

BRIDGE TO GIRL SCOUT JUNIOR ACTIVITY PLAN

Award Purpose: Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout's life. It's a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities. Celebrating this change should be fun, personalized, and memorable for everyone involved.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster
15 minutes	Activity #1: Brownie Badge Reflections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls share their favorite badges 	<input type="checkbox"/> None
15 minutes	Activity #2: Girl Scout Troop Recipe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls work together to create the Troop trail mix recipe 	<input type="checkbox"/> Plain M&Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Rice Chex Cereal <input type="checkbox"/> Pretzel sticks <input type="checkbox"/> Mini Marshmallows <input type="checkbox"/> Peanuts <input type="checkbox"/> Cheerios <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn <input type="checkbox"/> Goldfish or animal crackers <input type="checkbox"/> Chocolate chips or Banana chips <input type="checkbox"/> Kix cereal <input type="checkbox"/> Raisins <input type="checkbox"/> Bowl and Spoon for mixing
20 minutes	Activity #3: Take My Hand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brownies bridge to Juniors by crossing the bridge 	<input type="checkbox"/> Bridge, steppingstones, or arch (see Additional Ceremony Resources below)
20 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster <input type="checkbox"/> Light refreshments



Getting Started

minutes

Time: 15

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster

1. Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
2. Sing the Girl Scout Brownie 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: Brownie Badge Reflections

minutes

Time: 15

Award Connection: Bridge to Junior Award Step 1

Materials Needed: None

Prep Needed:

- Rehearse with girls ahead of time
1. Individually or in pairs, have girls choose one badge or Journey Award earned during their time in Brownies to talk about.
 2. Ask girls to prepare something to say about what they did to earn the badge and why they enjoyed it. Encourage them to be creative such as performing skits, songs, poems or creating a photo collage or slideshow.
 3. Have girls present what they prepared to friends and family.

Activity #2: Girl Scout Troop Recipe

Time: 15 minutes

Award Connection: Bridge to Junior Award Step 2

Materials Needed:

- Plain M&Ms
- Rice Chex Cereal
- Pretzel sticks



- Mini Marshmallows
- Peanuts
- Cheerios
- Popcorn
- Goldfish or animal crackers
- Chocolate chips or Banana chips
- Kix cereal
- Raisins
- Bowl and Spoon for mixing
- Recipe

1. Have girls read recipe and add ingredients one by one.
 - Girl Scouts come in all colors, from all races around the world. Every Girl Scout is a sister, no matter where she is from, the language she speaks, nor the color of her skin. Girl Scouts is for every girl and every color of the rainbow! (Add M&Ms)
 - We have a Promise and a Law. On our honor, we try to do our best and be fair and square. (Add Chex Cereal)
 - Some of us are tall and some of us are small. When we get together, size doesn't matter at all! (Add Pretzel sticks and mini marshmallows)
 - When we get together, we seem to make circles. We may sit in circles, play circle games, make a Friendship Circle, or sing about circles. You could say that we are well-rounded! (Add Cheerios)
 - When we are busy planning a project or doing a craft, we pop around until we're done! (Add popcorn)
 - Girl Scouts respect all living things and try to make the world a better place. The earth is our home and we want to keep it safe for everyone! (Add Goldfish or animal crackers)
 - Girl Scouts are "chips off the old block" since we have been around since 1912! Today we are part of an old tradition and proud to be part of the future. (Add chocolate chips or banana chips)
 - We get a kick out of wearing our uniforms, learning new things, helping others, and being together with our friends! (Add Kix Cereal)
 - Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts are fresh and sweet and new. But now we're becoming Juniors, which may be more fun because we have more experience than you! (Add raisins)
2. Mix and serve later after activities are finished.

Activity #3: Take My Hand

Time: 20 minutes

Award Connection: Bridge to Junior Award Step 3

Materials Needed: Bridge, steppingstones, or arch (see Additional Ceremony Resources below)

Prep Needed:

- Decorate a bridge, steppingstones, or an arch



- Set up bridging area
 - Make sure each bridging girl has a Girl Scout Junior uniform or at least her fly-up wings
 - Optional: rehearse with girls before ceremony
1. Begin with all Girl Scouts standing in front of the bridge.
 2. Pair up the bridging Girl Scout Brownies with a) each other b) a Junior Girl Scout or c) a parent or adult guest.
 3. Have each pair join hands and say a verse of the Girl Scout Junior Take My Hand bridging poem.

Take my hand in friendship
I give to you this day.
Remember all the good times
We had along the way.

Take my hand in thanking
Our leader and our guide.
With sincere appreciation
For standing by our side.

Take my hand in helping
Other people that we know.
The more we give to others,
The more that we will grow.

Take my hand in eagerness
To be an older scout.
We're proud to be bridging
Is what we're going to shout.

Take my hand in learning
To camp on nature's ground.
Enjoying trails and campfires
With new friends that we've found.

So take my hand to follow
New scouting paths in sight
We're joining hands with each
And in friendship we'll unite.

Take my hand in giving
Our knowledge of Girl Scouts
To girls we meet and talk to
Who have so many doubts.

(In Unison)
We give our hands in Promise
To hold our country dear,
And abide the Girl Scout Law
Each day throughout the year!

4. After they have recited their verse, have each pair cross the bridge together.
5. Junior Leader or Girl Scout gives girls their Brownie Membership Year Star pin and disk, Brownie Wings, and Bridge to Girl Scout Junior Award.

Wrapping Up and Refreshments

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Light refreshments (cookies or cupcakes, punch or lemonade)
- Optional: Make New Friends printed on poster board

Prep Needed:

- Set up refreshments before ceremony



Steps:

1. Instruct girls to get into a Friendship Circle and invite their guests to join them. Have girls and guests 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.”
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.
6. Invite girls and their guests to enjoy light refreshments to celebrate!

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Hold your ceremony outdoors in a park with a real bridge or archway
 - Join with other bridging Brownie troops to have a larger ceremony
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a Junior Girl Scout or Leader to speak at your ceremony

Email to Families

As Girl Scouts transition from one program level to the next, it is helpful to share with families what they can look forward to in the coming year. Bridging to a new program level means new traditions to explore, new skills to try, and new memories to create. Below is an email template you can use to share the importance of Girl Scouts with your families and encourage them to continue participating in all the amazing troop experiences you will have next year.

Hello, Troop [#####] families!

We had a wonderful time today celebrating the end of our second year as Girl Scout Brownies! Bridging is an important part of the Girl Scout experience. It allows girls to reflect and take pause for all their accomplishments and lessons learned during their time as a Brownie. It may seem like just a fun tradition, but it is so much more than that! Bridging is a powerful tool to help girls reflect on the value of their Girl Scouting experience. There is so much growth in a year and by celebrating the growth per



program level, it signifies all the incredible work your Girl Scout has done in challenging herself, taking risks, and supporting her troop and community!

As we move onto the next year of Girl Scouts, here's some exciting things to look forward to as Juniors!

The benefits of being a Junior Girl Scout:

- Develops a strong sense of self
- Seeks challenges and learns from the setbacks
- Develops healthy and lasting friendships
- Grows community problem-solving skills
- Embraces positive values

What's next as a Junior Scout:

- Look through the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting with your new Junior to find other activities you can try at home or review our [planning guide online](#).
- The badge opportunities for Juniors expand even more in the themes of STEM, Outdoors, Entrepreneurship, and Life Skills. Explore all the exciting options on the [Badge Explorer Site](#).
- As a Junior, there are numerous leadership opportunities within and beyond the troop to join including the completion of the [Bronze Award](#).
- **Include anything special your troop has planned for the coming year.**

In this section, share any additional information for your Girl Scout troop families.

Thank you for bringing your new Junior to Girl Scouts! We look forward to another great year of Girl Scouts!

Sincerely,

[Your name, contact information] and [your co-leader(s) name and contact information]

Additional Resources

- The River Valleys shop has bridging kits for purchase. Each girl's kit includes a bridging patch, a membership star and disk for this year, a Girl Scout pencil, a bridging certificate and a skill-building set of petal requirements for the next level. To purchase a kit, visit a [River Valleys Shop or shop online](#).
- Small, portable bridges are available for checkout through Girl Scout service centers. Call River Valleys' 800-845-0787 number and ask to reserve one for your ceremony or [reserve online](#).
- For additional bridging ceremony ideas, check out River Valleys' Pinterest page: <http://pinterest.com/girlscoutsrv/girl-scout-celebrations/>



- For additional information on Bridging and other Girl Scout Ceremonies, see the [Ceremonies, Tradition, and Celebrations article](#).

