



## Brownie Philanthropist Badge Activity Plan

**Badge Purpose:** When girls have earned this badge, they'll know how to help people in need.

**Planning Guides Link:** Financial Literacy and Cookie Business

**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 Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, 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 award if:

- They understand the needs of people
- They can identify some ways to help people in need
- They understand what it means to be a philanthropist

### **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 Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting Philanthropist Badge*, which can be used for additional information and activities.

## Getting Started

Time Allotment: 5 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.

## Activity #1: Can I Be a Philanthropist?

Badge Connection: Step 5—Think—and act!—like a philanthropist

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Put the following chart at the top of the poster board:

Can I be a Philanthropist?	
YES	NO

Materials Needed:

- Writing utensils
- Poster board

Steps:

1. Before girls go to their seats after the opening, ask them to answer the question on the chart by placing a check in the column they think is correct. Do not tell them the answer or what a philanthropist is.
2. Ask girls to describe ways that they have helped others. Ask if anyone has collected or donated money, or collected supplies to be donated to someone.
3. Ask girls if they know the definition of philanthropist.
  - Philanthropist is a big word for someone who makes sure people have what they need. Many philanthropists help by giving money or supplies.
4. Have them answer the question – can you be a Philanthropist? Yes!

## Activity #2: Needs and Wants

Badge Connection: Step 1—Learn what every person needs

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Add two headings to the poster board from activity #1: “Needs” and “Wants”

Materials Needed:

- Magazines, grocery advertisements and retail advertisements that contain a variety of items, including needs and wants
- Scissors
- Same poster board
- Glue sticks

Steps:

1. Have girls sort through the advertisements and cut out pictures of items that a family uses.
2. Once they have a number of pictures, discuss the items as a group and decide whether each item is a need or a want.
3. Have girls glue the pictures to the poster board with wants on one side and needs on the other.

### **Activity #3: Food Shelf Role-Playing**

Badge Connection: Step 2—Investigate how to help people who are hungry

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Bring some canned or boxed foods or other items that could be used as pretend food. Alternatively, cut out pictures of foods from the magazines and ads used in activity #2.

Steps:

1. Ask each girl to tell you the time of day she feels the most hungry (e.g., is it right before lunch or after school, etc.) Ask the girls to imagine what it would be like to feel hungry like that all the time. Explain that many people in the world feel that way and do not have enough to eat to be healthy and have energy.
2. Ask if girls have heard of a food shelf. Explain that a food shelf is a place where food has been donated and stored, and where people who cannot afford to buy what they need can come to get food for free.
3. Split girls into two groups. Tell the first group they will be acting out the role of the volunteers at a food shelf. Girls can take orders, organize the food that is available and hand out the orders. Tell the second group they will be the people coming to the food shelf. Have each girl order two or three foods. Ask the girls to think about what types of food they would order in that situation. Would they order healthy foods, something that they are used to eating, or maybe their favorite food? What kind of foods do they think a food shelf should have?

### **Activity #4: Recycled Necklaces**

Badge Connection: Step 3—Find out how to help people who need clothing

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Cut strips of fabric.

Materials Needed:

- Several old or worn pieces of clothing, linens or fabric, cut into long strips (1 inch wide)
- Two rubber bands per girl

Steps:

1. Have each girl pick out three strips of fabric. They will be braiding 3 strips together. If the strips are short, they may choose additional strips and tie them together to make them long enough. Each strip should be long enough to form a necklace, plus 8 inches (4 inches on each end) to tie together.
2. Hold 3 strips together and tie a rubber band 4 inches from the end. Have girls braid strips together until they get approximately 4 inches from the other end. Tie on the second rubber band. Tie loose ends together to form the necklace.
3. As girls are working, explain that this is one way to make use of old clothing, especially if parts of the clothes are damaged or stained. Another way to use old clothing that is still in good condition is to donate it to a secondhand store such as Goodwill or the Salvation Army. Explain that people who need clothes can shop at secondhand stores and buy them for less money than they would spend at a store with new clothes. This helps people who don't have a lot of money to spend.
4. Ask girls to think about the clothes in their closet and ask if they can identify one piece of clothing that does not fit anymore or is no longer something they want to wear. Ask if they would be willing to donate that item.

### **Activity #5: Identifying Needs in an Emergency**

Badge Connection: Step 4—Know how to help in times of emergency

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Writing utensils
- Sticky notes
- Poster board from previous activities

Steps:

1. Explain that there are many kinds of emergencies that leave people in need of help. Help girls brainstorm a list of emergencies (fires, floods, tornadoes, illness, etc.).
2. Give each girl a sticky note and writing utensil. Ask girls to write down or draw something that people would need after an emergency. They can think of basic needs such as food and clothing, or specific possessions.
3. Have them post their notes under the “needs” section of the poster.
4. Tell girls that there are organizations that help people after emergencies, such as the Red Cross. Explain that these organizations help with needs like food, shelter and medical care. The Red Cross requests donations of money so they can buy the items needed; unlike food shelves or places like Goodwill, they do not accept donations of supplies.

### **Activity #6: I Will Be a Philanthropist! and Snack Chat**

Badge Connection: Step 5—Think—and act!—like a philanthropist

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
- Research a few local non-profit organizations which your troop might like to support. Optional: Arrange for a speaker from a local philanthropic group/organization to come to your troop meeting.

Materials Needed:

- Writing utensils
- Poster board from previous activities

Steps:

1. Now that the girls know more about philanthropy, how can they help others locally and globally? While girls enjoy snack, have them brainstorm ideas. Write them on the poster board (on the back if necessary).
2. Discuss which groups/organizations are based in the area. Did they know of these groups already?
3. Have each girl decide one way she can be a philanthropist and help in her community.
  - Examples: Organize a food drive or clothing drive, collect hygiene items to donate to a shelter, volunteer at the Humane Society or do a pet supply/food drive
4. Decide if there is something they would like to do as a group. Note: It is important to gauge how the girls feel after they help others and to discuss the experience as a group.

### Wrapping Up

Time Allotment: 5 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 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:
  - Visit a local philanthropic group/organization to learn more about helping others.
- Speaker Ideas:
  - Invite a community member who volunteers for a local group/organization.
  - Invite a staff member from a local group/organization that helps the community.

### 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 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 philanthropy and how we can do our part in helping others. We have earned the Philanthropist Badge.

We had fun:

- Learning about what philanthropy means and how we can be philanthropists ourselves.
- Discovering ways we can help our communities.

Continue the fun at home:

- Discuss ways you and your Girl Scout can help the community together.
- Look through the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* with your girl to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your Brownie to Girl Scouts!