



Junior Digital Photographer Badge Activity Plan 1

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll know how to use a camera to create one-of-a-kind photos.

Planning Guides Link: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

Fun Patch Link: Digital Photography

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 *Junior Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, 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 take, edit, and share photos
- They can make a digital photo project

Tips and Tools

- You will need at least one computer for this activity. Here are some tips for finding a computer to use:
 - Email or call parents to see if anyone has a laptop they can bring to the meeting.
 - Check with the local school, library or community center. Be sure to ask about rules on computer use at their location and respect others who need to use the computers. If you are planning a snack, check with the employees about an acceptable location to eat the snack.
- You will need one digital camera per girl (girls can share cameras if needed). Possible ways to get cameras are:
 - Contact parents to see if they have one or more camera they can send with their girl. Be sure to indicate that the camera needs to be digital.
 - Find an older Girl Scout Troop that has cameras and ask them to act as Program Aides at your meeting. Ask your service unit manager for troop suggestions.
 - Check with your local library or school to see if they have cameras you can check out.
- 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 *Junior Girls Guide to Girl Scouting –Digital Photography 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. 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.

3. Play a game so girls get to know each other better. Use the example below, if needed.
 - Pile Up: Girls sit on chairs in a circle. Choose a leader who will have a list of “yes” or “no” questions, such as “Do you have on brown shoes?”, “Are you wearing a ring?”, “Is your favorite color purple?” As the questions are asked, those that can answer “yes” move one chair to the right. Those that answer “no” don’t move. Girls will end up “piled-up” on chairs.

Activity #1: Camera Settings

Badge Connection: Step 1—Learn about digital cameras from an expert

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- If possible, play around with camera settings so you can teach the girls and see how they work.
- Print out copies of the “Common Camera Settings” information sheet for the girls.

Materials Needed:

- Cameras with multiple shooting modes (one per girl)
- Copies of the “Common Camera Settings” information sheet (see below)

Steps:

1. One by one, go through the camera settings on the list.
2. For each setting, have the girls take at least one picture with their cameras to see how the setting works. You will likely have to help them change the aperture and shutter size on aperture and shutter preferred modes.

Activity #2: Practice, Practice, Practice

Badge Connection: Step 2—Take a ton of photographs!

Time Allotment: 30 minutes

Prep Needed:

- If you plan to leave your meeting place to take pictures, check out the area before you go to ensure safety and good picture-taking opportunities.

Materials Needed:

- Digital cameras with multiple settings (one per girl)

Steps:

1. Take a picture-taking journey within your meeting space or in the nearby neighborhood.
2. Encourage girls to try new things by giving them challenges as you go. Some possibilities are:
 - Switch to a camera setting you haven't tried yet for your next picture.
 - Turn to the shutter-preferred mode and take several pictures with several different shutter speeds.
 - Turn to the aperture-preferred mode and take several pictures with several different aperture sizes.
 - Try taking a portrait of one of your Girl Scout friends.
 - Take a landscape picture.
 - Try taking a macro (really close) picture.
 - Take a picture of something from a new angle.
 - Take a picture of a reflection.
 - Take a picture of a shadow.
 - Take a picture from inside something.
 - Take three completely different pictures of the same object.

Activity #3: Snack Chat

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps

Materials needed:

- Snack
- Digital cameras used in Activity #2
- Computer
- Data cable to transfer pictures from the camera to the computer
- Flash drive (optional)

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Steps:

1. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
 - What did you take pictures of?
 - What do you think the best picture you took will be?
 - Has anyone ever used a film camera before? What is different about using those?
 - What was your favorite thing to take a picture of?
 - Has anyone used a camera before today? What do you like to take pictures of?
 - What different modes did you use on the camera? Did they work well or poorly?
 - What modes didn't you try, but you wanted to try?
2. While the girls are eating their snack, have one or more adults (depending on the number of computers available) call each girl up one by one to download the pictures from her camera. Be sure to put all the photos in a folder with each girl's name so you know who took each picture.
3. If you are using a public computer, download all the pictures onto a flash drive to take with you.
4. Note: If you will be doing the second activity plan for this badge, go through the girls' pictures after this meeting and choose five or six of each girl's best shots. Make sure that the file names match the girls' names. The girls will need to choose three pictures to edit in the next activity plan, and this will make their selection process quicker.

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. 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:
 - Visit a local camera or electronics store to look at the different types of digital cameras available.
 - Visit a photography studio to see how they work.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Ask a professional photographer come talk to the group about his or her job. Some places to find them are newspapers, portrait studios or by searching for wedding or senior portrait photographers.
 - Have someone come in who uses a film camera to talk about the differences between digital and film.

Suggestions

Do you have any suggestions to improve this activity plan? Do you have ideas for other possible badge-earning activities? Please email troopsupport@girlscoutsv.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 use digital cameras and are on our way to earning the Digital Photography Badge.

We had fun:







- Learning how to use the different settings of a camera.
- Taking pictures of our Girl Scout friends and our surroundings

Continue the fun at home:

- Help your Girl Scout practice using modes of a digital camera that she doesn't know how to use.
- With your Girl Scout, do an internet search on tips for taking better pictures.
- Go on a picture-taking walk with your Girl Scout.
- Look through the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* with your Junior to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your Junior to Girl Scouts!

Common Camera Settings

Camera Setting	Symbol	How it works	Works best with
Automatic	Camera with "auto" written above it, usually in green 	Using its sensors, the camera chooses all the settings it "thinks" will take the best pictures.	This is good for cloudy days outside or bright lighting indoors.
Shutter priority	S or TV	This lets you decide how long the shutter is open (how long it takes to take the picture). The longer the shutter time, the more light will be let into the camera. This means the picture will be brighter and blurrier.	This mode is good if you (the photographer) are moving a lot, but you have to test and practice to get it right. This can also be good for "fun" shots with really long shutter speeds.
Aperture priority	A or Av	This mode lets you decide the size of the aperture (hole the picture is taken through). The bigger the hole, the more light gets in. The smaller the number, the larger the aperture (hole) will be.	This is good for taking portraits.
Manual	M	This mode allows the photographer to control all the different settings	This is best for photographers with a lot of practice and time.
Close up/macro	Flower 	This mode allows the camera to focus on objects that are very close to the lens and would normally be blurry.	This mode is for when you're taking pictures of things that are really close to the camera. It is best when you have something to steady the camera and aren't using flash.
Sports	Running man 	This mode uses very short shutter times combined with other settings to make fast moving subjects look clear.	This is good for sport or other situations when your subject is moving around a lot.
Landscape	Mountain 	This mode makes the camera have an "infinite" focus.	This allows you to focus on landscapes that are very far away.
Portrait	Woman in hat 	This mode makes the camera focus on objects close to the camera while objects far from the camera may be blurry.	This is good for taking pictures of people and objects close to the camera if you do not need the background to be clear.
Movie	Video camera 	This takes short videos.	This is good when a picture just isn't enough.