

BRIDGE TO GIRL SCOUT SENIOR ACTIVITY PLAN

Award Purpose: After you've earned this Award, you'll have shared the skills you've learned as a Cadette with younger Girl Scouts and explored what's in store for you as a Girl Scout Senior.

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
20 minutes	Activity #1: Pass it On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts something you learned to do as a Cadette. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Varies
20 minutes	Activity #2: Look Ahead	<input type="checkbox"/> Varies
35 minutes	Celebrate & Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends Lyrics <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.

Activity #1: Pass It On!

Time: 20 Minutes

Award Connection: Step 1 – Pass It On!

Materials Needed: Varies

1. You've had a fantastic time as a Cadette—you pushed yourself to tackle challenges head-on, learned new skills, and went on exciting adventures.
2. A big part of Girl Scouting is trying to make a difference in the world, and one way you can do that is by passing on your knowledge. Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts something you've learned as a Cadette.



3. Here's a list of ideas (you only need to do one to complete this step). If you come up with another idea that speaks to you, by all means, go ahead and pursue that path—just think of these as a jumping-off point:
 - Make a scrapbook or slideshow of all the fun things you did in Girl Scouts this year. Share it with a group of younger Girl Scouts.
 - Did you earn the Silver Award? Share your experience earning your Girl Scout Silver Award with a group of Juniors to show them what the process was like and what you learned along the way.
 - Did you accomplish a Take Action project for a Journey Award that you're super proud of? Contact your local service unit to see if you can present your project to other troops in the area.

Activity #2: Look Ahead!

Time: 20 Minutes

Award Connection: Activity 2 – Look Ahead!

Materials Needed: Varies

1. Now that you've reflected on your Cadette year, are you ready to say yes to even more awesome experiences? The next step is to explore the kinds of things Girl Scout Seniors do and get a glimpse of what else is in store for you!
2. Here's a list of ideas to find out what the next level of Girl Scouting is like. (You only need to do one to complete this step.)
 - The best way to find out is to go straight to the source—a Girl Scout Senior! If you don't have friends who are older Girl Scouts, connect with your local service unit to see if they can put you in touch with a Senior or a Senior troop. Ask them what kinds of activities they did this past year and what their favorite memories were.
 - Take a look at the Journey books and Girl Guides for Girl Scout Seniors. Make a list of badges and awards you're interested in earning.
 - If you're interested in earning your Gold Award, talk to an older girl who's earned her Gold Award to learn more about what the process is like, and any advice she might have about earning your award.
 - Itching to flex those leadership skills? Now that you're a Senior, you can apply to be on the Girl Leadership Board. The GLB serves as a voice, leader, and advocate for the 30,000 girls in the River Valleys council. Talk to the current members of the board to hear more about their experience serving as girl leaders.

Step #3: Wrap Up & Celebrate!

Time: 35 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
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. Congratulations! You've earned your Bridge to Girl Scout Senior Award! Celebrate with a favorite ceremony (or invent a new one)!
 4. 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 Cadette troops to have a larger ceremony
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a Senior 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 third year as Girl Scout Cadettes! 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 Cadette. 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 Seniors!

The benefits of being a Senior 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 Senior:

- Look through the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting with your new Senior to find other activities you can try at home or review our [planning guide online](#).
- The badge opportunities for Seniors expands even more in the themes of STEM, Outdoors, Entrepreneurship, and Life Skills. Explore all the exciting options on the [Badge Explorer Site](#).
- As a Senior, there are numerous leadership opportunities beyond the troop to join including, the [Girl Leadership Board](#), [leadership camp sessions](#), and [the Gold 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 Senior 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](#).
- [River Valleys Girl Leadership Board](#)

