

BROWNIE POTTER BADGE- MEETING 1

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

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 and sing the Brownie Smile Song. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Brownie Smile song lyrics poster
10 minutes	Clay is for Everyday + Snack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will enjoy snack and discover how pottery is everywhere. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Snack
25 minutes	Glassy Glazing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls decorate clay tiles with a geometric design. 	<input type="checkbox"/> 4" square white tiles <input type="checkbox"/> Sandpaper <input type="checkbox"/> Glass or multi-use paint <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper or tablecloths <input type="checkbox"/> Brushes <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Pictures of decorative tile patterns <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent marker
25 minutes	Sculpture Jars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls create clay artwork for a glass jar. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Polymer clay (such as Fimo or Sculpey; approximately 2 oz. per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Glass jars with metal lids <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Molding tools (toothpicks, plastic knives, rolling pins, polymer clay tools)
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 and (optional) Brownie Smile song lyrics poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and sing the Brownie Smile song.



Activity #1: Clay Is For Everyday

Time: 10 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 — Find some pottery

Materials Needed: Paper; writing utensils; healthy snack

Prep Needed:

- Review the story before your meeting to figure out where in the story to pause to give girls a chance to take notes.
1. Pass out snack to each girl.
 2. Hand out paper and writing utensils. Tell the girls that they are going to hear a story about someone's ordinary day, and they are going to keep track of all the tasks she does and when she does them.
 3. Read the story, leaving some pauses where girls may need to make notes.

Clarissa's Day

Clarissa woke up to a beautiful, sunny day and knew it was perfect for her big yard project. She got up early and made herself a **pot** of peppermint tea. She poured some tea into her favorite **mug** and sipped it while reading the newspaper, taking out the **shiny coupon and ad inserts** for later. After a quick breakfast and a quick clean-up of a spill on the **kitchen tile** floor, she hurried out the door. She already had some herbs growing in **pots** on her windowsill. She had filled the **pots** with **potting soil** and planted the seeds a month ago, and they were showing good progress. The master plan, however, was for a backyard patio with a fire pit and a little fountain in a pond.

Soon, her friend Viola, who had promised to help today, arrived. Together, they brought loads of **bricks** for building the patio and fire pit. Viola started placing the bricks while Clarissa dug out the space for the pond and filled in the **liner** to hold the water. On a future day, they would put in plants around the outside of the pond.

Viola had plans to play **tennis** that afternoon, and also planned to stop in to see her mother and bring her some **medicine for her stomach flu**. When Viola left, Clarissa made herself a homemade pizza on her **pizza stone** and decided to relax with a nice, long **bath**, including a **facial mud mask** and bubble bath. It had been a good day.

3. Have the girls report back the tasks they recorded. Ask them if they think that any of the tasks use clay or ceramics. Since clay and clay minerals can show up in unexpected places, point out that even if their guess doesn't sound like an example of clay or ceramics, it still might be.
4. Go through the list of clay examples below and point out anything the girls missed.

Appearances of clay and clay minerals:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Mugs, coffee cups, pottery bowls, china plates | • Flower pots |
| • Liner material for artificial ponds, dams, landfills | • Baking stones, some cooking pots |
| • Printing on magazines and glossy newspaper inserts | • Soil additive (vermiculite) |
| • Tennis court | • Porcelain sinks and tubs |
| • Ceramic tile | • Bricks |
| • Medicine (kaolin clay—Kaopectate) | • Facial mask |

Activity #2: Glassy Glazing

Time: 25 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Paint and glaze

Materials Needed: 4" square white tiles; sandpaper; glass or multi-use paint*; newspaper or tablecloths; brushes; (optional) pictures of decorative tile patterns; scratch paper; pencils; permanent marker



Prep Needed:

- Decide on an oven-baked or a no-fire paint, and plan accordingly for either giving firing/baking instructions to families, or planning to keep or finish the items at your home or meeting place.
- Make a practice piece at home before trying it with the girls.

1. Introduce girls to clay tiles with the following information:

- Clay tiles have been used all over the world to decorate floors and walls, and can be found in many shapes – either plain or with designs pressed into the wet clay. Tiles are fired in a kiln to a hard finish to protect them, and like other pottery, can have colors added with glaze that is fired again. We are going to make our own art tile designs without using a kiln. Glass paints will keep some of that glossy finish typical of the fired tiles.
 - Geometric designs are common, especially when an entire wall will be covered with the repeating pattern. Many look similar to quilt patterns, or have four- or eight-sided shapes or symmetry.
2. Let the girls know what to expect regarding how much time it will take to finish their tiles, including drying time. This will depend on the type of paints you are using.
 3. Tell the girls they can use the scratch paper if they want to sketch a design and they may be able to draw lightly in pencil on the tile before painting it.
 4. Before girls start on their tiles, write each girl's name or initials on the bottom of her tile with permanent marker.
 5. Have girls create a design on their tile with the paint and set aside to dry.

* Glazes for potter must be fired in a kiln, which most people do not have. There are many kinds of paints used for glass or multiple surfaces. Gallery Glass comes in a tube and air dries. Glass markers from Deco Art or Pebeo Vitrea 160, or Liquitex Glossies paints will dry to tacky in your meeting time and dry thoroughly overnight, or can be baked in an oven to set. The heat-set versions are more durable, though all of these can still be damaged if put to hard use. You can also paint with ordinary acrylic paint, and the paint is less likely to flake or scratch off if you paint the tiles first with a ceramic sealant. Be sure to include information on the material used when sending your family message.

Activity #3: Sculpture Jars

Time: 25 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Make an art piece

Materials Needed: Polymer clay (such as Fimo or Sculpey; approximately 2 oz. per girl); glass jars with metal lids; paper; writing utensils; molding tools (toothpicks, plastic knives, rolling pins, polymer clay tools)

Prep Needed:

- (Optional) A few weeks before your meeting, ask families to save glass jars with metal lids to bring to the meeting.
1. Have each girl choose a base color for her jar lid. She'll create a thin sheet of clay to cover the lid as completely as possible without interfering with the closing of the jar. Girls can use rolling pins to roll out the dough, wrap it over the jar lid, and then use a knife to cut off the excess. Smooth and press down the clay, and make sure it goes right over the edge to encase the lid, as long as the jar still closes.
 2. Have the girls use additional colors to continue decorating their lids. The lid itself still needs to be functional, so any three-dimensional figures need to reach no more than one inch above the lid. Decorations can be shapes cut out of rolled-out clay, patterns scratched in with toothpicks or small figures added on top.
 3. Polymer clay must be fired in an oven to harden. You can give the girls the instructions and have them fire their lids at home, take care of them at your meeting space if ovens are available, or you or another adult volunteer can fire them and bring them back. The jars themselves can then be used for candles, sand paintings or as containers for gift items.

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:
 - Visit a local potter, clay and artist supply store, or ceramics store.
 - Visit a history museum that has displays of pottery from different eras.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a professional or hobbyists potter or ceramic artist to your meeting.

