



Brownie Potter Badge Activity Plan 2

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll know how to make their own projects out of clay.

Planning Guides Link: Science, Technology Engineering and Math

Fun Patch Link: Pottery

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 Plant—Love 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 have experience with a variety of clays and their uses
- They have made both pots and other objects from clay
- They have finished at least one project with a paint or glaze

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 activity plan has been adapted from the Brownie Skill-Building Badge set for *It's Your Planet—Love It!* Potter 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. 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: Clay Is for Everyday

Badge Connection: Step 2—Get to know clay

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Word Search
- Writing utensils

Steps:

1. Distribute the word search and writing utensils.
2. Read aloud the pottery terms below and ask girls to share the definition of each, if known. If girls do not know the definitions of these key pottery terms, review the provided definition with the group.

Pottery Terms	Definition
Wedge	Knead clay by hand to work out air bubbles in order to have useable clay
Fire	To bake the clay until it is hardened
Kiln	An oven designed to reach very high temperatures to bake clay
Score	To scratch tiny lines on two pieces of clay that you want to stick together
Sculpt	Carve a design or object out of clay
Glaze	Special paint for clay that changes color during the firing process

3. Give girls some time to work on their pottery word searches.

Activity #2: Kool-Aid Kreatures

Badge Connection: Step 4—Make an art piece

Time Allotment: 30 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Gather paint shirts or aprons to protect girls' clothing during this activity plan. Request that families send an old shirt with their girl that she can get messy.
- Optional: Make a practice piece prior to your meeting.

Materials Needed:

- Sealable gallon-size plastic bags or bowls for mixing clay
- Paper towels
- Paint shirts or aprons to protect girls' clothing
- Kool-Aid play dough materials (per girl):
 - 1 c. flour
 - 1/2 c. salt
 - 1 Tbsp. cooking oil
 - 2 tsp. cream of tartar
 - 1 pkg. unsweetened Kool-Aid
 - 1 c. water
 - Food coloring

Steps:

1. Help girls measure out their ingredients into a bowl or sealable plastic bag, or pre-measure dry ingredients into bags prior to meeting.
2. Direct girls to use their hands to mix ingredients together until they form dough.
3. Girls can then choose a color for their Kool-Aid Kreatures. Help girls place one to two drops of food coloring on the ball of dough, then instruct them to continue to mix the dough until the color is well-incorporated.
4. Once the dough has been made, encourage girls to make a creature with their Kool-Aid dough. This creature can take whatever form they wish, and can be as realistic or as crazy as they want.

Activity #3: Edible Paint and Snack Chat

Badge Connection: Step 4—Paint and glaze

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies, including sugar cookies for snack.
- Make "paint" frosting prior to the meeting (up to one day in advance; preferably day-of).

Materials Needed:

- Large sugar cookies (one per girl)
- Unused paintbrushes
- Paper towels
- "Paint" frosting

Steps:

1. Talk with the girls about the art of painting and ask them about their favorite things and ways to paint, such as watercolor pictures, finger-painting and pictures of their families.
2. Go over some pottery painting and glazing fun facts with the girls:
 - Pottery can be painted or glazed, which are very different processes.
 - Glazing is a process in which you apply a glaze to the ceramic piece; once dry, the piece must be fired in a kiln again. Glazes generally appear very neutral when they are applied, but once fired they turn into bright, vibrant and often very shiny colors.

- You can also apply color to a ceramic piece by painting it. If applying a design to the piece, it is often easier to use paint instead of glaze. When you use paint, you can see direct results; when you use glaze, you don't know exactly where the color will be. And, although glazes are marked with labels indicating their color, colors will vary depending on the heat at which it is fired and where it is placed in the kiln.
- Lay out the materials and tell the girls they will be making an edible painting.
 - Girls will use "paint" frosting and unused paint brushes to paint pictures on their cookies.

Wrapping Up

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Optional: Make New Friends printed on poster board

Steps:

- 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.
- 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.

- After the song, ask everyone to be quiet.
- Assign a 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 pottery studio or a clay and/or ceramics artist supply store such as Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis or search for local potters in your community online.
 - Visit a history museum that has displays of pottery from different eras and cultures.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a professional or hobbyist potter or ceramic artist to your meeting.
 - Invite your art teacher to share their pottery experiences with your troop.

Suggestions

Do you have any suggestions to improve this activity plan? Do you have ideas for other possible badge-earning activities? Please email troopsupport@girlscoutsvr.org.

Family Follow Up-Email

Use the email on the next page 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 making artwork from clay and have earned the Potter Badge.

We had fun:

- Making our own clay and edible paint.
- Discovering the meaning behind pottery terms.
- Creating a Kool-Aid Kreature.

Continue the fun at home:

- Practice wedging by making homemade bread. Wedging is just like kneading bread dough!
- Make some homemade clay and experiment with pots or figures.
- Look through the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* with your Brownie to find other activities to try at home.

Thank you for bringing your Brownie to Girl Scouts!

Pottery Word Search

F Z E T H P H S O R J E
L T Y T F M L R I X E A
O S E O I E I L R D S S
I I E G D E W E A C E G
C E A R L G O Z P Z A L
L F N N U A O U P S E L
A I I K I T Z E T B K E
Y R E T T O P E N T S C
E E I A R P P L V H R A
X L Z H N A I U U E E T
T I X E I K E R O C S R
P R O E E E H T Y L S T

Find the following hidden pottery terms:

Wedge

Fire

Kiln

Clay

Score

Sculpture

Glaze

Pottery