

JUNIOR INSIDE GOVERNMENT BADGE - MEETING 2

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll know more about how government runs and operates.

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
15 minutes	You Can't Do That! And Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls enjoy a healthy snack while exploring laws. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Silly Laws Quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Masking or painter's tape <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snacks
20 minutes	Dear Editor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls write a letter expressing their opinions about a community issue. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Examples of letters to the editor from any publication (newspaper, magazine, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Paper or stationary <input type="checkbox"/> Envelopes <input type="checkbox"/> Postage stamps
25 minutes	Vote For Me! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls get involved in community government. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Coloring utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch paper <input type="checkbox"/> Colored paper <input type="checkbox"/> Poster board <input type="checkbox"/> Stickers, ribbons, glitter, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors <input type="checkbox"/> Glue and/or tape
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

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



Activity #1: You Can't Do That! And Snack Chat

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Look into laws

Materials Needed: Silly Laws Quiz; masking or painter's tape; healthy snack

Prep Needed:

- Print out a copy of the Silly Laws Quiz (at the end of this activity plan).
 - Place a long strip of masking tape on floor to divide the meeting space in half.
 - Designate one side of the room to represent a “true” answer and the other side to represent a “false” answer.
1. Instruct girls to stand as a group in the center of the room. Explain to the girls that you will ask them true or false questions about real laws in the United States. After a question is read aloud, each girl must walk to the side of the room they think is the answer to the question.
 2. Read each question one at a time, allow a few moments for girls to decide their answer, and then read the answer aloud.
 3. Serve snack after quiz is completed. While enjoying snack, ask the following questions to encourage discussion:
 - Do you know any other silly laws?
 - Why do you think some of these laws were put in place?
 - If you could have any law written, what would it be and why?

Activity #2: Dear Editor

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Report on the issues

Materials Needed: Examples of letters to the editor from any publication (newspaper, magazine, etc.); writing utensils; paper or stationery; envelopes; postage stamps

1. Explain to the girls that this is the chance to speak their minds! Give girls a few minutes to think about a community issue important to them then have them write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper to express how they feel about the topic. Encourage them to take their time when writing and to ask questions about spelling or grammar if necessary.
2. There are several different types of letters they can write. Examples:
 - Support or opposition for a specific issue or event
 - A personal experience related to a community issue
 - A letter of praise for an individual, group, organization, or business
3. Use the following examples if necessary to help girls think of potential issues:
 - Weapons should be banned from all public places.
 - High gas prices are worrisome.
 - Energy and water conservation is important.
 - High achieving schools should be rewarded.
 - There should be more funding for arts programs.
4. If any girls do not feel strongly about a specific issue, they could write about what they think would make the city a better place.
5. Gather all the letters and mail them to a local newsletter or newspaper.

Activity #3: Vote For Me!

Time: 25 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Get involved in community government

Materials Needed: Writing utensils; coloring utensils; scratch paper; colored paper; poster board; stickers, ribbons, glitter, etc.; scissors; glue and/or tape



1. A great way to get involved in government is to run for office! Explain to the group that they will develop their own campaign as if they were running for office. This activity may be done individually or in small groups.
2. On scratch paper, instruct girls/groups to write down the top three things they would try to change if they were in office. Also, instruct each girl/group to develop a symbol that represents them (ex. the Democratic Party is represented by a donkey; Republican Party is represented by an elephant).
3. Using their top three priorities and symbol they have chosen, instruct each girl/group to create a campaign poster that best represents their platform for change.
4. When posters are completed, have each candidate or party explain their posters and why they should be in office.

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:
 - Go to the state or city capital building, or visit a local government office.
 - Attend a city council meeting.
 - Visit a political campaign headquarters.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite local government officials (current or former) to your meeting.
 - Invite a member of the League of Women MN Voters to your meeting.
 - Invite a campaign volunteer to your meeting.



Silly Laws Quiz

1. In the state of Kentucky, it is legal to throw eggs at a public speaker if you don't like what's being said.

Answer: False

- It is against the law, although there doesn't seem to be a problem with throwing them at private speakers. However, if you're in Princeton, Texas, you'd better not throw an onion at anyone.

2. If you live in Shawnee, Oklahoma, you should have a talk with your dog about where he or she hangs out with his or her friends.

Answer: True

- In this city, it is against the law for three or more dogs to congregate on private property without the permission of the owner of that property.

3. In California, sleeping in the kitchen is considered a crime.

Answer: True

- So when you decide to take a nap in your soup, you're in the clear!

4. If you live in Kentucky, you never have to take a bath.

Answer: False

- Not true stinky one! Kentucky residents are required, by law, to have at least one bath a year.

5. In Michigan, a married woman can get her hair cut at any time of the day.

Answer: False

- A woman is breaking the law in this state if she cuts her hair without first getting her husband's permission.

6. If you tie your elephant up to a parking meter in Orlando, Florida, you don't need to put any money in the meter.

Answer: False

- You must feed that meter exactly the same as you would for a car, so be sure to have some change in your pocket.

7. In Jefferson City, Missouri, it's illegal to anchor your boat to the train tracks.

Answer: True

- One really has to wonder what event caused this rule to be written into law!

8. It is illegal to gargle in the state of Louisiana.

Answer: False

- Go ahead and gargle all you like. However, don't do it in public because that is illegal.

9. In Pennsylvania, it is a crime to sleep outdoors on top of a refrigerator.

Answer: True

- You can still opt to sleep on top of the refrigerator in the kitchen if you like.

10. You can lie down and take a nap any way you like in North Dakota.

Answer: False

- Just make sure to take your shoes off! Laying down and falling asleep with your shoes on is strictly forbidden

