



Brownie Making Friends Badge Activity Plan 2

Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll know how to be good friends.

Planning Guides Link: Global Citizenship and Girl Scout Sisterhood

Fun Patch Link: Friendship

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 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 Brownie Skill-Building Badge set for *It's Your Story—Tell 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 introduce themselves to new people and make new friends.
- They know how to show friends they care about them.
- They are able to demonstrate how to be good friends to others.

Tips and Tools

- During this meeting, instruct girls to be inclusive of differences, encouraging of similarities and open to everyone's ideas.
- 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 Skill-Building Badge set for the *It's Your Story—Tell It!* Making Friends 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. Meeting helpers: Talk with the girls and assign helpers for this meeting. Review what the roles and responsibilities are.
 - Attendance helper: in charge of taking attendance
 - Girl Scout Promise Leader: leads group in reciting the Girl Scout Promise
 - Girl Scout Law Leader: leads group in reciting the Girl Scout Law
 - Material helper: assists in passing out or collecting materials for an activity
 - Brownie Elf helper: after the group cleans up, makes sure nothing is left behind
 - Snack helper: assists in setting up/passing out snack
 - Friendship circle helper: leads the friendship circle activity
3. 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.

4. Sing the Brownie Smile Song. Use repeat-after-me or sing as a group, if girls know it by heart.

The Brownie Smile Song
I've got something in my pocket It belongs across my face I keep it very close at hand In a most convenient place I'm sure you wouldn't guess it If you guessed a long, long while So I'll take it out and put it on It's a great big Brownie Smile!

Activity #1: Name Tag Extension

Badge Connection: Step 1—Make friendly introductions

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- None

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Markers
- Tape

Steps:

1. Ask badge buddies to assist you with passing out one paper and one marker to each girl.
2. Instruct the girls to write their first name vertically (one letter under the other) on the far left hand side of their paper. Instruct them to write their name large enough to fill the length of the paper.
3. After each girl has written her name vertically on the paper, hand each girl a strip of tape. Instruct girls to pair up to help tape each other's name paper to each other's backs. Each girl should have her own name taped to her back.
4. Next, instruct the girls to mingle through each other, looking at other girls' names on their backs. The goal is for each girl to find a letter in another girl's name that is also in her name. When a girl finds a letter, she must go up to that girl and introduce herself. After introducing herself, she will write her name within the letter on the other girl's name paper.
 - Example: M E L I S S A
 A
 R
 Y
5. After writing in her name, the girls must make up a new, fun handshake with that person only.
6. Continue mingling until the girls have introduced themselves to everyone. If time allows, gather as a large group and have girls introduce a partner they met and show their handshake they created (see if they can remember!)

Activity #2: Care Cards

Badge Connection: Step 2—Show friends you care

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies on designated table space.

Materials Needed:

- Cards or construction paper that can be folded into a card (1 per girl)
- Coloring utensils
- Optional: Other decorative supplies (i.e. stickers, foam shapes, glue, ect)

Steps:

1. Pair girls up into partners. Instruct girls to create a 'care card' for her partner, illustrating something that she likes about her or makes her special.

Activity #3: Show-n-play!

Badge Connection: Step 3—Share favorite activities

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Prior to the meeting, instruct girls to prepare/ bring and share a favorite activity with the group.

Materials Needed:

- Materials may vary according to girl (girls should be prepared to bring their own materials)

Steps:

1. Sit girls down and allow each girl to stand before the group and give a one minute presentation on an activity she likes to do, and how to do it. This may be a game, cat's cradle, jump rope, ect.
 - o Tip: Instead of requiring every single girl share, talk with the girls at about who would be interested in sharing an activity, or draw names out of a hat.
2. Record each activity as each girl presents. Use this as a running list of possible activities you could incorporate to weekly meetings (such as warm-up activities or ice breaker games).
3. After each girl presents, vote as a group the top three activities they would like to try at another Girl Scout meeting. Designate a time for those girls to do their activity with the group at a future troop meeting.

Activity #4: Snack Chat: Mix it up!

Badge Connection: Step 5—Practice friendship!

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Snack prep (varies according to snack choice)

Materials Needed:

- Snack item(s)
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Steps:

1. While enjoying snack, put girls into a seating arrangement where they are sitting next to a girl they may not know as well. Instruct the girls to pair up with the girl next to her and come up with three things that they have in common. (i.e. how many siblings they have, what school they go to, if they have any pets, etc..) Have each pair share what they discovered with the group.
2. Review with the girls some of the things they learned about friendship today:
 - Was it easy or hard to introduce yourself to new people? Why or why not?
 - Today we did an activity where we made a special 'care card' for a friend. What are some other ways that you can show your friends you care about them?
 - Why is it important to be a good friend?
 - What were some of your favorite activities that other girl scouts shared with the group today?

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:
 - Coordinate with another Girl Scout troop to visit and attend their next troop meeting.
 - Attend a Girl Scout gathering, such as a council-sponsored program event or camp.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite another Brownie troop or an older girl troop to your troop meeting.
 - Invite a camp counselor, teacher or an after-school program specialist 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@girlscoutsrv.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 how to be a good friend and we earned the Making Friends Badge.

We had fun:

- Making friendly introductions and getting to know someone new.
- Making a special 'care card' for a friend.
- Sharing our favorite activities with the group.

Continue the fun at home:

- Help your Girl Scout make something special for a friend of hers, such as a card, poem or a small gift.
- Talk with your Girl Scout about her friends in real life, and how she can be a good friend.
- Encourage your Girl Scout to invite a friend over and have them teach each other their favorite activities.
- Look through the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* with your Brownie to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your Brownie to Girl Scouts!