



Brownie Bugs Badge Activity Plan 1

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll know all about bugs.

Planning Guides Link: Outdoor Awareness and Environmental Stewardship

Fun Patch Link: Insects

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 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 have learned about bugs and their different body parts
- They have seen bugs in action and explored bugs' homes
- They have taken a bug field trip

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.

Resources

- This activity plan has been adapted from the *Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting Bugs Badge*, which can be used for additional information and activities.
- Suggestions for more information about bugs:
 - *Bugs Are Insects* by Anne Rockwell and Steve Jenkins
 - *Insects* from Eyewitness Books
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insect>
 - *Big Book of Bugs* from DK Publishing

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.

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: Draw a Bug

Badge Connection: Step 1—Draw a bug poster

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Find a book or other resource that has information about insects and bugs that is easy to share with the girls (see Resources section above for suggestions).

Materials Needed:

- Large paper or poster board
- Coloring utensils

Steps:

1. Read a book to introduce girls to bugs and insects.
2. Individually or in small groups, ask girls to draw their favorite insect and include all they know about that insect (don't worry about whether or not the information is 100% correct; the idea is to get girls thinking about bugs!).
3. Girl can include the following information on their posters:
 - Where the bug lives

- How long it lives
- What it eats
- What is good about this bug
- What is not so good about this bug
- Its enemies

Activity #2: Crafty Bugs

Badge Connection: Step 2—Try a bug craft

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Paper plates (one per girl)
- Pipe cleaners
- Glue
- Googly eyes or pens
- Optional: Glitter and other decorative items

Steps:

1. Decorate a paper plate with markers or paint to make it look like the body of a spider or any other bug that girls want to create.
2. Draw eyes or make them by attaching googly eyes or covering dots of glue in glitter.
3. Cut pipe cleaners in half to make six, eight (or more!) legs.
4. Attach the legs to the plate.
5. Bend them to make the bug stand.

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:
 - What is your favorite bug?
 - If you were a bug, what would you be?
 - Can you list more than 10 bugs?
 - Bug jokes:
 - What did one cockroach say to the other? *You bug me.*
 - What do you get when you cross a bee and a cow? *A humburger.*
 - What do you get when you cross a pig with a centipede? *Bacon and legs.*
 - What goes snap, crackle, fizz? *A firefly with a short circuit.*
 - What creature is smarter than a talking parrot? *A spelling bee.*
 - What is the biggest ant in the world? *Ant-artica.*

Activity #4: Bugs in Action

Badge Connection: Step 3—See bugs in action

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Determine an outside area where girls can safely observe bugs. It can be a backyard, local park, school field, etc.

Materials Needed:

- Optional: Magnifying glasses to look at bugs more closely

Steps:

1. Head outside and search for bugs.
2. Have the girls look for three different bugs in the area, for example, an ant carrying food, a beetle chewing on a leaf and a roly-poly (sow bug) on a porch.
3. Have the girls identify the bugs and try to find out what they are doing and why.
4. Have the girls share with one another the fun things they have learned.
 - What is cool about bugs?
 - What do bugs do?
 - What bugs are faster than others?

Wrapping Up

Time Allotment: 10 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:
 - Go to a zoo and look at a wide variety of bugs from around the world.
 - Visit museum with bugs.
 - Go to a botanical garden with a bug collection to learn about the relationship between bugs and plants.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Have a bug expert come and talk to the girls about bugs.
 - Invite a farmer to talk about the role bugs play on their farm.

Suggestions

Do you have any suggestions to improve this activity plan? Do you have ideas for other possible badge-earning activities? Please email troopsupport@girlscoutsv.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 bugs and are on our way to earning the Bugs Badge.

We had fun:

- Learning about different bugs and making posters of our favorite bugs
- Making a bug craft
- Observing bugs in action and looking at how they live

Continue the fun at home:

- Observe bugs wherever possible and learn about their homes.
- Make a butterfly feeder by cutting holes in a container lid, putting string through the holes and hanging the plate from a tree. Leave fruit on the feeder and see what other bugs you may attract, not just butterflies.
- 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!