



Junior Scribe Badge Activity Plan 2

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll know ways to create and capture stories, ideas and opinions in writing, and find out all they can do with words.

Planning Guides Link: Healthy Living and Creativity

Fun Patch Link: Writing Fun

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 Junior 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 Junior 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 Junior Skill-Building Badge set for *It's Your World—Change It!*, 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 demonstrate how to write a poem
- They can create and write a short story and an article
- They can express their opinions and channel them into writing

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 lesson plan has been adapted from the Junior Skill-Building Badge set for the *It's Your World—Change It!* Scribe 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. Play a game so girls get to know each other better. Use the example below, if needed.
 - Pass the Orange: Form two teams. Pass an orange or ball down the line from chin to chin! If it is dropped it goes back to the beginning. The first team to get the orange to the end wins.

Activity #1: If I Were a Book

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Use words to share who you are

Time Allotment: 25 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Construction Paper
- Coloring Utensils
- Writing utensils
- Optional: Various autobiographies or images of autobiography covers.

Steps:

1. Discuss autobiographies with the group. Does anyone know what an autobiography is? Has anyone read an autobiography before? Autobiographical stories are ones that have happened to you. If you were to write an autobiography, what would it be called?
2. Authors use titles and images to create interesting covers that give hints as to what the story is about and entices readers to pick up the book. Tell the girls that they are going to come up with their own autobiographical book cover.
3. Optional: Look at various autobiography covers for ideas and inspiration. Ideas include:
 - *The Diary of a Young Girl*, by Anne Frank
 - *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, by Roald Dahl
 - *26 Fairmont Avenue*, by Tomie DePaola
 - *A Girl from Yamhill*, by Beverly Cleary
 - *On the Way Home: the Diary of a Trip from South Dakota to Missouri*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder
4. Pass out a piece of paper to each girl. Instruct the girls to fold the paper in half so it looks like a book. Have girls create a title and book cover to their own autobiography!

Activity #2: Journalist for a Day

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Write an article

Time Allotment: 25 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Writing utensils

Steps:

1. Ask each girl to share something fun or interesting that happened in the past week. It could be something that happened at home, school, an activity or event. It could be something about themselves, a friend or family member.
2. Tell the girls that they are going to turn what they just shared into an article. An article is a type of story that is written for the newspaper or magazine. Stories that are shared on the news are often turned into written articles and posted on the internet. Journalists are people who research news stories and write them.
3. Journalists need to use facts when telling a news stories. Tell the girls that they must include all the facts in their article. To do that they should answer the “5 Ws”:
 - Who?
 - What?
 - Where?
 - When?
 - Why?
4. Pass out the writing utensils and paper and invite the young journalists to write their news story.

Activity #3: The 5 O’clock News

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Write an article

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Popcorn or other snack option.

Steps:

1. Designate an “at-home audience” area and a “news station” area. Ask girls to sit in the audience area facing the news station.
2. Pass out snack.
3. While enjoying snack, have each girl take a turn being the “news anchor” and read her news article from the previous activity.
4. Optional: Girls can turn the news articles into a role play if they choose, assigning different parts (news anchor, weather forecaster, sports anchor, etc.). They may also decide to give a title to their news station, such as “Welcome to Troop 1234 news.”

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 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.

More to Explore:

- Field Trip Ideas
 - Visit a local newspaper or magazine business.
 - Visit a local library.
- Speaker Ideas
 - Invite a reporter, journalist, editor, or blogger 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@girlscoutsv.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 new ways to create and capture stories about ourselves and the world around us and have earned the Scribe Badge.

We had fun:

- Creating our own autobiographical book covers
- Learning about news articles and sharing facts
- Writing and sharing our own news articles about the past week

Continue the fun at home:

- Ask your girl to share her autobiography book cover and news article
- Read an article in the newspaper together and see if the author answered the "5 Ws" – who, what, where, when and why.
- Look through the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* with your Junior to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your Junior to Girl Scouts!