

## JUNIOR SCRIBE BADGE – MEETING 1

**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.

**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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster</li> </ul>
15 minutes	Poem Pass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls write a poem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notebook pads</li> <li>Writing utensils (one per girl)</li> </ul>
30 minutes	Short Story Mash Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls create a short story</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notebook pads</li> <li>Writing utensils</li> <li>Plastic bowls</li> <li>Sticky notes</li> </ul>
15 minutes	Snack Chat—What's Your Opinion? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls tell the world what they think</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sticky notes</li> <li>Pens</li> <li>One plastic bowl</li> <li>Healthy snack</li> </ul>
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster</li> </ul>

### Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: Girl Scout Promise and Law poster (optional)

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

### Activity #1: Poem Pass

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Start with a poem

Materials Needed: Notebook pads, writing utensils (one per girl)

- Gather the girls to sit down in a circle and distribute one writing utensil to each girl. Tell the girls that as a group, they are going to create one sonnet together. A sonnet is simply a 14-line poem, and can be about any topic. The girls' sonnets do not have to rhyme, but they can if they wish.
- Start the poem by handing one notepad to the first girl, who will write the first line of the poem.
- When she is done, she will pass it to the girl on her right, who will continue by writing the second line of the poem.



4. The notepad will continue to be passed from girl to girl and the poem lines created until it reaches either the 14th person or 14th line of the poem.
5. If you have a large group, it would work well to divide girls into small groups of three–four girls. The same activity can be done in these small groups, with each girl getting the chance to write three–four lines and not having to wait as long between turns.
6. Once the poem is complete, ask for a girl volunteer to read the poem aloud to the large group. Afterwards, discuss as a large group:
  - What did you like about the poem?
  - What made it a good poem or a bad poem? Why?
  - What was most challenging about that activity?
  - What did you like most about that activity?
7. If time allows, try the same activity by dividing the girls up into groups of three to write a haiku or groups of five to write a limerick.
  - Haiku: a three-line poem that follows a pattern—five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third.  
 Example: Haiku by Basho  
 An old silent pond...  
 A frog jumps into the pond,  
 Splash! Silence again.
  - Limerick: a five-line poem where the first, second and fifth lines rhyme with each other, and the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other.  
 Example: “There was on Old Man with a Beard,” by Edward Lear  
 There was an Old Man with a beard,  
 Who said, “It is just as I feared!-  
 Two Owls and a Hen,  
 Four Larks and a Wren,  
 Have all built their nests in my beard!”

NOTE: Remind girls that this activity is not a race and they shouldn’t rush through it; however, they also shouldn’t think too hard about what to write when it’s their turn. Communicate to girls not to worry about what “makes sense” and to write freely and creatively—perhaps writing just the first thing that comes to mind!

## Activity #2: Short Story Mash Up

Time: 30 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Create a short story

Materials Needed: Notebook pads, writing utensils, plastic bowls, sticky notes

1. Divide the girls into groups of four and instruct each group to gather four notebook pads, four writing utensils, three plastic bowls, and 30 sticky notes and sit in a group.
2. Tell each group to label each plastic bowl (one sticky note each) with the following categories:
  - Plot (scenario/what’s happening)
  - Setting (place/location)
  - Character (name along with brief characteristic/quality about the character)
3. Next, instruct each girl to write down three ideas on three individual sticky notes for each category (9 sticky notes total per girl). For example:
  - Character: Jenny Owens, an adventurous 5th grade girl who has dreams of becoming a detective
  - Setting: London, England, within the walls of the London Tower
  - Plot: Kids who are traveling the world in search of their long-lost teacher

Note: The ideas written on each individual sticky note do not have to relate to each other.
4. After each girl has completed all nine sticky notes, she can fold them and toss them into the corresponding bowl.



5. Have each girl draw one sticky note from each bowl (category) and create a short story based on the three sticky notes she drew.
6. Allow 15-20 minutes for the girls to brainstorm, write and edit their stories on their notepads to the best of their ability, and then have the girls share their short stories in their small groups.
7. (Optional) Who decides what to show on a book's cover? Cover designers come up with several ideas, and the author and publisher decide together what will make the book seem most interesting. They try to read the reader's mind. What image would make someone pick up this book instead of another? Ask girls to think about what they would put on the cover of the stories they created if they were books. Girls can sketch out their ideas.

## Activity #3: Snack Chat—What's Your Opinion?

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Tell the world what you think

Materials Needed: Sticky notes, pens, one plastic bowl, healthy snack

1. While enjoying snack, ask the girls to share and explain their opinions about the activities they've done so far.
2. Next, have each girl write on a sticky note one topic, thought, issue, activity, sport etc.
3. Direct the girls to fold up their sticky note and toss it in the bowl.
4. Have the girls take turns drawing a topic out of the bowl, reading it aloud, and verbally expressing something they think about the topic drawn. For example:
  - Sticky note topic drawn: "The environment and 'going green.'"
  - Verbal Response: "I think it's important to 'go green.'"
5. Challenge the girls to support their opinion with facts and relevant statements. For example:
  - Challenge: "Why is it important to 'go green'?"
  - Verbal Response: "As Girl Scouts, we are supposed to make the world a better place. That includes protecting the earth's resources for the future."
8. Draw new topics out of the bowl as each discussion fades. Work to mediate the group when needed.
9. At the end, have the girls write down one topic that interested them the most during this activity. Encourage the girls to write an essay about that topic at home. An essay gives facts, but it is written from the author's point of view. So, unlike an article in which no opinions are given, an essay is a writer's chance to share her opinion—her thoughts and feelings—along with the facts.

## Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: Make New Friends lyrics (optional)

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

