



## Brownie Celebrating Community Badge Activity Plan 2

**Badge Purpose:** When girls have earned this badge, they'll know about communities, how communities celebrate and what makes them special.

**Planning Guides Link:** Global Citizenship and Girl Scout Sisterhood

**Fun Patch Link:** Parade

**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 can identify a community and its characteristics, such as symbols and songs
- They can demonstrate ways that communities celebrate or showcase their pride
- They have participated in a community celebration

### 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

- Flags can be checked out at select River Valleys Service Centers. Find out more at [GirScoutsRV.org](http://GirScoutsRV.org)
- This activity plan has been adapted from the *Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting Celebrating Community 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: Salute the Flag!

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Join in a ceremony or celebration

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Review flag ceremony instructions
- Gather materials and supplies

Materials Needed:

- Flag ceremony instructions
- American Flag (see resources)
- Optional: Red sashes for the Color Guard

Steps:

1. Tell the girls that a flag ceremony is a special type of celebration that honors the American flag and our country. Today we are going to learn the proper way to conduct a flag ceremony.
2. Using the instructions below, review the steps with the girls.
3. Hold your own flag ceremony!

## Activity #2: Landmark Detective!

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Be a landmark detective

Time Allotment: 25 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies
- Make 2 copies of the “Famous Landmark Cards”

Materials Needed:

- “Famous Landmark Cards”
- Modeling clay or play-dough
- Writing utensils

Steps:

1. Divide the girls into two teams. Give each team a set of landmark cards. Give the girls 3 minutes to name as many landmarks and their locations as they can. Girls can write on the back of each card.
2. Go through the answers to see how many they got right. Give one point for each correct landmark and one point for each correct location. The team with the most points wins!
3. Tell the girls that next they will make a sculpture of their favorite landmark. It can be a landmark from one of the cards or a different one that they have seen or visited.
4. Have girls share their sculpture when they are finished.

## 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 is your favorite landmark?
  - Where might you participate in a flag ceremony?
  - What types of community celebrations or ceremonies do you like to participate in?
  - If you could create your very own celebration, what would you celebrate?

## 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 arm 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 local museum, city council, state capital or a famous landmark in your town.
  - Go to a local parade or annual festival in your community.
  - Attend a marching band concert or flag ceremony in your community.
- Speaker Ideas:
  - Invite someone from your local VFW to speak about flag etiquette.

### 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 flag ceremonies and landmarks and have earned the Celebrating Community Badge.

We had fun:

- Holding our own flag ceremony.
- Naming famous landmarks around the state, country and the world.
- Making famous landmark sculptures.

Continue the fun at home:

- Take photographs of your Girl Scout as you visit landmarks in your community and create a landmark scrapbook.
- Look for homes, schools, or buildings that display the American Flag in your community.
- 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!

# **Flag Ceremony Instructions**

## **Display, Customs and Care of the American Flag**

The U.S. Flag always occupies a position of honor

- Carried in a procession, the U.S. Flag:
  - Positioned to the right of other flags or is in front of other flags
  
- When displayed, the U.S. Flag:
  - Must be to the flag's own right (the audience's left).
    - When grouped with other flags, (i.e., State, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Girl Scouts of the USA, Council, etc.), should be at the center, in front of, or higher than the other flags
    - When with another flag on crossed staffs, should be on the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag
    - When with the flags of two or more nations, should be flown on separate staffs of the same height. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace
  
- The U.S. Flag flies (held or on the flagpole) longer than other flags
  - Indoors, it is presented first, posted last
  - Outdoors, it is raised first, lowered last

## **The Color Guard of Honor**

- The purpose of the Color Guard of Honor is to protect the flag. Because this requires full attention, the members do not participate in any part of the flag ceremony (singing, speaking, etc.), but stand silently "At Attention"
  
- The Color Guard may consist of any number. Ideally there should be at least two Color Guards for each flag. The minimum is one Color (Flag) Bearer and one Color Guard
  
- Color (or Flag) Bearer - One per flag, if more than one flag is present  
Hold staff (pole) at 30° angle in front of body, or hold folded flag (with point away from body) in front of body at waist level. Girls may wear red sash over right shoulder, tied in a square knot on left side of waist. Is responsible for putting flag in, or taking flag from, stand, or raising/lowering flag from flagpole
  
- Color Guards - Stand on each side of the Color Bearer. Watch to see that the flag does not touch the ground. May wear red sash around waist tied in a square knot on left side. One or more members may assist flag bearer in posting/retrieving the flag from the stand/pole.
  
- Caller - Only member of Color Guard to speak. Gives directions to audience and commands to Color Guard. Girls may wear red sash, same as Color Guard.
  
- Line Leaders - Usually part of an outdoor Color Guard. Lead the audience into/out of the desired formation (usually a horseshoe in Girl Scouts).

## **Opening Flag Ceremony**

### **'Please stand for the presentation of the flag.'**

- *If you have an "audience", such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.*
- **'Girl Scouts Attention'**  
*This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.*
- **'Color Guard Attention'**  
*If the Color Guard has been standing "At Ease", it comes to "Attention". It is also a signal to be ready to start.*
- **'Color Guard Advance'**  
*Indoors - The Color Guard carries the flag(s) toward the front of the room and stands in front of the flag stands. Outdoors - the Color Guard carries the flag to the flagpole*
- **'Color Guard, Post the Colors'**  
*Indoors - The Color Guard places the flags in the stands, the American Flag last. Outdoors - the Flag Bearer attaches the flag to the rope and quickly hoists the flag, the American flag is raised first.*
- **'Color Guard, Honor your Colors'**  
*The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to "Attention." The Pledge of Allegiance, songs, poems, Girl Scout Promise, are done now.*
- **'Join me in the Pledge of Allegiance'**
- **'Color Guard Dismissed'**  
*The Color Guard walks to the back of the room, or away from the flag pole.*

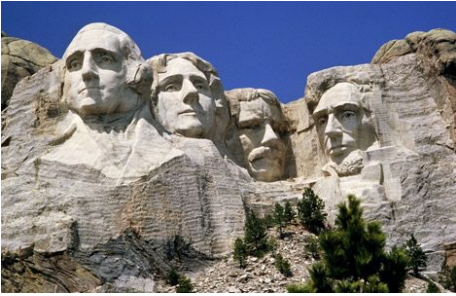
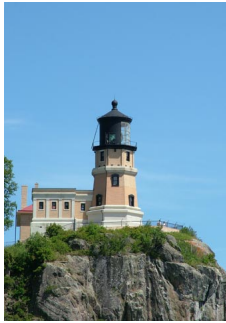
## **Closing Flag Ceremony**

### **'Please stand for the retrieval of the flag'**

*If you have an "audience", such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.*

- **'Girl Scouts Attention'**  
*This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.*
- **'Color Guard Attention'**  
*If the Color Guard has been standing "At Ease", it comes to "Attention". It is also a signal to be ready to start.*
- **'Color Guard Approach'**  
*Indoors - the Color Guard walks toward the front of the room and stands in front of the flag stands. Outdoors - the Color Guard walks to the flagpole*
- **'Color Guard, Honor your Colors'**  
*The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to "Attention"*
- **'Color Guard, Retrieve the Colors'**  
*Indoors - the Color Guard removes the flags from the stands, the American Flag first. Outdoors - the Flag Bearer lowers the flag slowly and with dignity. The Color Bearers fold the flag(s).*
- **'Color Guard Dismissed'**  
*The Color Guard carries the flag to the back of the room, or carries the folded flag to an appropriate place.*

# Famous Landmark Cards





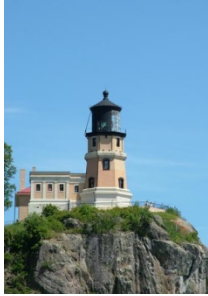
## Famous Landmark Card Answers



The Cherry and the Spoon (Minneapolis, Minnesota)



Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox (Bemidji, Minnesota)



Split Rock Lighthouse (Two Harbors, Minnesota)



The Statue of Liberty, (New York City, New York)



Mount Rushmore (Keystone, South Dakota)



The Golden Gate Bridge (San Francisco, California)



The St. Louis Arch (St. Louis, Missouri)



The Sydney Opera House (Sydney, Australia)



The Eiffel Tower (Paris, France)



Big Ben (London, England)