



Brownie Making Friends Badge Activity Plan 1

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll know how to be good friends.

Planning Guides Link: Global Citizenship and Girl Scout Sisterhood

Fun Patch Link: Friendship

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.

Tips and Tools

- During this meeting, instruct girls to be inclusive of differences, encouraging of similarities and open to everyone's ideas.
- 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.

Resources

- This activity plan has been adapted from the Brownie Skill-Building Badge set for the *It's Your Story—Tell It!*, 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: Hey, Me Too!

Badge Connection: Step 1—Make friendly introductions

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- None

Materials Needed:

- None

Steps:

1. Instruct the girls to stand and form a circle. Choose one girl to start in the middle.
2. Instruct each girl that when in the middle, she should introduce herself to the rest of the girls by saying "Hi, my name is _____" (then, instruct the rest of the group to repeat back her name) and then say something about herself.
 - E.g. "Hi, My name is Jane (Group: "Hi Jane!") and I have two sisters."
 - E.g. "Hi, My name is Susie (Group: "Hi Susie!") and I love peanut butter and jelly."
3. Any girl(s) in the circle who shares in common the statement made by the girl in the middle (for example: anyone else who "loves peanut butter and jelly") must yell, "Hey, me too!" and leave her spot in the circle, give a high five to someone in the middle and run to find a different spot. The last person to find a spot is in the middle.

4. The game continues with the next girl in the middle saying, "Hi, my name is..." and stating something about herself.
 - Rule: A girl cannot move to a spot that is directly next to her original spot.
 - Tip: If a girl gets caught in the middle twice in a row, have her switch with someone who has not been in the middle.

Activity #2: Friend or Not? Game

Badge Connection: Step 3—Share favorite activities

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Gather a deck of playing cards and remove all face cards and from the deck, leaving only cards 2-10.
- Place a masking tape loop on the back of each card.
- Write on the flipchart paper/easel or board:
 - Unpopular group: 2, 3, 4
 - In the middle: 5, 6, 7
 - Popular group: 8, 9, 10

Materials Needed:

- Deck of playing cards
- Masking tape
- Flip chart paper/easel board, or whiteboard and markers

Steps:

1. Tape one card to each girl's back. Tell the girls not look at their card or to tell others what number they have on their back. Make sure all the girls can see the flip chart or board so they can refer to it during the game.
2. Explain to the girls that they are going to walk around and try to find and link arms with new friends, and that the number on their back determines what group they are in. Numbers 8, 9 or 10 are the "popular" group. Numbers 2, 3 and 4 are the "unpopular" group. Numbers 5, 6 or 7 belong to neither group and are somewhere in the middle.
3. Instruct the girls that when you say "go," to roam around the room looking at the numbers on other girls' backs to try and find/link arms with new friends. If a girl finds a girl who is an 8,9 or 10 ("popular girl") she should say "Hi!" and try to link arms with her. Girls should say "Hi!" back to the girl and link arms if they are an 8, 9 or 10. If a girl is a 2, 3, or 4 ("unpopular girl"), she should turn her back on that girl and ignore her. If she is a 5, 6 or 7, she has a choice to accept/link arms or ignore the girl.
 - Tip: As the game gets moving, you should see the 8,9 and 10's ("popular" group) begin to form a group, and the 2, 3 and 4's ("unpopular" group) are off to the side. The 5, 6, and 7's (middle group) will probably be mixed with both groups.
4. When distinct groups have formed, stop the game. Ask everyone who thinks they are an 8, 9 or 10 ("popular") to raise their hand. Repeat the question for the other two groups. Have the girls look at their cards to see if they guessed their numbers correctly.
5. End with a group discussion:
 - Ask each group what it felt like to be in their group (accepted, not accepted or in the middle)
 - How is this game like making friends in real life?

Activity #3: Friendship Role Play

Badge Connection: Step 4—Learn how to disagree

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Write scenarios on notecards prior to the meeting. Scenario examples:
 - Your friend wants to play soccer but you want to play dolls.

- Your friend beats you in a game you are playing together.
- Your friend says something to you that hurts your feelings.
- Your friend is ignoring you because she is mad at you about something.
- You and your friend both want to use the same jump rope at the same time.
- Your friend forgot to bring a toy to play with at recess today.
- Your friend is sitting all alone with no one to play with.

Materials Needed:

- Pre-written scenario notecards

Steps:

1. Partner girls up into pairs. Have each pair draw a scenario card.
2. Give girls five minutes to quietly prepare the scene they are going to act out, including how to resolve their scenario. The scenes should be brief—no longer than one minute each.
3. Gather as a large group and allow each pair one minute to act out their scene in front of the rest of the group. After each skit, allow the group to discuss briefly what was acted out and the characteristics of good and bad friends.

Activity #4: Snack Chat and Friendship Pledge

Badge Connection: Step 5—Practice friendship!

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Snack prep (varies according to snack choice)

Materials Needed:

- Snack item(s)
- Plain paper or construction paper
- Markers

Steps:

1. While enjoying snack, review with the girls some of the things they learned about friendship today.
 - E.g. Girls can name different ways they can be good friends or ways to handle tough situations.
2. After snack is finished, pass out one sheet per girl and have everyone grab a marker. Tell the girls they are going to find two girls and trace their handprints anywhere on their paper.
3. Next, tell them to grab a different color marker and search for two other girls and trace their handprints anywhere on the paper. Handprints should begin to overlap.
4. Once the handprints are traced, have girls shade in the shapes created from the overlapping hands with a variety of colors or designs.
5. Have the girls write, “I will be a good friend!” anywhere on their sheet and sign the bottom of their pledge. Encourage girls to display their friendship pledge in a place where they can see it everyday.

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:
 - Coordinate with another Girl Scout troop to visit and attend their next troop meeting.
 - Attend a Girl Scout gathering, such as a council-sponsored program event or camp.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite another Brownie troop or an older girl troop to your troop meeting.
 - Invite a camp counselor, teacher or an after-school program specialist to your troop meeting.

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 how to be a good friend and are on our way to earning the Making Friends Badge.

We had fun:

- Practicing introducing ourselves and getting to know one another better through a game called "Hey, Me Too!"
- Learning the challenges of acceptance and rejection within friendships in a game called, "Friend or Not?"
- Acting out "friendship scenario" skits showcasing what makes a good friend and a bad friend.
- Creating and decorating a "Friendship Pledge" to hang up at home.

Continue the fun at home:

- Help your Girl Scout make something special for a friend of hers, such as a card, poem or a small gift.
- Talk with your Girl Scout about her friends in real life, and how she can be a good friend.
- Encourage your Girl Scout to invite a friend over and have them teach each other their favorite activities.
- 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!