



Second-Year Brownie First Meeting Activity Plan

Purpose: When girls participate in their first Brownie meeting of the year, they'll commit to the Girl Scout promise in an Investiture and re-dedication ceremony.

Planning Guides Link: Global Citizenship and Girl Scout Sisterhood

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 or expertise in the topic. Ask them to lead or support a specific activity/activities, or to lead the meeting.
 - Offer this activity plan as a starting place; 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 the girls and their families ways that they may 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 try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to celebrate the beginning of the year. Encourage girls to add their own ideas to an investiture ceremony, including songs, games, skits, poems, pictures, and more.

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.
- Work with the girls to establish a list of behaviors that make a meeting successful and respectful of everyone's needs.

Resources

- You will want to have access to tables, chairs, and an open space for this meeting.
- This activity plan has been adapted from the *Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* which can be used for additional information and activities.

Pre-meeting Activity: Brownie Journey Map

Time Allotment: 15 minutes prior to meeting start time

Prep Needed:

1. Display a copy of the Brownie Journey Map in the Handbook Section of the Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting (pages 6-7)
2. Gather coloring utensils and set up at designated table space.

Materials Needed:

- Blank paper or construction paper
- Coloring utensils: Crayons, markers or colored pencils
- A copy of the Brownie Journey Map in the Handbook Section of the Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting (pages 6-7)

Steps:

1. As the girls arrive, greet each girl and direct her to the table where she can design her own Brownie Journey Map. Instruct girls to draw things they have already done on their Girl Scout journey, and new things that they hope to do as a Brownie this year.
 - Display a picture of the Brownie Journey Map on pages 6-7 of the *Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*.
2. Collect and save these journey maps to capture the girls' ideas on things they would like to do in Girl Scouting this year, so you can incorporate girl-led ideas into activity planning this year.
3. When it is time to start the meeting, raise your hand in the 'Quiet Sign'. Explain that when your hand goes up, everyone's should hand go up, and everyone is quiet. Let the girls know the Quiet Sign will be used at every meeting.
 - Tip: You can make the Quiet Sign a game by seeing how fast everyone can be quiet.
4. Instruct girls to form a circle to begin the meeting.

Getting Started

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Form chairs into a circle OR instruct everyone to sit in a circle as they come.
- Print out the attendance and meeting helper charts
- Optional: Print out any handouts or communications needed for parents

Materials Needed:

- A ball or bean bag (preferably soft material)
- Attendance chart
- Meeting helper chart
- Optional: Any handouts or communications for parents

Steps:

1. Ask everyone (girls and adults) to join you in a circle and explain that this is the 'Brownie Circle'. Welcome everyone to the meeting and introduce yourself.
2. Communicate rules about the following items customized to your troop:
 - Meeting dates and times
 - Bathroom/drinking fountain location and buddy system
 - Quiet Sign
 - Respect your Girl Scout sisters, leaders and parents
 - Any other expectations deemed necessary by troop
3. Explain that this year; Brownies will go on a special journey called the 'Brownie Quest'. Before beginning the Brownie quest, it is important to know what special talents and qualities everyone brings to the troop (girls and parents included). This will happen through a ball/bean bag toss introduction game.

4. How to play: One person will start with the ball and introduce herself/himself, and share one thing she/he is good at. The rule is, only the person who has the ball can talk. After introducing/sharing, that person tosses the ball to someone new and the game continues until all have introduced themselves and shared a talent.
5. Next, explain that part of being a Girl Scout Brownie is leaving places better than we found them. Discuss at the beginning of each Girl Scout meeting, you will assign meeting helpers, share ideas, make decisions, and talk as a group. Introduce the meeting helper roles, which are jobs that different girls can take responsibility to do or lead each meeting. These jobs will help our meetings to run smoothly, and for us as Girl Scouts to truly be good 'Brownie Elves'. Some meeting helper roles might include:
 - Attendance Helper: in charge of taking attendance
 - Girl Scout Promise Leader: leads group in reciting the Girl Scout Promise
 - Girl Scout Law Leader: leads group in reciting the Girl Scout Law
 - Material Helper: assists in passing out/collecting materials for an activity
 - Brownie Elf Helper: after the group cleans up, makes sure nothing is left behind
 - Snack Helper: assists in setting up/passing out snack
 - Friendship circle Helper: leads the friendship circle activity
 - Tip: Ask the girls if they have other ideas of meeting helper jobs they would like to add or help with.
6. Talk with the girls and assign meeting helpers for this meeting. Review what the roles and responsibilities are.
7. Tip: Switch out girls for roles every meeting and allow each girl the chance to have a meeting helper role. Keep track of who does what at each meeting.

Activity #1: Juliette's Story: Brownie Introduction Game

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Set up chairs in a circle facing inward.

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- Juliette's story (below)

Steps:

1. Instruct the girls to find a chair in the circle and sit down. Have your badge buddies assist with handing each girl a piece of paper and a writing utensil. Tell the girls that an important part of Girl Scouts is being able to make new friends. They will now play a game where they get to introduce and meet new friends that they might not already know.
2. Instruct the girls to write their names on the very top of the paper, and then fold the paper down over her name so it cannot be seen.
3. Just below the folded part, tell the girls to write down how old they are. Then, fold the paper down again so her age cannot be seen.
4. Below the new folded part, tell the girls to write down her favorite color. Have her fold down the paper again so her favorite color cannot be seen.
5. Tell the girls you are now going to read them Juliette Gordon Low's story, the woman who began Girl Scouting. The rules are, every time you say the word 'Juliette Low' the girls must pass their paper to the person on their right. Every time you say the word 'Girl Scouts' or 'Girl Scouting', the girls must pass the paper to the girl on their left.
6. Read the story below to the girls. The key 'passing' words are **Juliette Low** below for your convenience.

Once upon a time there was a little girl named **Juliette Low** who lived in Georgia and loved to ride horses. After she grew up she went to London where she met Lord Baden-Powell who founded the Boy Scouts. She was fascinated by the work he was doing. She studied with him awhile and decided to found a troop of **Girl Scouts** for the little girls who liked to ride horses in Georgia. So **Juliette Low**

said good-bye to the Boy Scouts in London and came home with the ideas that Lord Baden-Powell gave her. She formed a group of little girls, who liked to ride horses and be together, into a troop of **Girl Scouts**. And they loved it so much that the idea spread and now there are **Girl Scout** troops all over the world. Aren't we glad that a little girl named **Juliette Low**, from Georgia who liked horses went to London and met Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts, and came to start the wonderful world of **Girl Scouts!**

7. If the game is played correctly, each girl should end up with another girl's paper (the girl next to her). Next, instruct the girls to switch papers with someone who is sitting across the circle from them (this cannot be the person sitting next to them).
8. Start the introductions by unfolding the paper and having one girl read the name on the paper she got. The girl whose name is read then stands up. The girl who read her name now introduces that girl to the group by reading her name, her age, and her favorite color. After she is done reading, the girl who is standing introduces the next girl (i.e. the girl's name on her paper)
9. The game continues until each girl has been introduced by another Brownie.

Activity #2: Girl Scout Brownie Investiture and Rededication Ceremony

Time Allotment: 25 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Prior to the ceremony, have meeting helpers (with adequate supervision) set up the pond area in the front of the room.
- Rededication takes place each year a girl or adult renews her membership in Girl Scouting. It does not matter if they are consecutive years or if there has been a break. As part of the ceremony, girls and adults participating in the rededication recite the Girl Scout Promise.
- Investiture takes place the **first time** a girl or an adult joins Girl Scouting.
- Rededication and Investiture can be conducted in the same ceremony. If you have girls/adults rededicating and investing at the same ceremony, do the rededicating first - then those girls and adults can assist with investiture.

Materials Needed:

- Girl Scout Promise (optional: printed out on a poster board)
- Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting: The Brownie Story (Page 18-21)
- Girl Scout Brownie Pins (1 per girl – only for new or first-year Brownies)
- A "pond" made of aluminum foil or any type of reflective material.
- Optional: Refreshments for girls and parents

Steps:

Note: You may design your own ceremony any way you wish; as long as it includes the opportunity for returning Brownies to re-dedicate to the Girl Scout Promise and for new Brownies to invest and receive their Girl Scout Brownie pins. Here is a sample design for a Girl Scout Brownie Investiture (year 2) ceremony:

1. Set up: New members/first-year Brownies are sent outside the room with the assistant leader, or if they stay in the room, they should sit on the opposite side of the pond of the returning members/second-year Brownies.
2. Begin the ceremony (script below):

Leader: Cross your little fingers, stand upon your toes
That's a bit of magic every Brownie knows
Now we all are standing in a forest glade
Listen very carefully, see the magic made

If the new Brownies have been sent out of the room, the girls knock on the door.

Leader: Who comes to the Brownie woods?

Brownies: We do!

Leader: What do you want?

Brownies: We want to be Girl Scout Brownies! (The girls then sit down *on the opposite side of the pond of the returning members/second-year Brownies.*)

3. Read the 'The Brownie Story' on pages 18-21 in the Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting to both girls and the audience.
4. Instruct the girls to then form a straight line by the pond, standing up, with their backs facing the audience.
5. Invest and/or re-dedicate each Girl Scout. *Note: Make sure to do the new/first-year Brownies before the returning/second-year Brownies in this step.*

Leader: Who comes first/next to the Magic Pond?

Co-Leader reads the first girl's name. The leader turns the girl around:

Leader: Twist me and turn me and show me the elf, I looked in the water and saw.....

Girl: Myself!

- *The leader asks the girl to say why she wants to be a Girl Scout Brownie. ***This step is ONLY for first-year Brownies – otherwise, disregard this step.***
- Instruct the girl to recite the Girl Scout Promise. *Note: This can be done individually or as a group after all girls complete step 4. Use repeat-after-me or say it as a group if girls know it by heart.*

Girl Scout Promise
<p><i>On my honor, I will try: To serve God* and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.</i></p>

- After reciting the promise, the leader gives each girl the Girl Scout Handshake one at a time and welcomes her into another year of Girl Scouting.
 - *Note: For first-year Brownies ONLY, pin on her Brownie pin (pinned upside down) at this time and say, "Now that you are a Girl Scout Brownie, you must perform three good deeds. Once you do your good deeds, tell me about them and I will turn your pin around!"*
6. After all girls are welcomed, the Leader says:

Leader: Uncross your little fingers, down from off your toes.
Then the magic goes away, everybody knows

Brownies can help clean up the "magic" while the leader sings this song (My Fair Lady tune)

Leader: Weave the magic in and out, in and out, in and out
Weave the magic in and out, for we are Brownies
We have tidied everything, everything, everything
We have tidied everything, for we are Brownies

7. Sing a song as a group, such as Make New Friends or the Brownie Smile Song. Use repeat-after-me or sing as a group, if girls know it by heart.

Make New Friends		
Verse One	Verse Two	Verse Three
<p>Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, the other is gold.</p>	<p>A circle is round, it has no end. That's how long, I will be your friend.</p>	<p>You have one hand, I have the other. Put them together, We have each other.</p>

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!

8. Optional: Invite parents and girls to share refreshments.

Activity #4: Snack Chat

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

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

Materials Needed:

- Snack item(s) for troop
- Paper sheets or construction paper
- Markers

Steps:

1. While enjoying snack, ask the girls some of the following questions:
 - What was your favorite part of being a Brownie last year?
 - What are you most looking forward to doing as a Brownie this year?
 - What has been your favorite Brownie memory so far?
 - What is one thing you've learned as a Brownie?
 - What is one badge you really want to try as a Brownie this year?

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 park or playground.
- Speaker Ideas
 - Invite another Brownie troop to your meeting and participate in the Girl Scout sisterhood together.

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 Girl Scout history and traditions as we started our second Brownie year.

We had fun:

- Making friendly introductions and learning more about each other.
- Participating in the Girl Scout Sisterhood through an Investiture/Rededication ceremony.
- Sharing Brownie memories and preparing to make new ones.

Continue the fun at home:

- Help your girl make a welcome gift or card for a new troop member (or for your troop if you're a new member!)
- Talk to your girl about the positive changes you've seen in the past year. Ask what positive changes she wants to make in the next year.
- Look through the Brownie *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* with your girl to find badges or activities you could try at home.

Thank you for bringing your girl to Girl Scouts!

