

## 5 FLOWERS, 4 STORIES, 3 CHEERS FOR ANIMALS! – MEETING 1

**Badge Purpose:** When girls have earned this award, they will be able to say, “Animals need care; I need care. I can do both.”

**Activity Plan Length:** 1.5 hours

| Time       | Activity  | Materials Needed   |
|------------|---|--|
| 15 minutes | Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law and sing the Girl Scout Daisy song</li> </ul>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster<br><input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Daisy song lyrics poster   |
| 15 minutes | Unique Animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls learn about how animals are unique based on their adaptations.</li> </ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Note cards<br><input type="checkbox"/> Coloring utensils<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tape<br><input type="checkbox"/> List of animal body parts on strips of paper  |
| 15 minutes | Animals Can Talk Too! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls discuss how animals communicate.</li> <li>Girls use body language to express nonverbal communication.</li> </ul> | None   |
| 15 minutes | Incredible, Edible Nests Snack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls eat a healthy snack.</li> </ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cups or bowls (1 for each girl)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Spoons or forks<br><input type="checkbox"/> Raw carrots<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pretzel sticks<br><input type="checkbox"/> Peanut butter or hummus<br><input type="checkbox"/> Water and/or other beverages<br><input type="checkbox"/> Napkins |
| 15 minutes | Fly Little Bird! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls practice dancing while pretending to be various birds.</li> </ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Party streamers<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music player<br><input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Speakers<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music playlist   |
| 15 minutes | Wrapping Up   | <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster  |

### Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster, (optional) Girl Scout Daisy song lyrics poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and sing the Girl Scout Daisy song.



## Activity #1: Unique Animals

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Session 4 – Fantastical Animals Flip Book

Materials Needed: Note cards, coloring utensils, tape, animal body parts written on strips of paper

Prep Needed:

- Write various animal body parts (head, arm, leg, ears, tail, feet, etc.) on small strips of paper.
1. Ask the girls the questions below:
    - What animals have you seen near where you live?
    - What is the most unusual animal you've ever seen? Where did you see it? What did it look like?
  2. After the girls answer, explain that animals are unique and different just like people are unique and different.
  3. Split the girls into teams of 4 to 7. Hand each girl a note card and assign 1 or 2 animal body parts to each girl (depending on the number of girls per group). Tell the girls (without talking to each other) to draw the body part they've been assigned on the notecard. They can draw the body part of any animal they think of, real or imaginary.
  4. After the girls have finished their drawing, have them work as a team to tape the different animal body parts together to create a totally unique animal friend.
  5. Explain to girls that just like the imaginary animal friends they created, real animals – including people – are unique.
  6. Explain how animals all have unique body parts that help them live and survive. Use the list below to give examples of animal traits and compare them to humans.

| Animal Adaptation                      | What It Does                                 | Human Equivalent                 |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Sharp teeth                            | Cut and rip food                             | Knife and fork                   |
| Digging claws (aardvark, bears)        | Helps dig                                    | Shovel                           |
| Thick fur                              | Keeps warm                                   | Fluffy coat                      |
| Penguin feathers                       | Keeps dry and warm under water               | Wet suit                         |
| Pointed bird beak (robin)              | Grab things in small spaces                  | Tweezers                         |
| Polar bear feet                        | Spread out weight so they don't sink in snow | Snow shoes                       |
| Big eyes                               | See well in the dark                         | Night vision goggles             |
| Large ears (like rabbit, not elephant) | Helps hear better                            | Hearing aid                      |
| Foot pads                              | Protects feet                                | Shoes                            |
| Spots/stripes                          | Help blend with environment                  | Camouflage                       |
| Rough fur (sloth)                      | Repels moisture                              | Rain coat                        |
| Pouch                                  | Holds baby with you                          | Baby carrier                     |
| Webbed feet/fins                       | Helps swim                                   | Swim fins                        |
| Thick skin (elephant, rhino)           | Protects body                                | Armor                            |
| Elephant ears                          | Cools animal                                 | Fan                              |
| Wings                                  | Fly  | Airplanes, gliders               |
| Hard shell/scales                      | Protects body                                | Helmet, pads                     |
| Claws                                  | Helps climb                                  | Grappling hook, climbing gear    |
| Light body/fur color                   | Reflects sun to cool                         | Light colored clothing in summer |



## Activity #2: Animals Can Talk Too!

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Session 2 – Caring That Counts: Animals Safe and Sound

Materials Needed: None

1. Tell girls that animals have special tools to help them live. Animals also have special ways to talk. Every animal has its own way of communicating, just like how humans have their own way of talking to each other.
2. Invite the girls to brainstorm ways that people communicate with one another. Ask them how they might show they are happy or sad, how they communicate with their family, and how they communicate with someone who cannot hear.
3. Point out that since animals can't talk like people, they use sounds and actions to communicate. Then, ask girls to brainstorm animal sounds they've heard and ask them to imitate those sounds.
4. Tell the girls that just like animals, we use our voices to communicate. We talk to share ideas and express how we feel. Explain how we not only use our voices but our bodies to communicate every day as well.
5. Separate the girls into small groups and have each girl take a turn "saying" something to the rest of the group by using only her body and not any words. They can use their bodies to express themselves (standing a certain way, different facial expressions, etc.) Have the rest of the group try to guess what the girl is trying to "say."
6. After all the girls in each group have had a turn, have them talk about how their "body language" can sometimes actually change the way they feel. Point out that sometimes, if they act a certain way, such as dragging their feet or slumping their shoulders, they might feel more tired or sad. And sometimes, just smiling and laughing can make everyone feel better.

## Activity #3: Incredible, Edible Nests Snack

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Session 2 – Caring That Counts

Materials Needed: Small cups or bowls; spoons/forks; raw carrots; pretzel sticks; peanut butter or hummus (¼ cup – ½ cup per girl); water and/or other beverage; napkins

Prep Needed:

- Shred raw carrots (½ cup per girl).
- Make a sample nest to show the girls.

1. Ask the girls if they know what basic needs every person has (i.e. food, shelter, care). Then compare people's needs to animals' needs and discuss how animals get their needs met. For example: Rabbits get food from plants, shelter from digging burrows in the ground, and care from one another or from a human friend.
2. Ask the girls about what animals they know that live in nests. After girls share, tell them they will be making a nest of their own – to eat!
3. Mix the shredded carrots with the hummus or peanut butter.
4. Shape the carrot mixture into a nest shape in the small cup or bowl and cover with pretzel sticks to make it look like a nest. Enjoy!
5. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
  - What can you do to help the animals around you?
  - What can you do to help the people around you?

NOTE: Take note of any possible allergies. Substitute different foods that will work best for your troop.



## Activity #4: Fly Little Bird!

Time: 10 minutes

Badge Connection: Session 2 – Tail Tales

Materials Needed: Different colored party streamers, music player, music, (optional) speakers

Prep Needed:

- Create a playlist of songs for girls to move around the room too.
- 1. Tell the girls that they are going to pretend to be a bird so they can spread their wings and “fly” like a robin.
- 2. Give each girl two long strips of streamers and have them practice flapping their wings and making shapes like circles with their arms.
- 3. Start playing music and tell the girls to “Fly, fly away!” by dancing, jumping, and moving around the room to the rhythm of the music.
- 4. Change the song or music every minute or so and encourage the girls to move differently than they were before. You can also call out a different bird for them to act like, such as a chicken, penguin, or a duck.

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS:

“Rockin’ Robin” – Jackson 5

“Firework” – Katy Perry

“Happy” – Pharrell Williams

“Can’t Stop the Feeling” – Justin Timberlake

“Brave” – Sara Bareilles

## Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

## More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
  - Visit your local animal shelter to find out what goes into caring for pets.
  - Visit the office of a veterinarian to meet a person who takes care of animals for a career.
- Speaker Ideas:
  - Invite a veterinarian to talk to your girls about the importance of caring for animals.
  - Invite a girl’s pet (and parent) to the meeting to talk about the responsibilities of being a pet owner.

