



Brownie Bugs Badge Activity Plan 2

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 on this award or simply try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to earn this award including: completing the activities as listed in the Journeys or the *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.

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 them 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.
 - Bug alphabet game: Form a circle. Choose a volunteer to start. The first girl should say her name and a type of bug that starts with the first letter of her first name. For example, "My name is Amy and I like ants." For trickier letters, use bug body parts or bug descriptions, i.e. "My name is Quinn and I like quiet butterflies." Second girl recites first girl's name and bug, then states her own name and bug. Third girl recites first girl's information and second girls' information then states her own name and bug. Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Activity #1: Make a Butterfly Chrysalis

Award Connection: Step 4: Explore bug homes.

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Check for latex allergies (see alternatives at step 4).

Materials Needed:

- One small balloon (4–6 inches) per girl
- Paint brushes
- Glue
- Multicolored tissue paper
- Wax paper for drying
- Optional: example chrysalis and/or cocoon pictures or insect guides with illustrations

Steps:

1. Explain to girls that butterflies start out as caterpillars. Caterpillars find a twig or leaf on which to form a chrysalis, which is similar to a cocoon. After the caterpillars form the chrysalis, they turn into butterflies and emerge from the chrysalis.
2. Have girls make a model of a butterfly chrysalis. First, girls should rip the tissue paper into small pieces (approximately 2 square inches each). Then, blow up balloons and tie them off. Using the paintbrush, place a piece of tissue paper on the blown up balloon and secure it with an ample amount of glue. The entire piece of tissue paper should be covered in glue. Continue to apply tissue paper in this method until the whole balloon is covered in at least one (preferably more) layer of paper. When the whole balloon is covered, apply another thick layer of glue.
3. Place the balloons on wax paper to dry. When the meeting concludes, send balloons home with girls. Instruct them to place balloons on wax paper at home until they finish drying (at least 24 hours). When balloons are completely dry, girls should carefully cut a small hole near the knot at the top of the balloon to let air out slowly. If a large hole is cut, air will release too quickly and chrysalis may break. Tissue paper and dried glue form a hollow globe similar to a chrysalis.
4. For girls with latex sensitivities or for facilities that do not permit latex materials, an alternative would be to use two styrofoam cups, plastic bowls, or other non-stick surfaces as the mold for the chrysalis. After the two halves have dried, the chrysalis parts can be gently removed from the mold and taped together with clear tape.

Activity #2: Spider Web Game

Award Connection: Step 4: Explore bug homes.

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Small ball of yarn (approximately the size of a golf ball) for each girl
- Scissors

Steps:

1. Girls should stand in a circle and loosely tie the end of their ball of yarn around their waist.
2. Taking turns, girls throw their ball of yarn across the circle to another girl. That girl wraps the yarn around herself once and throws it to a different girl.
3. When all balls of yarn are gone, discuss with girls that interwoven yarn is similar to a spider's web. Talk about how spiders spin webs in order to catch food.
4. Either allow girls to untangle themselves, or cut through the circle in several spots with a scissors. Save yarn pieces for other crafts or finger knitting.

Activity #3: Snack Chat

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple award steps.

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Steps:

- While enjoying the snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
 - What are examples of bugs' homes? (cocoons, spider web, chrysalis, ant farm)
 - What would it be like to live in each of the types of bug homes?
 - Which bugs have you seen in your own home?

- Which bugs have you seen in your own yard?
- Learn some vocabulary words. “Entomology” means the study of bugs. “Entomologists” study bugs. “Lepidopterist” is an entomologist who studies butterflies. An “apiologist” studies honeybees.

Activity #4: Plan a Bug Field Trip

Award Connection: Step 5: Take a bug field trip.

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather supplies and materials.
- If an outdoor bug walk is not possible, set up a site for a bug treasure hunt. Cut out 6–10 pictures of bugs from magazines, internet printouts, etc. and write 2–3 facts about each bug on or near the picture. Hide the pictures for the girls to search for later. If possible, hide pictures in places consistent with the location you would find each bug. For example, a picture of an ant could be located near a food source or garbage can. A picture of a spider could be located up in a corner of a room.

Materials Needed:

- Paper and writing utensil to record ideas.
- For an outside hike: magnifying lenses (optional).
- If doing indoor scavenger hunt: bug pictures.

Steps:

1. Ask girls to identify places in their community they have visited where bugs are displayed. Examples could include: zoo, botanical gardens, farm, park or wooded area. Ask girls to identify places they have not yet visited but where they think they would be able to see and study bugs.
2. Ask girls what things they would like to see on a bug field trip. Would they like to see bugs in action (such as an ant farm or a spider spinning its web), or would they like to see many examples of similar species (such as butterfly cases at a museum)? Would they like an opportunity to hold or touch bugs (such as at a museum where staff will supervise children in holding or touching bugs)? Which bugs are they most interested in seeing on a field trip?
3. Ask girls to identify what they should bring on a bug field trip. Examples would include a magnifying glass and paper to record observations.
4. If weather permits, take a bug walk or hike outside in an area near the meeting location. Walk slowly and identify any bugs observed along the way.
5. If weather or facilities do not permit a bug walk or hike, lead the girls on a bug treasure hunt. Either in pairs or individually, instruct girls to look for the bug pictures you hid prior to the meeting. After each girl or pair of girls finds at least one picture and all pictures have been found, gather girls back in a circle. Ask girls to share the picture(s) and information they found with the group.

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 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 botanical garden that features a butterfly garden and learn what flowers are attractive to butterflies.
 - Visit a bee colony and learn how honey is made.
 - Visit a large living ant farm and observe ants at work.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Have a beekeeper come and speak to the girls about bee colonies and honey production.
 - Ask an entomologist to come speak with the girls about bugs in their community along with bugs' positive and negative effects on the environment.

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 about bugs and we earned the Bugs Badge.

We had fun:

- Making models of bug homes and habitats.
- Planning (and/or taking) a bug field trip.

Continue the fun at home:

- Identify bugs found in your own home or yard.
- Search the internet for videos of bugs at work including spiders spinning webs, ants forming ant hills and caterpillars transforming into butterflies.
- Look through the *Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting* with your Girl Scout to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your girl to Girl Scouts!