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Allina Health 

Junior Scribe Badge Activity Plan 1

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.

Planning Guides Link: Healthy Living and Creativity

Fun Patch Link: Writing Fun

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 Junior 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 Junior 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 Skill-Building Badge set for *It's Your World—Change 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 demonstrate how to write a poem
- They can create and write a short story
- They can express their opinions and channel them into writing

Tips and Tools

- 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 lesson plan has been adapted from the Junior Skill-Building Badge set for the *It's Your World—Change It!* Scribe 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: Poem Pass

Badge Connection: Step 1—Start with a poem

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Notebook pads
- Writing utensils—one per girl

Steps:

1. 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.
2. Start the poem by handing one notepad to the first girl, who will write the first line of the poem.
3. 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.

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!

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!”

Activity #2: Short Story Mash Up

Badge Connection: Step 2—Create a short story

Time Allotment: 30 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Notebook pads
- Writing utensils
- Plastic bowls
- Post-it notes

Steps:

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 post-it notes and sit in a group.
2. Tell each group to label each plastic bowl (one post-it 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 post-it notes for each category (9 post-its 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 post-it note do not have to relate to each other.

4. After each girl has completed all nine post-it notes, she can fold them and toss them into the corresponding bowl.
5. Have each girl draw one post-it note from each bowl (category) and create a short story based on the three post-it 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?

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

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Snack prep may vary according to snack choice provided.

Materials Needed:

- Post-it notes
- Pens
- One plastic bowl
- Snack item(s)

Steps:

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 post-it note one topic, thought, issue, activity, sport etc."
3. Direct the girls to fold up their post-it 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:
 - Post-it 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 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
 - Visit a local newspaper or magazine business.
 - Visit a local library.
- Speaker Ideas
 - Invite a reporter, journalist, editor, or blogger 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@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 new ways to create and capture stories, ideas, verses and opinions in writing and are on our way to earning the Scribe Badge.

We had fun:

- Working together and combining our ideas to create a 14-line sonnet as a group
- Stretching our imaginations to create a short story based on random categories
- Exploring ways to express personal opinions in groups

Continue the fun at home:

- Spend some time with your Girl Scout looking through her childhood picture albums and watching home videos. Encourage your Girl Scout to reflect on specific memories, verbalizing what she remembers and how she felt. Encourage your Girl Scout to write a story about her favorite childhood memory.

- Visit your local library with your Girl Scout and read together examples of the type of writing style that appeals to her for inspiration. The best way to learn to write is to read!
- 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!