



## **Brownie A World of Girls Activity Plan 1** **Hear a Story Award**

**Purpose:** When girls have earned this award, they will see that stories hold clues for how to make the world better.

**Planning Guides Link:** Leadership

**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 award or simply try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to complete this award, including: completing the activities as listed in the *A World of Girls* Journey, completing this activity plan, 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 Hear a Story Award if:

- They know they belong to a "world" of girls just like them
- They can find clues in a story
- They can identify ways to make change in the world

Girls can continue their *A World of Girls* Journey by earning the remaining awards: Change a Story Award, Tell a Story Award and Better World for Girls! Award.

### Tips and Tools

- Girl Scout Cadettes who are working on the *It's Your Story—Tell It! MEdia* Journey can earn their Leadership in Action (LiA) Award by assisting with these activities. Contact your Service Unit Manager to find girls in your area who may be interested in assisting your group. Requirements for the *A World of Girls* LiA award can be found in the *It's Your Story—Tell It! A World of Girls* and *It's Your Story—Tell It! MEdia* adult guides.
- 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 *It's Your Story—Tell It! A World of Girls* Journey, 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: Games from Girls Around the Globe

Journey Connection: Session 1—Girls Around the World

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Review game directions and determine which game to plan. Make preparations accordingly.
  - For Banyoka:
    - Mark "lanes" on the floor with masking tape.
    - Set up obstacles.
  - For Escargot:
    - Set up a snail pattern on floor with masking tape (see Escargot Diagram at the end of the activity plan for details).

Materials Needed:

- For Banyoka:
  - Masking tape
  - Obstacles (indoor options include furniture, stacks of boxes or books; outdoor options include cones, jump ropes, large balls)
- For Escargot:
  - Small squares of paper
  - Markers

- Masking tape

Steps:

1. Tell the girls that all around the world girls like to play games. Playing games is a way to get to know others and active games are important for staying healthy and fit. By playing games and doing activities from around the world, we get to see what girls in other parts of the world like to do.
2. Play the game Banyoka or Escargot.

**Banyoka** is an obstacle course game from Africa and means “snake”.

- To play the game:
  1. Form two teams with equal numbers of girls.
  2. Each team becomes a “snake.” The girls sit on the floor or ground, one behind the other, with their legs open like scissors and their hands on the shoulders or waist of the girl in front of them.
  3. Each team “scootches” along, moving around or over the obstacles while staying connected. The first team to finish wins!

**Escargot** is a version of hopscotch that children play in France.

- To play the game:
  1. Game may be played as one large group or in teams of three–four girls.
  2. Have girls decide which foot is their hopping foot and who will go first. Whichever foot a girl chooses is the foot she will hop on for the entire game.
  3. Hop through to the center on one foot. Start with square one.
  4. Hop only once in each square. Do not hop on any lines or a turn is lost. Girls may rest when they reach the center.
  5. Hop back to the beginning, following the same rules.
  6. If a girl hopped in and out successfully, she may choose a square as her “house.” Have her put her initials in the square (write on small squares of papers and tape it in the square). She can use this space to rest and other players must skip over the square.
  7. The game is over when it becomes impossible for anyone to hop to the center. The player with the most squares at the end is the winner.

## Activity #2: Storytelling Detectives

Journey Connection: Session 2—Girls in Our World

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Large writing space (poster board, chalkboard, whiteboard)
- Writing utensils

Steps:

1. Tell the girls that on this journey they will be talking about many different stories. Ask the girls to tell you the titles or themes of some of their favorite stories. Spend a minute or two brainstorming a list of favorite stories and write them for everyone to see.
2. Tell the girls that they will be acting out some of their favorite stories by playing the game charades! For a large group of girls, split the girls into teams. For a smaller group, have the girls work together to act out several stories.
3. Give each group about 10 minutes to plan a short charade of a favorite story. Girls can use actions and a few words, if necessary.
  - A few familiar story ideas for groups that need some help:
    - Harry Potter Series
    - Fairy Tales (Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Pinocchio)
    - Where the Wild Things Are
    - Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus
    - Ramona Quimby stories

4. Have each group perform their short charade, while the other girls try to guess which story they are performing.
5. Transition into Activity #3: Snack Chat to discuss the stories and characters from charades.

**Activity #3: Snack Chat**

Journey Connection: Questions link to multiple sessions of A World of Girls  
 Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Steps:

1. While enjoying a healthy snack of your choice, here are some things to talk about:
  - What did the girls in your charade story do?
  - Did the girls in your story solve any problems? What was the problem?
  - Why did the problem need to be solved and how did they solve it?
  - What are your characters like? Do you share any of the same traits?
  - What would you have done in a situation like that?

**Activity #4: Traveler’s Suitcase**

Journey Connection: Session 1—Girls Around the World  
 Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Wrap a small box with plain paper and cut a slot large enough to fit a small item in the top.

Materials Needed:

- Coloring utensils
- Paper
- Small box
- Tape

Steps:

1. Tell the girls that the box is the suitcase they are taking with them on their journey around the globe.
2. Give each girl a small piece of paper and have her create a souvenir that shows the places they’ve been and the things they learned during the meeting. Girls can use pictures or words to represent their journey so far.
3. When they have finished their souvenirs, have girls put them into the “suitcase.”
4. If time allows, have the girls decorate the outside of the box related to traveling, girls and Brownies. Give girls another piece of paper to decorate and tape to the outside of the “suitcase” when completed.
5. Bring the box every time you meet and at the end of each meeting, the girls can add more to the box. After you’ve completed your *A World of Girls* Journey, the girls can open the box and reflect on the places they went and everything they did!

**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,	A circle is round,	You have one hand,

but keep the old. One is silver, the other is gold.	it has no end. That's how long, I will be your friend.	I have the other. Put them together, We have each other.
---	--	--

3. After the song, ask everyone to be quiet.
4. 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.
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:
  - Go to a historical society or history museum to explore how girls and women have changed the world.
  - Take a walk outside or around the block and have girls identify clues that need a positive change in their community.
  - Be a storytelling detective and find clues at your local library's story time.
- Speaker Ideas:
  - Invite someone that you know from a different country to talk about being a girl in that culture.
  - Invite a local librarian, author or someone else familiar with children's stories to talk to the girls about finding clues within stories.

### 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](mailto:troopsupport@girlscoutsv.org).

### Family Follow-Up Email

Use the email below as a template to let families know what you 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 discovering the world of girls we live in and earned the *A World of Girls* Hear a Story Award.

We had fun:

- Getting to know about the circle of girls we are part of through games
- Being detectives to find clues in stories
- Creating our own "suitcase" to keep track of our travels through *A World of Girls*

Continue the fun at home:

- Talk to your Brownie about how your family is connected to different parts of the world by your family's native origin, where your favorite foods originate, places you've visited and more!
- Read stories with your Brownie and help her find problems in the stories. Ask her how she might solve the problem if she were in the book.

- Look at the *A World of Girls Journey* book and read about the adventures of Campbell, Jamila and Alejandra as they travel around the world.

Thank you for bringing your Brownie to Girl Scouts!

## Escargot Diagram

