email and then press send.

### **Activity #3: Snack Chat**

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Steps:

1. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
  - Has anyone used the computer to talk to friends or family? Did you send an email, use a chat program, or video chat?
  - Do you have a computer in your house? What does your family use it for?

- Of all the things you and your family do on a computer, what do you think people did before computers were invented? What do you think life was like before computers?

### Activity #4: Game on!

Badge Connection: Step 5—Have more computer fun

Time Allotment: 25 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Become familiar with the web pages the girls will be visiting in case they need assistance.

Materials Needed:

- Computer with internet access

Steps:

1. Ask each group to visit <http://www.nick.com/games/> or <http://games.disney.com/> or <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
2. Have girls take turns finding a game they haven't played before and playing the first level stage. Girls should only play one stage. If time permits, have girls go to more than one website.
3. Ask girls what their favorite game was. Did any girls play the same game?

### 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 a 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 store where you can purchase computers. Ask the sales associate questions about choosing the right computer for you.
  - Visit a Daisy troop in your area and share the Girl Scout information pages you made with them.

- Speaker Ideas
  - Invite a game designer or someone who builds computers to your meeting.
  - Invite a teacher to your meeting to talk about how to use computers to learn and have fun.

### **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](mailto: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 ways we can use computers and have earned the Computer Expert Badge.

We had fun:

- Taking an interactive tour of the White House and writing an email to the President.
- Playing different games found on popular kids' websites.

Continue the fun at home:

- Make a card with your Girl Scout for a friend or family member on a computer.
- Search the internet with your Girl Scout to learn more about her favorite topics.
- Reviewing the game sites she likes and playing a game with her.
- 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!