



Girl Scout Brownie Jumpstart Guide



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Section 1: Welcome to Girl Scouts

Welcome

Welcome and congratulations on becoming a member of the unique and wonderful world of Girl Scouts!

Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls – all girls – where, in an accepting and nurturing environment girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adults, such as you, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives – qualities such as leadership, strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own worth.

The Girl Scout program is girl-driven, reflecting the ever-changing needs and interests of today's girls. In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship and the power of girls together. As a Girl Scout volunteer you will help girls develop their full potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; develop values to guide their actions and provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others.

How This Packet is Organized

The Girl Scout Brownie Jumpstart Guide is designed to introduce you to the world of Girl Scout Brownies and is your personal resource to use as you work with your troop/group. There is an appendix to this packet with support materials. Although, the packet is full of good information, it is not your only resource. To help ensure a successful experience with girls, the following resources are available to you:

- ◆ *The Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting*
- ◆ National Leadership Journey books (girls and adult guide)
- ◆ Volunteer Essentials, *Safety Activity Checkpoints*,
- ◆ www.girlscouts-gsci.org



Foundations in Girl Scouting

Girl Scouting is based on the Girl Scout Mission and the Girl Scout Promise and Law. These components form the foundation for the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

The Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

All Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world say a Girl Scout Promise and a Girl Scout Law. These are the Girl Scouts code of ethics.

The Girl Scout Promise

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.

The Girl Scout Promise is the way Girl Scouts agree to act toward each other and others.

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
 honest and fair,
 friendly and helpful,
 considerate and caring,
 courageous and strong,
 responsible for what I say and do,
and to
 respect myself and others,
 respect authority,
 use resources wisely,
 make the world a better place, and
 be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Since the beginning, Girl Scouts has followed a set of values called the Girl Scout Law. Every Brownie takes pride in doing her best to live by the Girl Scout Law – after all, that is what people count on Girl Scouts to do! The Brownies will meet new friends, go on outdoor adventures, and run their own cookie business – all while having fun and making the world a better place – in the Brownie Journeys and the Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting.

The Mission, Promise, and Laws describe how each girl benefits and will grow as a result of her involvement in Girl Scouting. These goals are important for you, the Girl Scout Brownie Leader, to know. If the activities done with girls do not support these goals, then the activity is not a Girl Scout activity. You may be thinking, “How can I make sure everything done supports the Girl Scout goals?” The answer is simple . . . take time to learn the Mission, Promise, and Laws!

Girl Scout History

The story of Girl Scouting really begins with the life of one amazing woman: Juliette Gordon Low. In a time when women were expected to stay close to home and fill traditional roles, Juliette – or Daisy, as she was known to her friends and family – was willing to challenge convention, take risks, and make grand things happen.

Daisy appreciated the traditional role of women at home with their families, but she was eager to use her many talents to explore other, less conventional pursuits. She was an accomplished artist who also wanted to learn to make complicated knots and forge iron. She even learned to drive a car, which was quite unusual for women in that era. Daisy believed that women could do anything – and she found the Girl Scouts of the USA to give girls opportunities to do just that.

Daisy Low was a remarkable and talented woman, but she was not immune to problems. Although Daisy was mostly deaf, she never let it prevent her from pursuing her interests. She and her husband, William Low, moved to England after their marriage. The Low's did not have any children and William died in 1905.

While still living in England, Juliette discovered that her friend Robert Baden-Powell had started a fascinating movement called Scouting. The original organization was for boys and Baden-Powell had encouraged his sister Agnes, to start Girl Guides. As Daisy began to head up troops of Girl Guides, she found a place to channel her passions. And she had an idea that changed the world – to found the Girl Scouts of the USA.



On January 6, 1912 she sailed back to the United States. Sir Robert Baden-Powell was on the same ship. He was on his way to visit Boy Scouts around the world. Daisy was thinking about bringing Girl Guides to the United States. The more she thought about it, the more she liked the idea. She discussed her plans with Sir Robert and he was enthusiastic. At age 51, the one thing uppermost in her mind was to start Girl Guiding in America. And she wanted to start it in her home city of Savannah. She was deaf and frail, yet when Daisy wanted to do something, nobody could stop her.

As soon as Daisy arrived in Savannah, she phoned her friend and distant cousin, Nina Anderson Pape, who was the headmistress of a girls' school. "Come right over," Daisy said. "I've got something for the girls of America and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight!"

On March 12, 1912, 18 girls twelve or older became the first officially registered Girl Guides in the United States. Two Girl Guide patrols were formed. The patrols were called the "Pink Carnation" and the "White Rose." Each girl had with her a notebook, a pencil, and a yard of cord to practice knot tying. After the first year the name was changed to Girl Scouts of the USA.

Juliette Gordon Low died from breast cancer in Savannah on January 17, 1927. According to her wishes, she was buried in her Girl Scout uniform with decorations of honor – the Silver Fish of the English Girl Guides and the jeweled Thanks Badge of the Girl Scouts of the USA. Folded in the breast pocket, where Brownie had placed it, was a telegram from the National Board saying "You are not only the first Girl Scout but the best Girl Scout of them all."

Girl Scout Traditions

Girl Scout Sign

Girl Scouts make the Girl Scout sign when they say the Girl Scout Promise. The sign is formed by holding down the thumb and little finger on the right hand, leaving the three middle fingers extended (these three fingers represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise).



Girl Scout Quiet Sign

The Quiet Sign is a way to silence a crowd without shouting at anyone. The sign is made by holding up the right hand with all five fingers extended. It also refers to the original Fifth Law of Girl Scouting: A Girl Scout is courteous.



Girl Scout Handshake



The Girl Scout handshake is the way many Girl Guides and Girl Scouts greet one another. They shake their left hands while making the Girl Scout sign with their right hand. The left-handed handshake represents friendship, because the left hand is closer to the heart than the right.

Friendship Circle and Friendship Squeeze

The Friendship Circle is often formed at the end of meetings or campfires as a closing ceremony. Everyone gathers in a circle; each girl crosses her right arm over her left and then holds hands with the person on each side of her. Once everyone is silent, one girl starts the friendship squeeze by squeezing the hand of the person to her left. One by one, each girl passes on the squeeze until it travels clockwise around the full circle.



Girl Scout Slogan

Do a good turn daily.

Girl Scout Motto

Be prepared

Girl Scout Special Days

February 22 – World Thinking Day

February 22 was the birthdays of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of Boy Scouts and his wife Lady Olave Baden-Powell, who was World Chief Guide. Lord Baden-Powell inspired Juliette Gordon Low to begin Girl Scouts in the United States. Every year on this day, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world do activities and projects to celebrate international friendship and honor their sisters in other countries.

March 12 – The Girl Scout Birthday

On this date in 1912, the first 18 girls gathered to hold their first meeting as Girl Scouts in the United States.

April 22 - Girl Scout Volunteer Day

This is a day when adult volunteers are shown appreciation for all of their hard work.

October 31 – Founder’s Day

Juliette Gordon Low was born on October 31, so we honor her birthday. Every year Girl Scouts celebrate with parties and special projects to help others.

10 Essential Elements for Creating the Girl Scout Experience

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS	
WELCOME FAMILIES TO GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA	Girl Scouting helps girls become leaders in their daily lives and in the world. Let girls know about all the fun they'll have—and tell families what Girl Scouts does and why it matters.
SHOW GIRLS THEY BELONG TO A BIG SISTERHOOD	Help girls make the connection between their troop and the millions of girls around the country and the world who share a mission to make the world a better place.
GUIDE GIRLS TO DEVELOP AS LEADERS	Use the national leadership curriculum to help girls experience the three keys to leadership—Discovering Self, Connecting with Others, and Taking Action—in the world.
EMPOWER GIRLS TO TAKE ACTION IN THEIR COMMUNITIES	Girls want to know they can make a difference in the world. Help girls identify a problem they want to solve, reach out to others who can help, and put together their Take Action project.
SUPPORT GIRLS TO BUILD SKILLS THROUGH PROFICIENCY BADGES	Girls feel proud and confident when they've learned a new skill through earning a badge. Show girls the badges available at their grade level and guide them as they earn the ones that interest them most.
EXPAND GIRLS' VIEW OF THE WORLD	Give girls the opportunity to go to new places, meet new friends, and talk to experts in various fields. This expands their horizons and helps them imagine all kinds of new possibilities for their futures.
CELEBRATE WITH CEREMONIES AND TRADITIONS	Hold award ceremonies to celebrate what girls have learned; enjoy beloved Girl Scout traditions, such as flag ceremonies, sing-alongs, and campfires; or come together at bridging ceremonies to mark the moment when girls move to the next level in Girl Scouting.
USE A GIRL-FRIENDLY APPROACH	Girls have fun when they can shape their own experiences, do hands-on activities, and work together as teams. Help make this happen by using Girl Scouts' three processes: Girl Led, Learning by Doing, and Cooperative Learning.
ENCOURAGE GIRLS TO EARN AND LEARN THROUGH THE GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PROGRAM	Coach girls to develop five key skills—Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills, and Business Ethics—by taking part in the largest girl-led business in the world.
INSPIRE GIRLS TO CONTINUE GROWING THROUGH GIRL SCOUTS	Share with girls the exciting opportunities they'll have—to learn new things, meet new friends, and make the world a better place—by staying involved in Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout Leadership Experience with 7- and 8-year olds

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is what makes Girl Scouts unique compared to any other youth serving organization. There are three program processes. These program processes are the key to achieving the outcomes, Girl Scout Mission and the Girl Scout Promise and Law. The three program processes are:

- ◆ Girl-Led – By the Girls, For the Girls
- ◆ Learning by Doing – Experiential Learning
- ◆ Cooperative Learning

Girl-Led – By the Girls, For the Girls:

Girls need to know that they can do anything – that being female does not limit their ability to achieve their dreams. Girl Scout Brownies need to learn that they **can** lead and make decisions. The girls are the doers, the planners, and the implementers of their activities. Give girls choices and help them learn good communication and decision-making skills. One way to enable the girls to develop those skills is by using the Girl Scout Brownie Ring as your form of troop government. Girl/adult planning is the way to involve girls in making decisions. As a Girl Scout Brownie adult volunteer, your role in the planning process is important, and helps girls succeed. As the girls grow from Girl Scout Brownies through their Girl Scout experience, your role in planning and implementing will change. As the girls grow older, they will have more responsibility for the troop.

Learning By Doing – Experiential Learning:

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is designed to be experiential for girls. What does this mean? It means that the girls engage in an activity or experience, and then are given the opportunity to look back on it, and identify useful insights for the future. All you have to do is ask some questions or get them to reflect on what they have done.

Cooperative Learning:

Cooperative learning is setting up the troop/group meeting so that girls work in small groups or teams to accomplish an activity. Working together in all-girl environments also encourages girls to feel powerful and emotionally and physically safe, and it allows them to experience a sense of belonging. It is easy to implement cooperative learning with seven- and eight-year olds, and Girl Scouting has some built-methods:

- ◆ **Kapers** – Girls work in pairs, or small groups, to do the chores of the troop/group.
- ◆ **The Buddy System** – Girls pair up with a “buddy” for field trips and activities. They are to stick with their buddy, and take care of their buddy. It is a safety procedure, and a great cooperative learning method.
- ◆ **Sharing**– Teaching girls to problem-solve together and share (whether it deals with sharing a troop kaper, supplies, ideas, decision-making, or space) is cooperative learning. This will help girls get to know one another, work better together, and will minimize cliques. With Brownies you could:
 - Make the most of teamwork activities, and create other enjoyable activities throughout Girl Scouting that girls have to accomplish in teams
 - Encourage girls to take responsibility as a team for deciding how to accomplish a task
 - Demonstrate giving others equal opportunity to participate in group decisions

Section 2: Working with Girl Scout Brownies

Your Role as an Adult Volunteer

What does it mean to be a Girl Scout adult volunteer? That is something that you will discover, as you begin your experience helping girls build courage, confidence, and character through Girl Scouts. Working with girls can bring many joys, including developing a personal relationship with each girl in your troop, building new adult friendships through the sisterhood of Girl Scouts, receiving appreciation and thanks from parents and, most importantly, knowing that you are shaping the future by working with a girl today.

As an adult volunteer you will have various forms of support and resources. You will be assigned a Membership Specialist as your liaison to the council. Additionally, you will be a part of a Service Area. The Service Area, led by a Service Team, is a group of dedicated volunteers, like you, that can be used as a guide, sounding board, and opportunities for additional enrichment. Most Service Areas meet once a month to discuss council happenings and community events and activities that you and your troop/group may want to participate in. These seasoned volunteers, who have had many of the same experiences you are incurring, will be happy to assist you throughout your Girl Scout year.

Leadership

◆ Leadership is Building Relationships

Leadership comes through the relationship you will build with each girl. Leadership comes through communicating with parents and co-leaders. Leadership is understanding the needs and interests of the girls, and helping the girls design their own program opportunities based on those needs and interests.

◆ Leadership is Knowing

Leadership is knowing that you cannot, and should not; know everything that the girls might want to learn. Leadership is knowing that you can explore and learn many things along with girls. Leadership is knowing where to go to find resources. Leadership is knowing that it is okay not to know and to seek assistance.

◆ Leadership is Teaching

Leadership is teaching the girls that they can do and be anything – that they are decision makers. Leadership is teaching girls not only for the sake of knowing things, but for the sake of the development and growth of the girls. Leadership is teaching through being a good role model.

◆ Leadership is Coaching

Your role is not to perform for the girls, or to be a teacher. Leadership is guiding and instructing. Leadership is advising and discussing. Leadership is working so that each girl can carry out responsibilities within the troop. Leadership is building the girls up and giving more and more responsibilities to the girls as they grow and develop.

◆ Leadership is Belonging

Leadership is recognizing that you are a part of a troop/group and a team. Leadership is listening, providing suggestions, and contributing ideas. Leadership is sticking with the girls through good times and bad. Leadership is recognizing that you belong to a larger organization beyond the troop/group that will provide support and resources.

Characteristics of Girl Scout Brownies

Every Girl Scout is unique, with different needs, interests, and levels of development. Some girls may exhibit traits of slightly older girls, while others may still be developing certain characteristics of this grade level. When working with Girl Scout Brownies, it is important to keep in mind the difference in their emotional, social, physical, and intellectual characteristics.

	Second and Third Graders
Emotional Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Moods may change from minute to minute. <input type="checkbox"/> Needs a lot of praise and encouragement. <input type="checkbox"/> React negatively to too much direction. <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in the difference between good and bad.
Social Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy playing in groups. <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate independence from their families. <input type="checkbox"/> Want to have lots of friends and some have a best friend.
Physical Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Large muscle and finely tuned movements. <input type="checkbox"/> Can skip, throw a ball, roller skate and jump rope. <input type="checkbox"/> Can trace around hand, draw shapes, mold clay objects. <input type="checkbox"/> Reproduce letters and words.
Intellectual Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Vocabulary develops at a high rate. <input type="checkbox"/> Start reading. <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in fantasy and make-believe. <input type="checkbox"/> Vivid imaginations.

Behavior Management

One of the greatest challenges in working with a troop of girls is behavior management. How do you effectively manage the behavior of the girls in your troop? Prevention is the key. By putting the proper procedures in action, you will prevent behavior problems. The following is a list of things to consider when working with Girl Scout Brownies.

◆ Be Prepared and Get There Early

Prepare in advance for your meetings. Talk with co-volunteers and other helpers about the upcoming meeting's agenda. Be sure you understand who will do what. Plan for success, but always have a backup plan. If you are prepared and keep the meeting moving along, the girls will not have time to find other activities that may cause problems. Have everything ready before the first girl walks through the door. This will allow you to greet the girls as they arrive, talk to them and make them feel welcome. Also, having a backup plan will ease your anxiety, because you will know that you always have something for the girls to do.

◆ Provide Positive Praise and Reinforce Positive Behavior

Girls need and want positive comments. Focus on what they are doing right. Praise must be specific and sincere. Reinforce what you want repeated. Every child desires attention, even quiet and shy girls. The key is to find positive qualities and behaviors to praise, instead of forcing the children to misbehave in order to get your attention. The more personal, specific, and frequent the praise, the more it stays with the girl.

◆ Establish Ground Rules

To help the weekly meetings run smoothly, have the girls establish ground rules for behavior and expectations. **It is important that the girls establish the ground rules, not the leaders. You want girls to have ownership of the ground rules, and to hold one another accountable if the rules are broken.** Have them brainstorm what the rules should be, and any consequences to broken rules. For Girl Scout Brownies, you will need to have an idea of appropriate ground rules, and guide the girls in the discussion. Give them examples of behavior and ground rules. You will need to be very concrete with them. Have the girls make a portable and fun-looking poster that lists the rules. You can bring this to every meeting to remind the girls what they agreed to.

◆ Establish an Order for Your Meetings

By establishing an order, you are creating a routine for the girls. After several weeks, the girls will understand the expectations and know what comes next. You are establishing a framework and will see cooperation and initiative from the girls. The meeting becomes theirs, and they will take responsibility.

◆ Be a Patient Role Model

You want girls to be kind, respectful, eager, excited, and able to celebrate successes and learn from failures. You are the role model for all of these traits. Also remember that growth takes time; and your patience will be rewarded. Enjoy your time spent with the girls for what it is: a chance to mentor.

◆ Provide a Snack

Snack time allows the girls to share and relax and gives them responsibility. Use a kaper chart to show responsibility for snack time. Snack time should be simple and planned appropriately based on when your troop meets. For example, if it is close to dinnertime, you may serve juice instead of cookies and juice.

Managing Your Own Reactions

When it comes to managing the behavior of the troop/group, sometimes our own reactions can help or hinder our efforts. Here are a few things to remember when it comes to managing your own reactions.



1. Do not feel that you must react instantly to a situation if you are not sure what to do, or if you realize you are angry and may overreact. Take a minute or two to collect your thoughts, and tell the girl, "I will get back to you in a minute. I am going to take a time-out from this situation."
2. It is okay to walk away briefly if you are really angry. Make sure another adult is nearby. Find another adult, and ask her to supervise your group while you cool down.
3. Remember that while it is easier to dole out punishment, it is much more beneficial to bestow thoughtful consequences of undesirable behavior. The use of good consequences is much more effective, and creates a positive, cooperative atmosphere for the girl and the troop.
4. Start fresh every meeting; avoid having consequences carry over to the next meeting. Be aware of, and resist building up resentment toward a "challenging" child.

Communication About Behavioral Issues

Occasionally, you may need to intervene when behavior becomes destructive, hurtful, or it hinders the progress of the rest of the group. Whether this behavior is an isolated incident or an ongoing problem, respond quickly and appropriately, so that the group's routine is maintained.

1. **Problem-Solving with the Girl**
 - A. If you believe that there may be an underlying issue, find a private time to let the girl know that you are available to listen, if she wants to talk. You might use phrases like, "I have noticed that you ____." "How are you doing?" "Is something bothering you?" **NEVER PROMISE CONFIDENTIALITY.** You may be required to report the problem.
 - B. If the girl discloses an issue that falls into an area in which her parents or the authorities must be notified, let her know that you have to tell her parents and/or the authorities, to make sure that she will be okay. You may ask her how she would like to be involved in notifying her parents, if appropriate for her situation, age, etc.
2. **Problem-Solving with Co-Advisor(s), Other Volunteers or Council Staff**
 - A. Consult this group for assistance and ideas on developing a positive environment, and managing normal adjustment problems.
 - B. Maintain confidentiality about the identity of the girl(s) to the greatest degree possible. The focus of the discussion should be on creative ways of redirecting specific behaviors, and not the individual girl(s).
3. **Parental Notification and Problem Solving**
 - A. Consult with parents for assistance, ideas, and additional information that may help you to manage normal adjustment problems. Use phrases like, "I am concerned that (girl's name) seems to have difficulty with _____. I want to make sure that she can fully participate in all troop activities. Do you have any suggestions for me?"
 - B. If the situation is more serious, contact the parents right away. Let them know that you are concerned about their daughter, and would like to discuss the situation with them as soon as possible.

4. Problem Solving and Notification of Girl Scout Council Staff

- A. If you have reason to believe that the child’s life is in danger, or the child is endangering the lives of others, contact your Membership Specialist immediately. They are Mandated Reporters and know the proper procedures for reporting
- B. Do not try to investigate or sort out the facts. Even if you are uncertain, report the situation to your Membership Specialist. Once reported the state agency will determine the appropriate course of action. Advisors have neither the responsibility nor the expertise necessary for investigating such a situation.

Do not discuss the situation with anyone – not even your co-advisor. Again, this protects your confidentiality as well as that of the child and her parents or guardians.

But She’s My Daughter!

Surprisingly, it may be the volunteer’s own daughter that displays disruptive behavior during troop activities! It is important to remember how difficult it can be for girls to share their mom with so many other girls, all vying for the adults’ attention. And adults, trying not to show favoritism toward their daughters, may inadvertently go to the other extreme and never choose their daughters for special jobs, etc.

Below are some tips for avoiding this type of problem:

- Have the girls assist in picking camp names or nicknames for the troop volunteers that all the girls, including your own daughter, can call you during troop activities. This removes “Mom” from the picture!
- Prepare your daughter prior to the meeting by explain that your attention will be on all of the girls, and perhaps plan a special time for her after the meeting.
- Employ the “in” and “out” bag to pick girls for special tasks, treats, etc. Put the names of all troop members in the “in” bag at the beginning of the year and have the girls take turns pulling out a name whenever the need arises. The names are then put in the “out” bag.
- Make a deal with your co-volunteer! “Trade” daughters during troop activities.
- Never use your daughter to practice crafts or other troop activities prior to the troop meeting. Let her be surprised too!
- Take advantage of service area and/or council *Adult/Daughter Events* where you can spend special time with your daughter during a Girl Scout event.

Section 3: Girl Scout Brownie Program

Girl/Adult Planning and Partnership

As a Girl Scout Brownie adult volunteer, you will have a unique relationship with the girls in your troop. Girls in kindergarten and first grade are eager to take on responsibility. They often become attached to a friendly and caring adult. You will become a role model for your Girl Scout Brownies. Because of the age of the Girl Scout Brownie, the girl/adult partnership is unique, and planning is very important for your success. You should prepare a general plan for your troop year and involve the girls in the decision-making.

Girl/Adult partnerships are unique, because the girls take the lead in deciding what activities they will do, making the plans for the activities and evaluating the activities. You may be asking yourself, "How does a Girl Scout Brownie make plans and evaluate activities?" Planning with Girl Scout Brownies can be a four step process.

Step 1: <i>Set a Goal.</i>	Considering the girls' interests and working with your other adult volunteers, set a goal for the troop. Ask the girls what they hope to accomplish. "What would you like to do this year?"
Step 2: <i>Brainstorm Ideas.</i>	Once you have set your goals for the year, brainstorm ways to meet your goals. This brainstorm list may include activities, field trips, and other program opportunities. Come up with a list that will allow the girls to choose from the options by voting.
Step 3: <i>Focus on the GSLE</i>	GSLE stands for the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. For every program activity you have planned, you need to ask if it relates to the Council Goals, the mission and the program, and consider the program processes as you work with girls.
Step 4: <i>Gather Information.</i>	Now that you have a list of ideas/activities for the year, you must gather information to ensure success in implementing the activities. Ask yourself: Are there safety requirements, admission fees, transportation, health concerns, etc., for the activities planned?
Step 5: Focus on the Activity/ Program.	For each activity, there will be some planning. In this step, you will need to establish timelines and budgets. Ask yourself: Who? What? Where? Why? How?
Step 6: DO IT!	In this step, you implement the activity!
Step 7: Evaluate.	Evaluate the entire planning process, not just the final activity. Ask yourself and the girls: Did it work? Would you do it again? How could you improve it? How could you be more efficient in the planning? Was everyone involved? What did you learn?
Step 8: Pass It On.	Tell others about the activity. Share your success at service unit meetings. Call the local press. Celebrate and share the good news!

Troop Government

Everyone Helps in the Troop

Your Brownie troop is your troop. Your leaders help you all the time, but it takes every one of you to make it a good troop. Every Brownie helps make the rules, not just one person. Every Brownie has a turn doing the jobs that must be done at each meeting. And, most important, all of you together decide what you are going to do at your troop meetings.

The Girl Scout Brownie Ring

At a troop meeting, Brownies make decisions and plan what they will do in a special way. It is called the Brownie Ring. All the girls sit in a circle. This makes it easy to see each other. If your troop chooses to, you might recite this poem when your Brownie ring is formed:

**Round and round a round about,
Take the hand of a Brownie Scout,
Here we are in Brownie Ring,
Ready for almost anything!**

There are many things to talk about in the Brownie Ring. You will all have lots of ideas. But, of course, not everyone can talk at once! When you have something to say, you make the talking sign. This is done by making the Girl Scout sign with your right hand and placing your hand down in the Brownie Ring with your fingertips touching the floor. Then you wait until your troop leader or the girl who is leading the Brownie Ring calls your name. That will mean it is your turn to talk. In this way, each Brownie gets the chance to say what she thinks. You tell what you like to do. You listen to the other Brownies tell what they like to do. There will be times when even good friends will not agree on the same plan for a troop. It is at these times that Brownies vote on what will be best for the group. Often Brownies vote by just raising their hands. But sometimes you might want to have a secret vote. One way to do this is for each girl to cover her eyes with one hand or arm and raise the other hand. Then your troop leader or the girl who is leading the Brownie Ring counts the votes.

Girl Adult Ratios

Girl Scouts adult-to-girl ratios show the *minimum* number of adults needed to supervise a specific number of girls. (GSCI may also establish *maximums* due to size or cost restrictions.) These supervision ratios were devised to ensure the safety and health of girls—for example, if one adult has to respond to an emergency, a second adult is always on hand for the rest of the girls. It may take you a minute to get used to the layout of this chart, but once you start to use it, you will find the chart extremely helpful.

	Group Meetings		Events, Travel, and Camping	
	<i>Two</i> unrelated adults not living in the same household (at least one of whom is female) for this number of girls:	Plus <i>one</i> additional adult for each additional number of this many girls:	<i>Two</i> unrelated adults not living in the same household (at least one of whom is female) for this number of girls:	Plus <i>one</i> additional adult for each additional number of this many girls:
Girl Scout Brownies (K–grade 1)	12	6	6	4
Girl Scout Brownies (grades 2–3)	20	8	12	6
Girl Scout Juniors (grades 4–5)	25	10	16	8
Girl Scout Cadettes (grades 6–8)	25	12	20	10
Girl Scout Seniors (grades 9–10)	30	15	24	12
Girl Scout Ambassadors (grades 11–12)	30	15	24	12

Here are some examples: If you’re meeting with 23 Girl Scout Brownies, you will need three unrelated adults (in other words, not your sister, spouse, parent, or child), at least one of whom is female. (If this does not make sense to you, follow the chart: you need two adults for 20 Brownies and one more adult for up to eight more girls.)

In addition to the adult-to-girl ratios, please remember that adult volunteers must be at least 18 years old or at the age of majority defined by the state, if it is older than 18. For more information regarding girl/adult ratios please check *Volunteer Essentials and Safety Activity Checkpoints*.

Components of a Girl Scout Brownie Meeting

There is no one right way to hold a Girl Scout Brownie meeting. The method you use depends on what works best for both the girls and the volunteers. As you get to know the girls, you will learn how to guide them in the activities that meet their interests and abilities. Girl Scout Brownie meetings are usually 60 – 90 minutes long and include:

◆ Pre-Meeting or Start-Up Activity (5 – 10 minutes)

As the girls arrive at the meeting place, have a quiet activity set up for them (puzzles, drawing, word games, or just let them visit with each other. Remember, it is good for them to giggle and have fun. You want them to become good friends. **Hint:** if you make this part fun, the girls will tend to be on time.

◆ Snack Time (10 minutes/optional)

After school troops may want to have a snack right away to give the girls a break from the school day. Evening troops may want to have the snack toward the end of the meeting. You may want to include a snack time during your meetings depending on the time your troop meets. It is a good idea to have an official troop snack container. A five-pound coffee can that the girls have decorated is a good start! You can write the number of finger-foods needed for snack on the lid with a permanent marker. The snack container also serves as a reminder to the troop member and her parent/guardian that she is in charge of the snack for the next meeting.

◆ Opening (5 – 10 minutes)

This officially calls the meeting to order. Many troops use the Girl Scout Brownie Ring to signal the beginning of the meeting. If needed, use the quiet sign to call the meeting to order and recite the Girl Scout Promise and the Pledge of Allegiance. This is also a good time to teach a new game or song. Girls can also share their interests, feelings, and daily experiences while in the Girl Scout Brownie Ring. Be sure this is voluntary. Each girl should be assured of an opportunity to speak.

◆ Business Meeting (5 – 10 minutes)

With the assistance of an adult, ask one of the girls to take attendance. Welcome new girls, brainstorm ideas, make plans, and vote on decisions. Collect any forms such as permission slips or other items that the girls may be returning. Discuss the activity planned for the meeting; why you are doing it, what you want the girls to learn from it, and how it will be done.

◆ Activity/Exploration (15 – 20 minutes)

Try to plan activities that can be completed in one meeting, such as an activity from one of the Girl Scout Brownie Journey books or a petal activity from their Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. If a project cannot be completed in one meeting, divide it into two or three short steps that can be completed at individual meetings. This will give girls a sense of completion and accomplishment after each meeting.

◆ Clean-up (5 – 10 minutes)

Make sure to give girls advance notice for clean-up time so that they have time to complete their projects. Think of ways to make clean-up time fun. For instance, you might play some familiar music and try to clean-up before the music ends.

◆ Closing (3 – 5 minutes)

Call the girls to the Friendship Circle for any reminders and last minute discussion. Other closing activities could be saying goodbye in other languages or singing a goodbye song. Invite any parents that may have arrived early to join in. Following the closing, the girls are dismissed.

Kaper Charts

A *Kaper Chart* is a girl-planning tool that can help teach responsibility and leadership skills. Troops/groups often use a kaper chart to divide up different duties and tasks of a troop meeting. The troop, with guidance from adult volunteers, can decide what specific jobs are needed for each meeting. These jobs can then be divided between the girls. To start, have the troop discuss the following:

- ◆ What needs to be done?
- ◆ How will the different jobs be rotated?
- ◆ What kind of kaper chart do we want?

Kaper Chart Ideas

There is no one way to make a kaper chart. Anything that clearly shows who is responsible for a specific task will work. A basic kaper chart may look similar to this example. There are great examples online too.

Give the girls in your troop the opportunity to help design their own kaper chart, or make a basic chart for them and allow them to decorate it.

- ◆ Draw a garden scene on a poster board including a symbol that represents your Brownie troop (an animal, star, moon, sun, for example) for each kaper. Write a kaper on each symbol. Add a small Velcro date in the middle of each symbol center. Have the girls write their names on cardboard ladybugs and put Velcro on the back of each. Put “ladybugs” on the Brownie symbol to denote who is responsible for that kaper.
- ◆ List kapers on a piece of poster board that is shaped like a wheel, with the kapers written in the “spokes.” Cut out a cardboard arrow and attach a center of the wheel with a brad (make sure it is not too tight so it can spin easily!). Have each girl take a turn spinning to find her kaper.
- ◆ Cut a piece of poster board into the shape of a trefoil (the Girl Scout symbol). Write kapers around the edge. Have each girl write her name on a spring clothespin. Let each girl decorate her clothespin with washable markers. Move clothespins around the board to assign kapers.

Kaper Chart Examples

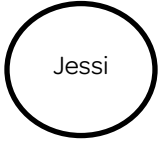
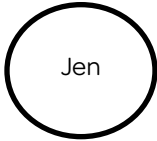
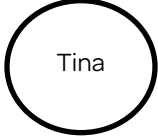
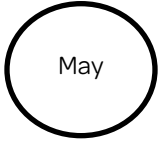
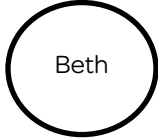
Sample 1

Meeting Date	Opening Activity	Closing Activity	Clean-up
Sept 15	Megan Bianca Taylor	Maria Beth Tiara	Lashonda Shelly Amie
Sept 29	Lashonda Shelly Amie	Megan Bianca Taylor	Maria Beth Tiara
Oct 6	Maria Beth Tiara	Lashonda Shelly Amie	Megan Bianca Taylor

Sample 2










Troop 1234 Kaper Chart				
Kaper	Meeting			
	9/25	10/9	10/23	11/6
Opening	Rita Jami Molly	La'Trice Jodi Katie	Lisa Ashley Randi	Susan Amanda Mary
Refreshments	Susan Amanda Mary	Rita Jami Molly	La'Trice Jodi Katie	Lisa Ashley Randi
Clean-up	Lisa Ashley Randi	Susan Amanda Mary	Rita Jami Molly	La'Trice Jodi Katie
Closing	La'Trice Jodi Katie	Lisa Ashley Randi	Susan Amanda Mary	Rita Jami Molly

Sample 3

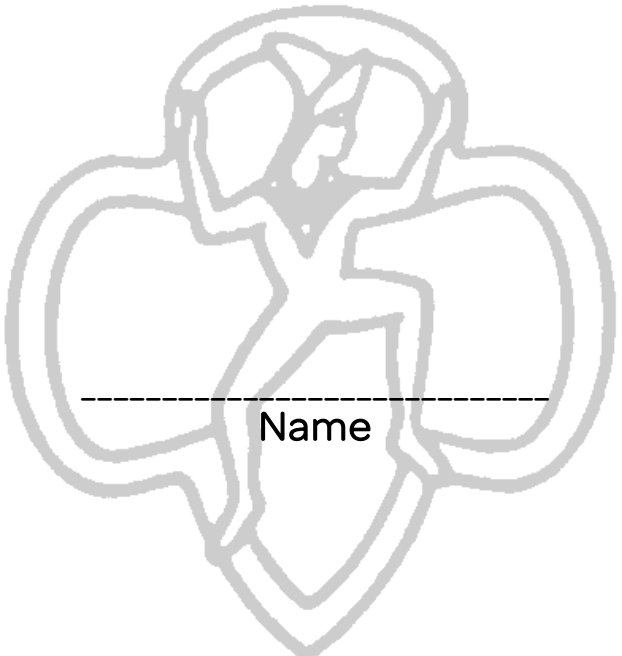
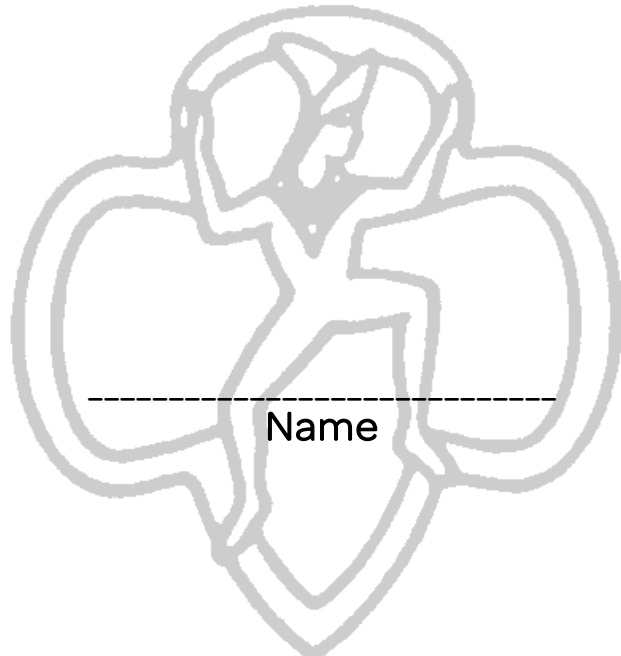
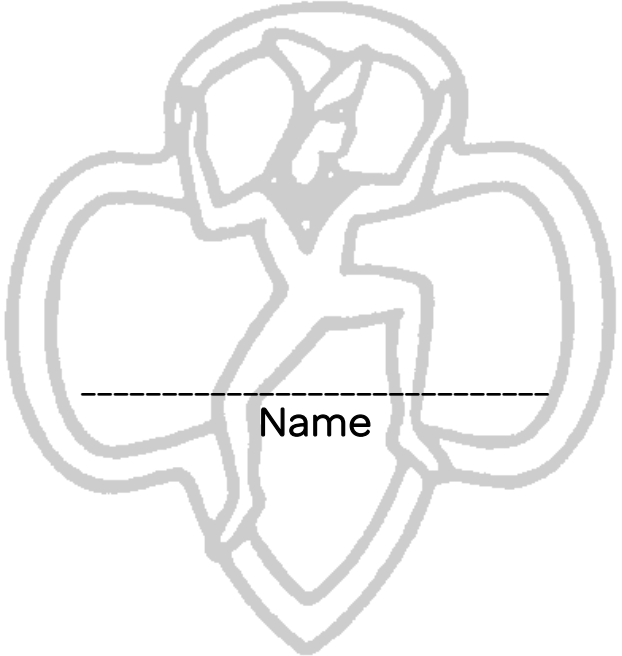
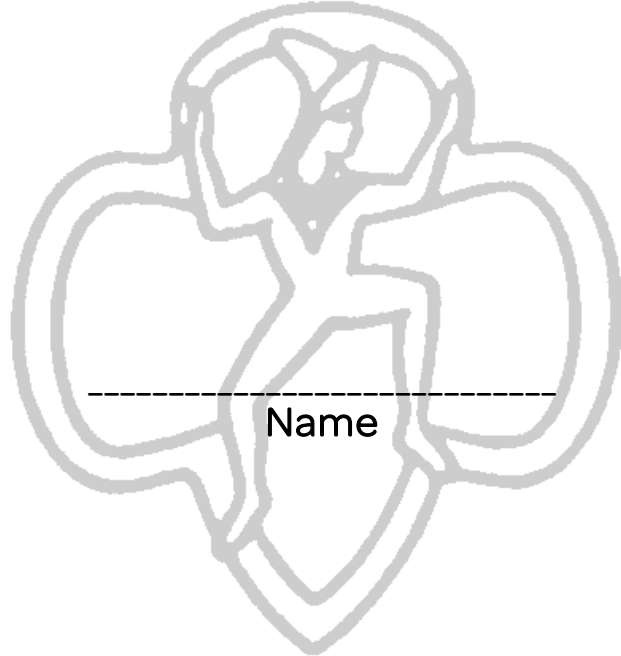
	Kaper Chart	
	Snack	
	Supplies	
	Clean-up	
	Ceremonies	
	Special Helper	

Sample 4

BROWNIE TROOP 1234 KAPER CHART

<p>Meeting Starter</p> 	<p>Pledge Leader</p> 	<p>Clean-Up Helpers</p> 
<p>Craft Helpers</p> 	<p>Snack Helper</p> 	<p>Promise Leader</p> 
<p>Color Bearer and Color Guards</p> 	<p>Quiet Sign Leader</p> 	<p>Squeeze Starter</p> 

Kaper Chart Brownie Name Tile Template

 <p>A large outline of a Brownie emblem (a girl with a bow) is centered in the top-left quadrant. A horizontal dashed line is drawn across the middle of the emblem, with the word "Name" printed in a simple font below the line.</p>	 <p>A large outline of a Brownie emblem (a girl with a bow) is centered in the top-right quadrant. A horizontal dashed line is drawn across the middle of the emblem, with the word "Name" printed in a simple font below the line.</p>
 <p>A large outline of a Brownie emblem (a girl with a bow) is centered in the bottom-left quadrant. A horizontal dashed line is drawn across the middle of the emblem, with the word "Name" printed in a simple font below the line.</p>	 <p>A large outline of a Brownie emblem (a girl with a bow) is centered in the bottom-right quadrant. A horizontal dashed line is drawn across the middle of the emblem, with the word "Name" printed in a simple font below the line.</p>

Girl Scout Brownie Resources

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting



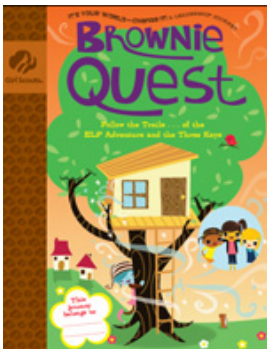
Girls at every grade level have a *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, which correlate with the leadership journeys. Through fun activities, girls can earn a variety of badges to build the skills and gain the confidence they will use to change the world. They can even develop and complete activities to make their own badge—a great way to explore a topic of personal interest. (In addition, girls who make their own badge will learn *how to learn*, an important skill to have in school, on the job, and in life!)

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting is designed to complement the Journeys at each grade level. This means that each Skill-Building Badge Set (there are currently three; each is sold separately from *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*) is tied to one of the three Journeys (as you can see in the following chart). You will find that doing a Journey and the related badge set at the same time will make it easy to offer the entire National Program Portfolio—Journeys and badges—in a seamless way.

Inside *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* binder, you will discover three tabs: Handbook, Badges, and My Girl Scouts. The Handbook section consists of the Girl Scout Promise and Law, the Girl Scout Brownie Experience, Girl Scout history and traditions, the Brownie Story, Girl Scout Brownie uniform and special awards, and the requirements to Bridge to Girl Scout Juniors. Under the Badges section you will discover the Award Log, which lists all of the badges/awards that can be earned by a Girl Scout Brownie. Also included are all of the requirement booklets for the Brownie Badges. My Girl Scouts section is a scrapbook and includes activities and resources that can be used when working on the badges, an area for a journal and a place where the girls can write a letter to themselves to be read in the future.

Leadership Journeys

What is a Journey? A key part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience is the Leadership Journey, a coordinated series of activities grouped around a theme. Along the Journey, girls will use the three leadership keys, **Discover**, **Connect**, and **Take Action** to make the world a better place. The activities included in the Journey guides may be done by troops/groups, by individually registered girls, or as part of larger program events. Each grade-level Journey series includes an adult guide and a corresponding girl book. The adult guide includes sample meeting sessions, activity ideas, and tips for successfully providing a strong leadership experience for girls.



"It's Your World – Change It!" is the theme of the first Journey Leadership series and *Brownie Quest* is the title of the Girl Scout Brownie resource book. Girl Scout Brownies are invited on a search. The three keys that they will uncover along their journey are the keys to the Girl Scout leadership philosophy. The *Brownie Quest* takes second and third grade girls on two separate and exciting trails! One trail girls can explore with the Girl Scout Troop, while the other they can enjoy on their own. Along the way the girls meet three friends, and an Elf, who will guide them through the important keys of leadership.

- ◆ **The Discover Key** – To earn this award each Girl Scout Brownie will discover herself and her values – as a Girl Scout and a member of her family.
- ◆ **The Connect Key** – To earn this award each Girl Scout Brownie will connect as a member of a Brownie team, with her family on a healthy-living activity, and, as a group with their community to increase healthy-living opportunities.
- ◆ **The Take Action Key** – To earn this award, Girl Scout Brownies will team up to identify a community place where the team can Take Action. Then they join together to make a plan to Take Action and carry out their Take Action Project to improve the world.
- ◆ **The Brownie Quest Award** – At the end of the Quest, girls also end the journey’s culminating award, the master lock that needs all three of their keys in order to open. Through this award, the Brownies will see that, together, their three keys – Discover, Connect, and Take Action – unlock the meaning of leadership.

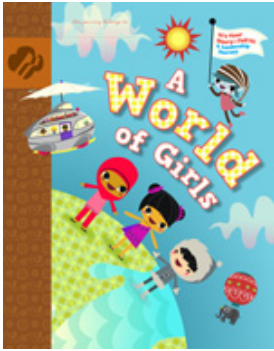


It’s Your Planet – Love It! is the theme of the second Girl Scout Leadership Journey series and *Wow! Wonders of Water* is the Girl Scout Brownie journey. The Brownie friends and the Brownie Elf enjoy some wonder-filled adventures as they invite the real-life Brownies to explore the Wonders of Water. Along the way, Brownies experience what it is like to live in places where there is not enough water. They come to understand why the right to clean water is so important to everyone on Earth.

During the Journey, the Brownies earn their LOVE Water, SAVE Water, and SHARE Water awards. As they celebrate their leadership accomplishments, they add the WOW! award to their vests, too!

- ◆ **LOVE Water** - This first award encourages girls to become aware of the many ways they use and enjoy water. As they begin to understand the science of water and its importance in the world, they will also make a personal commitment to protect it.
- ◆ **SAVE Water** - The second award is earned when the Brownies team up and speak up as advocates to protect water or keep it clean in their community. Girls start thinking as a team about what they will do for water. By making an effort that moves beyond themselves, the girls begin to realize the impact that group efforts can produce.
- ◆ **SHARE Water** - Girls earn the third award as they create an even bigger ripple by sharing their efforts for water with others, educating and inspiring them to join in, and asking them to commit to a water promise.
- ◆ **WOW!** - Girls culminate their journey by earning the WOW! Award, a grand finale that symbolizes the powerful change they've brought to their community. They earn the award by showing proof of their SHARE Water efforts, and by describing how their efforts relate to the Girl Scout Law and how they have had an impact as leaders.





"It's Your Story – Tell It!" is the third Girl Scout Leadership Journey and focuses on self-esteem. Stories are all around us – in movies, in books, in television shows, advertisements, on the news and even on cereal boxes. Stories inspire. Stories motivate. Stories spark imagination and help girls learn about themselves and the world.

A World of Girls helps engage Brownies in this wider world of stories in a way that gets them looking for clues to help make the world a better place. With some help from Brownie Elf along the way, girls see how they can create positive change in the world—change that affects girls.

- ◆ **Hear a Story Award** - Brownies see that stories hold clues for how to better the world
- ◆ **Change a Story Award** - Brownies realize they have the power to change things for the better for girls in the world
- ◆ **Tell a Story Award** - Brownies have the confidence and knowledge to educate and inspire others
- ◆ **Better World for Girls! Award** - Brownies understand they belong to a large and far-reaching world of girls



Girl Scout Brownie Vest



Girl Scout Brownie Sash



Since the early days, Girl Scouts has been a uniformed organization. Today, that tradition continues, with the uniform representing Girl Scouting's trusted relationship between outward appearance and inward strengths and ideals.

Girls usually wear their Girl Scout uniform for the first time at the Investiture Ceremony. Girl Scouts may choose to wear uniforms at meetings or Girl Scout events to:

- Make them easily identifiable to each other and to the public
- Foster a feeling of unity among members
- Reinforce the sense of belonging to the Girl Scout Movement

Wearing a uniform is not a requirement to being a Girl Scout, but uniform pieces provide girls a place to display their Girl Scout pins and the insignia that they have earned.

Girl Scout Brownie Insignia and Earned Awards

Girl Scout Brownie Membership Pin

This pin is only worn by Girl Scout Brownies and is presented during the Girl Scout Investiture Ceremony. It is worn on the Girl Scout Brownie Insignia tab (on the bottom of the tab) on the left side of the uniform. This pin tells others that you are a Girl Scout Brownie. It is shaped like a trefoil. Each badge stands for one part of the Girl Scout Promise. In the middle of the pin is a Brownie elf. You can wear your pin even when you are not wearing your uniform, just to show you are a Brownie.



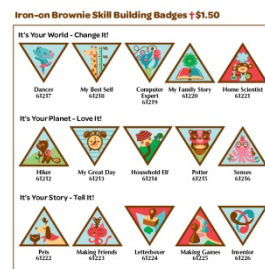
World Trefoil Pin

This pin signifies that all Girl Scouts are members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). It is presented after the girls have learned about the international aspects of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding. Thinking Day is an ideal time for this ceremony. The pin is worn on the Insignia Tab above the Brownie Membership Pin.



Girl Scout Brownie Badges

Girl Scout Brownies can pick badges that sound fun, interesting, or give them the chance to build a skill that will be useful on their Journey. Each badge book explains the purpose and steps of each badge, along with choices for how the girls would like to complete the badge and tips on what to do before they start.



Financial Literacy Badges

These badges are earned when Girl Scout Brownies participate in Council Sponsored Fall Product Sales program and learn how to use money.



Cookie Business Badges

Girl Scout Brownies can earn these badges when they participate in the Cookie Program and use the skills that they learned earning their Financial Literacy Badges



Safety Award

The Safety Award is earned when Girl Scout Brownies learn how to stay safe during their Brownie adventures.



My Promise, My Faith

Girl Scout Brownies earn this pin (one for each year) by examining the Girl Scout Law and how it applies to their faith.



Leadership Journey Awards

Each Girl Scout Journey program has three awards that correspond with the theme of the Leadership Journey. They are the awards that Girl Scout Brownies can earn by completing the various activities throughout the Journey book.



The Brownie Journey Summit Award

Upon completion of all three Girl Scout Brownie Leadership Journeys, the girls will earn this very special award.



Membership Stars

Every Girl Scout receives a gold membership star at the end of each troop year to signify the completion of one year of Girl Scouting. Additionally, the girls receive a colored disc that fits behind the star. Each grade level has a specific color disc. The Girl Scout Brownie disc is green.



Bridging to Girl Scout Brownie Award

Awarded to third grade Girl Scout Brownies who have completed the bridging steps listed in the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. The award is presented to the girls during the Bridging to Girl Scout Brownies ceremony held at the end of the year.

NOTE: This is an optional award. Third grade Girl Scout Brownies do not need to earn the "Bridge to Girl Scout Brownies Award" to be considered Girl Scout Junior once they move to the 4th grade.



Participation Patches

Girl Scouts often receive patches for participating in an activity, event, or special program (also called fun patches). These events are usually one day programs that the council or service area sponsors. Participation patches are placed on the back of the vest or sash.



All Girl Scout Brownie insignia and awards may be purchased at Girl Scouts of Central Illinois Service Centers or at <http://shop.girlscouts-gsci.org/store/>

Section 4: Troop Information

Troop Finances

Girl Scout Brownies are ready to handle money. The troop finances and record keeping are the responsibility of the adults working with the troop. The following are a few things to remember regarding troop finances:

- ◆ Girl Scout Brownies may participate in council-sponsored product sales when selling with an adult. The troop profits earned during these activities, along with dues collected from Parents/Guardians, are used to support the cost of the Girl Scout Brownie program.
- ◆ Meet with parents and/ adults supporting your troop to establish a strategy for troop funds. For example, parents could pay a modest monthly activity fee based on an estimated annual troop budget. Consider the financial situation of all girls in your troop. Being a Girl Scout Brownie should not be expensive.

How do I open a bank account for my Girl Scout Brownie Troop?

Opening a bank account is one of the first steps in getting your Girl Scout troop up and running. Girl Scouts of Central Illinois strongly encourages you to use their recommended financial institutions or their subsidiaries. We have developed a close relationship with these institutions and know that that they have low or no costs for non-for-profit accounts, allow debit cards, and have a short turnaround for processing paperwork.

Establishing a Troop Bank Account

You will receive guidelines and instructions for establishing a troop bank account at your New Leader Orientation.

All money raised or earned and other assets received in the name of and for the benefit of Girl Scouting must be authorized by Girl Scouts of Central Illinois and used for the purposes of Girl Scouting. Such monies and other assets become the property of and are administered by GSCI. Such assets are not the property of an individual girl or adult, service area, troop/group or communities within the council. Any person who misuses council assets will be removed from their Girl Scout position(s) and is subject to prosecution.

Possible Expenses

GSUSA Membership Fee	\$15.00**
Girl Scout Brownie Membership Pin	\$ 1.50
Brownie Badges	\$ 1.50
World Trefoil Pin	\$ 2.25
Flag patch	\$ 1.75
Membership star with disc	\$ 1.10
Troop numerals	\$ 5.00
Brownie Vest	\$ 17.25
Tab	\$ 2.50
Total	\$47.85

Additional Expenses

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting	\$22.50
Journey Leadership Book (each)	\$ 7.00
Journey Awards (each)	\$ 5.00
Brownie Badges (each)	\$ 1.50
Safety Award	\$ 3.00
My Promise Pin (each)	\$ 3.00
Cookie Pin (each)	\$ 1.15
Brownie Sash	\$ 6.00

****GSUSA Membership Fee will increase to \$15.00 for the 2014 membership year.**

Involving Parents in the Girl Scout Brownie Experience

Here are some simple guidelines to involve parents in the Girl Scout Brownie experience:

- ◆ **Have a parent meeting.** Before you have your first meeting with the girls, invite the parents to a meeting. This allows them to meet you and your co-volunteers, meet the other girls and begin a relationship with other parents. Have the parents meet in one room and the girls in another. If that is not possible, meet without the girls or plan the meeting to address both the girls and adults.
- ◆ **Establish a method of communication.** Will the girls receive flyers to take home that talk about Girl Scout activities? Will the parents receive phone calls or emails? Will the troop have a newsletter? Be sure to establish a method of communication with parents. Girls in kindergarten and first grade cannot be relied on to share important information with their parents. As a volunteer, you need to be communicating on a regular basis with the girls' parents/guardians. You can use various methods of communications to do this: phone calls, troop newsletters, email, or develop a troop website.
- ◆ **Greet the parents.** As girls are being dropped off for the meeting, be sure an adult volunteer or co-volunteer is assigned to greet the parents and communicate with them about the meeting and any upcoming activity. This also allows the parents to speak with you or your co-volunteer about their daughter. Be sure to relay any important information as parents pick up their daughters.
- ◆ **Keep in touch with parents.** It may not be realistic to contact all of your parents on a weekly or even monthly basis, however, make a point to connect with them at least twice a year. Tell them how their daughter is progressing. If you are proud of a girl's accomplishment, tell her parents. Communicate successes and concerns often. A simple conversation can go a long way.
- ◆ **Have parents sign up to help.** A great time to solicit assistance is at your first parent meeting. Parents and extended family of the girls are your best resource. Be sure to ask if you need an extra set of hands at meetings, drivers for field trips, or help with a project. Be sure you ask for specifics. If you are vague or nondescript about what needs to happen, they will not volunteer.
- ◆ **Recognize parents.** Send a note to thank parents for their help, mention their assistance in your troop's newsletter, and share with them how you have seen their daughter change and grow.

Guidelines for Girl Scout Brownie Parent Meetings

Having a parent meeting is important to the success of your Girl Scout Brownie troop. Parent meetings allow you to meet your greatest resource. Parents need to be communicated with on a regular basis, asked directly to help with troop meetings and activities and feel that they are involved with their daughters. Below is a sample agenda to help you plan a parent meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

- ◆ Personally welcome all parents and guardians.
- ◆ Be sure everyone has a name tag.
- ◆ Have an activity where parents/guardians can introduce themselves and learn something about each other.
- ◆ Introduce your co-volunteers, and any other adults helping with the troop.

Provide Information About Girl Scouts

- ◆ Share the Girl Scout Mission.
- ◆ Share the Promise, Law, and Leadership Experience outcomes.
- ◆ Describe, in your own words, the benefits of being a Girl Scout.
- ◆ Explain the importance of girl/adult partnerships, helping girls to learn to make decisions, and what that will look like for Girl Scout Brownies.

Troop Volunteer's Job

- ◆ Describe the trainings you have taken, or will be taking.
- ◆ Briefly explain your responsibilities as a troop volunteer.
- ◆ Explain the support you will receive from the Service Area and Girl Scout Council.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- ◆ Explain specifically how adults/parents can help to support the troop.
- ◆ Share your expectations of adults/parents, and how they can help you be a volunteer, especially the financial support needed.
- ◆ Explain the benefits of having parents involved with their daughters in Girl Scouts.
- ◆ Invite adults/parents to register with the troop. Be sure to have them complete the volunteer application process, which can be found on the website.

Section 5: Meetings for Girl Scout Brownies

Creating a Quality Experience

Girl Scouting's promise to girls is stated in the mission: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girls engage in activities that help them **Discover** themselves and their values, **Connect** with others, and **Take Action** to make the world a better place.

A quality Girl Scout Leadership Experience includes going on a Leadership Journey, earning badges taking field trips, selling Cookies and Fall Products, and enjoying Girl Scout traditions.

The sample meetings that GSCI has included in this workbook demonstrate how to customize your troop meetings using the Leadership Journeys, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, and Girl Scouts of Central Illinois' programs and events. Together with the girls and families in your troop, you will take part in activities and challenges where girls play an active part in planning and doing, learn by doing, and work together toward shared goals.

Meeting Plans Outline

As stated earlier in the workbook the troop leaders plan the meetings where girls play an active part in figuring out the what, where, when, how and why of their activities. Age appropriate, girl-led experiences are built into the sample meeting plans to make it easy for you.

Each meeting runs roughly 60 minutes. You do not have to squeeze or stretch activities to fit a particular time. Meetings can be customized and adjusted to match the needs and desires of your troop/group.

Troop Meeting Structure

Pre-Meeting Activity: Greetings, signing-in and fun activities to do until all the girls arrive. A sample sign-in/sign-out sheet is included in the Appendix.

Opening: Ceremony designed by the girls to start the meeting. For example, greeting each other with the Girl Scout handshake, reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law, a simple flag ceremony and singing songs.

Business: Meeting in the Girl Scout Brownie Ring for troop business and planning. Jobs can be assigned using the kaper chart, collecting dues, making announcements, planning an event or trip and discussing what they will do.

Activity/Exploration: Activities to help girls gain a deeper understanding of themselves, develop healthy relationships, connect with others and have lots of fun.

Clean-up: Working together to leave the site better than you found it.

Closing: Reflecting on the meeting and a closing ceremony. In the Friendship Circle, share how to practice what they learned, sing a song, friendship squeeze and sign out.

Snack Time (optional): A healthy food and beverage. Invite the troop's friends and family network to sign up to bring a snack. Be sure to accommodate any food allergies and dietary restrictions.

Meeting 1: Girl Scout Introductions

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** The girls will discover their special qualities and the qualities of their sister Brownies. They will also find the values within the Girl Scout Law.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:**
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Large box with handles for troop supplies
 - Box with lid for Snack Box
 - 2 small coffee cans
 - Safety pins (optional)
 - Sample "IT" stick
 - Wide craft sticks
 - Blank paper (8 ½ "x5 ½ ")
 - Nametags – use cardstock and yarn. The pattern can be found on one of the following pages.
 - Autograph Trefoil for each girl
 - Markers, crayons, glue, yarn
 - Stapler and staples, scissors
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Feathers, sequins, beads, etc. for decorating the "IT" craft sticks
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Make enough copies of the Autograph Trefoil pattern on heavy paper or cardstock so each girl and adult will have one.
 - Make enough copies of the Brownie Name Tag pattern so each girl will have one. Cut the yarn
 - Decorate a wide craft stick and print your name on both sides to use as an example of an "IT" stick.
 - Gather other supplies or equipment needed.
 - Make a copy of the sign-in/sign-out sheet

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Brownie Name Tags – set out the name tag patterns, scissors, crayons, and markers. Each girl should color and decorate a nametag pattern, cut it out and print her name on both sides of it. Girls should cut out the finished name tag, punch a hole in the top and tie a piece of yarn (4") through the hole, and pin the name tag on with a safety pin (use longer yarn for a necklace).
- ◆ "IT" Sticks: Each girl should write her name on and decorate a wide craft stick for the "IT" and "Other" cans. Be sure to provide sequins, beads, feathers, etc. to decorate the sticks.
- ◆ Make sure you visit and talk with girls during the start-up activity so you will both feel more comfortable with each other. Encourage the girls to get to know each other. Most of the time you will only allow 5-7 minutes for the start-up activity; however, during the first meeting, if girls are communicating well, you may want to allow a little extra time.

Opening

- ◆ Girl Scout Brownie Ring – The leader makes the QUIET SIGN by holding up her right hand, palm open. (If the girls don't recognize the quiet sign, the leader will have to ask the girls to come to order). Have the girls hold hands to form a Brownie Ring. Explain that the Brownie Ring signals the beginning of the meeting. Explain Girl Scout Quiet Sign and how it is used in meeting and other gather sings to let people know it is time to stop talking. The sign is made

by raising your right hand high. As people in the group see the quiet sign, they stop talking and also raise their hands. Once everyone is silent, the meeting continues.

- ◆ Show the girls the proper way to make the Girl Scout Sign. It is made by raising three fingers of the right hand. This sign stands for the three (3) parts of the Girl Scout Promise: to server God and my country; to help people at all times; and to live by the Girl Scout Law. The leader should lead girls in the Girl Scout Promise by saying a line and letting girls repeat after her. In the weeks to come, girls can take turns leading the Girl Scout Promise.
- ◆ Everyone should sit down in the Brownie Ring. Explain that the Brownie Ring signals the beginning of the meeting.
- ◆ Gather in a circle and explain that they are now in a Girl Scout Brownie Ring. Explain that you will form a Brownie Ring to start your meetings so you can welcome new girls and visitors, greet each other with the Girl Scout handshake, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law and sing songs.
- ◆ Introduce yourself to the girls and tell a little about yourself. Let each girl introduce herself. Ask each girl to tell you what grade she's in and one of her favorite things to do. If girls are too shy to share information, prod them with gentle questions but do not force them. Some girls take longer to feel comfortable than others. After each girl introduces herself, direct the group to respond by saying, "Welcome to Girl Scout Brownies (Name)."
- ◆ After the introductions are completed, tell girls that you are going to play a game to help you remember everyone's name. Explain the "Camping Trip" and play several rounds.

CAMPING TRIP GAME

To play, each person will say "I'm going on a camping trip! My name is ___ and I'm taking ___." The item they are taking must begin with the letter of the girl's name. Each following girl repeats all the names and items of the girls before here and then adds her own name and item. It is great fun to see how many you can remember!

Example: "I'm going on a camping trip! My name is Ms. **S**mith and I'm taking **s**weet potatoes." The next girl says, "I'm going on a camping trip! Her name is Ms. **S**mith and she's taking **s**weet potatoes. My name is **M**aria and I'm taking **m**elons." Next girl, I'm going on a camping trip! Her name is Ms. **S**mith and she's taking **s**weet potatoes. Her name is **M**aria and she's taking **m**elons. My name is **S**ara and I'm taking a **s**andwich." And, so on around the circle.

Business

- ◆ While still in the Brownie Ring, take attendance and collect dues. Tell girls that this will be done at each troop meeting and ask if it's something they think they can do. If so, tell them that next week they will begin to keep the troop attendance and dues records. Of course, younger Brownies will need assistance.
- ◆ Explain that after the opening at each meeting, you will have your business and planning time to share ideas, make decisions, and talk as a group.
- ◆ Introduce the Quiet Sign (GGGS page 13) and practice several times.
- ◆ Explain the rules for the meeting site and ask if there are other rules your group should have (i.e., taking turns, being respectful, etc.). Write down the rules the girls agree to follow.
- ◆ Introduce the Kaper Chart
- ◆ Explain that they soon will have a special ceremony called an Investiture Ceremony. At this ceremony, they will receive their Girl Scout Brownie Pin and say the Girl Scout Promise in front of their families. Girls will receive invitations to take home later in the meeting.
- ◆ Show and explain each of the following items to the girls:

- SNACK BOX: Show girls the snack box and explain that each week someone will take it home and bring the snack for the next meeting. Show the girls the note included in the box and tell them how their family will know how many snacks to provide.
- TROOP BOX: Show the girls the Troop Box and explain the troop supplies such as crayons, glue, pencils, construction paper, troop handbooks, and Safety Activity Checkpoints, etc. will be kept in this box. If any girls brought donations for the box, collect them at this time.
- IT and OTHER CANS; Show girls the “IT” and “OTHER” cans. Explain to the girls how they work: Each girl decorates and writes her name on a wide craft stick and puts it in the “IT” can. When you need to select someone to do something, you’ll draw a name from the “IT” can and then, after the deed is finished, put the name in the “OTHER” can. This will continue when special help is needed until all the names in the “IT” can have been used. Then all the sticks will be transferred back to the “IT” can and you’ll start all over again. Show girls the “IT” stick you made earlier and tell them that each of them will need to decorate an “IT” stick and write their name on it today.
- ◆ Explain that the three fingers used for the Girl Scout sign stand for the three (3) parts of the Girl Scout Promise: To serve God and my country; to Help people at all times; and to live by the Girl Scout Law.
- ◆ Demonstrate the **Girl Scout Handshake**. Girl Scouts greet each other shaking hands with their left hand while making the Girl Scout Sign with their right hand.

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ The girls are going to practice the Girl Scout Handshake with each other.
- ◆ Give each girl a copy of the Autograph Trefoil. Have them write in the Troop # (make sure they all get the Troop # correct!), their name and then cut them out. Let girls color and decorate the trefoil.
- ◆ Each girl should take the trefoil, introduce herself to another girl in the troop, share a Girl Scout handshake, and have their new troop friend sign her trefoil.
- ◆ She should continue to introduce herself and shake hands with everyone in the troop, including the leader, until everyone has signed her trefoil.
- ◆ If girls need time to finish decorating their “IT” stick allow them to do so now. Let girls visit with each other until it is time for clean-up.

Clean-up

- ◆ ALL girls participate in the clean-up time! Remind the girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it.

Closing

- ◆ FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE – Use the Girl Scout Sign again to get the girls’ attention. Ask girls to gather around and form a circle.
- ◆ Draw from the “IT” can to see who will bring the snack for the next meeting. Ask the girl who is drawn to take the Snack Box home with her. Remind girls to show tier parent the note inside the snack box.
- ◆ Tell the girls that they will be learning the **Friendship Squeeze** to end the meeting. (The Friendship Squeeze can be used at any time, but it is a great way to signal the end of a meeting.) While standing in the circle, each person crosses her right arm over her left and clasps hands with her friends on both sides. Instruct girls that you will start the squeeze by making a silent wish and then squeezing the hand of the person to your right. That person will then make a silent wish and squeeze the next hand and so on until the squeeze returns

to the starting point. The leader then says "Troop #---- dismissed" and everyone goes under their right arm to turn the circle out. **"See you next week, girls!"**

- ◆ Explain that they will join hands for a special Girl Scout closing called the Friendship Circle and friendship squeeze. Stand in a circle, cross right over left in front, hold hands with girls on both sides..
- ◆ Sing, "Goodbye, Brownies."
- ◆ When everyone is silent, one girl starts the friendship squeeze by squeezing the hand of the person to her left. One by one, moving clockwise, each girl passes on the squeeze until it travels all the way around the circle. (Tip: To ensure the squeeze makes it around the circle, have each girl point her toe into the circle when she receives the squeeze.)
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.
- ◆ Hand out invitations to the Investiture Ceremony (to parents/guardians) as girls leave.

Options

- ◆ Snack time (optional): If the Snack Box was not assigned to someone at the Parent Meeting, the leader may want to use troop funds to purchase the snack or have her daughter provide it for the first time.
- ◆ Play more games
- ◆ Decorate the Investiture Ceremony invitations.

Games, Songs, and Meeting Helps

Brownie Says

This game is like "Simon Says" but the caller is "Brownie" instead of "Simon." Also, in this version no one gets out by making a mistake but continues to play and have fun but learns from their mistakes by trying to follow the rules. This game can teach playing fair and respecting authority.

1. The caller is "Brownie"
2. When the caller says, "Brownie says to touch your toes" everyone touches their toes and stays in position until the next command.
3. If the caller says, "Jump up and down three times," but does not say "Brownie says" then girls should not move. Those that do are caught and stay in the game.
4. Give the caller a few chances to stump the others and then switch callers.

Number Volley

Ages: 6-11

How many can play: four or more

Objective: To keep the ball in the air as long as possible

Materials: Beach ball or foam balls (one for every four players)

How to play:

1. Divide players into even teams. Each team forms a circle and players count off according to how many are on each team. For example, if four players are on a team, count one to four.
2. Player one begins by throwing the ball straight up into the air and calling out "two." Player two then hits the ball and calls out "three."
3. Players continue in number order without letting the ball touch the ground.

4. If the ball touches the ground or is hit out of order, the team receives one point and begins again.
5. The team with the fewest points is the winner.

Variation: If there is only one team, players can see how many rounds they can go without scoring.

On My Honor

(CHORUS) Sung every 2 verses

On my honor I will try,
There's a duty to be done and I say "aye."
There's a reason here for a reason above
My honor is to try and my duty is to love.

People don't need to know my name
If I've done any harm then I'm to blame
If I've helped another then I've helped me
I've opened up my eyes so I can see.

I've tucked away a song or two,
When you're feeling low there's one for you
If you need a friend, then I am come
And there's many more where I come from.

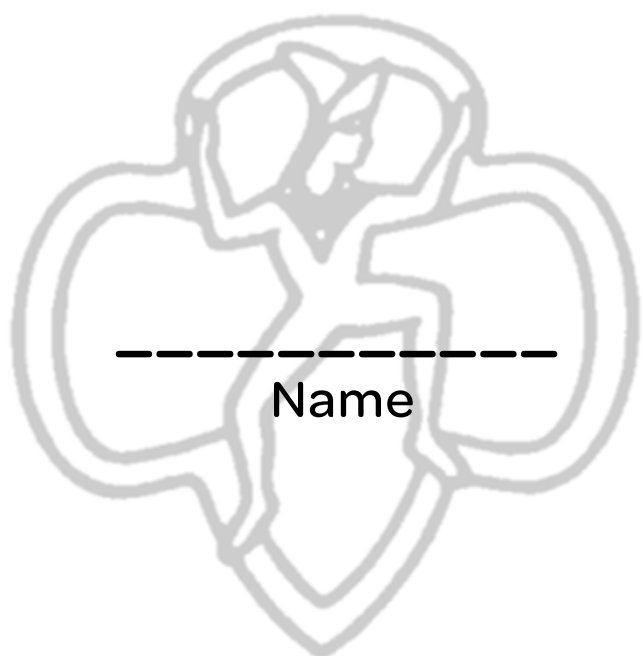
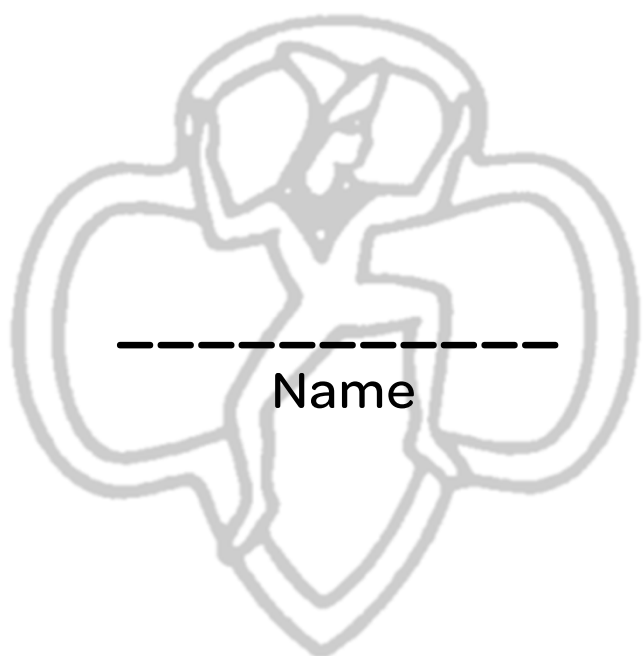
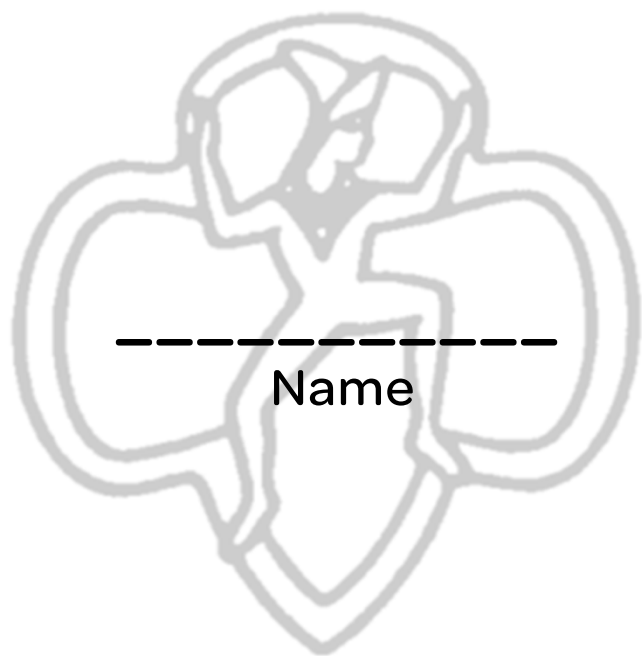
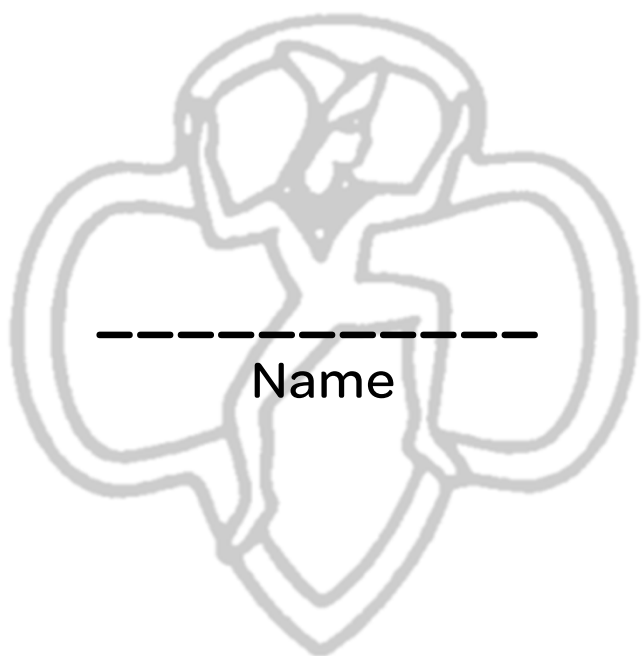
(CHORUS)

Come with me where the fire burns bright
We can see even better by candle's light
We can find more meaning in a campfire's glow
Than we ever learned in a year or so.

We've made a promise to always keep
And we pray night falls before we sleep,
We'll be Girl Scouts together and when we're gone,
We'll still be trying and singing this song.

(CHORUS)

BROWNIE NAME TAG TEMPLATE



AUTOGRAPH TREFOIL



Meeting 2: The Girl Scout Promise and Law

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls review the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:**
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - 2-3 poster boards
 - Construction paper
 - GGGS
 - 2-3 newsprint pages
 - Ruler or yard stick
 - Kaper chart tag for each girl
 - Scissors, crayons, markers, pencils, glue
 - Girl Scout Promise and Law handouts for each girl
 - Velcro buttons
 - Kaper Chart
 - Troop Code of Conduct poster
 - Extra Investiture Ceremony invitations
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Review the GGGS
 - Select a game to play
 - Make a copy of the sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Make a Kaper Chart.
 - Make a poster to be used for the Troop Code of Conduct activity. Leave 2" – 3" border around the poster for girls to decorate.
 - Make enough copies of the Kaper Chart Tags on heavy paper or cardstock so each girl will have one.
 - Make copies of the Girl Scout Promise and Law handouts for the girls.
 - Gather other supplies or equipment needed.

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags
- ◆ Play a game
- ◆ Have each girl decorate, cut out, and write her name on a Kaper Chart

Opening

- ◆ Brownie Ring – Begin each week with the Girl Scout Promise. At first the Leader will need to lead the girls in the Girl Scout Promise but soon the girls will be able to do it.

Business

- ◆ Draw from the "IT" can to determine a girl to take attendance and collect dues. Discuss any old or future business such as collecting permission slips, special fees, etc.
- ◆ Tell girls that the tags they decorated will be used for the Troop Kaper Chart. Show the Kaper Chart you have made to the girls. Explain that the Kaper Chart will help girls know what their duty for the day is. Explain that running, preparing, and cleaning-up for the troop meeting is everyone's responsibility and this chart will help remind girls what needs to be done. Talk about the duties you have written on top and ask if they help with any of those chores at home. Ask girls if they can think of anything you may have forgotten. If so, add it to the chart. Tell them that each week they will look for their name tag and will know what troop responsibility they should help with. Gently tape the tags in place for today placing the girl who brought the snack in the "Snack

Person” box and the girl who took attendance in the “Troop Helper” box. Mix the rest of the tags up and randomly place them on the chart. Tell each girl what her responsibilities for today are. Explain the responsibilities thoroughly this time so you won’t have to repeat this talk at additional meetings. Place the Kaper Chart where girls can see it throughout the meeting. At the end of each meeting, the tags will be rotated so every girl takes a turn doing every job.

- ◆ (After the meeting, we suggest you take the Kaper Chart and the tags to be laminated for longer wear. After they have been laminated, use Velcro buttons to attach the tags to the board.)

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ In today's activity, girls will talk about what the 3 parts of the Girl Scout Promise and what the 10 parts of the Girl Scout Law mean to them, and create troop guidelines.
- ◆ Give each girl a Girl Scout Promise and Law handout. Read each part of the Girl Scout Promise and let girls talk about what they think each means. Remember, no answers are “wrong” answers. Everyone has different ideas, beliefs, customs, and ways of expressing themselves.
- ◆ Read and talk about each part of the Girl Scout Law. Let girls tell about times that they may have followed the Girl Scout Law (example: I found a dollar on the playground and turned it in to my teacher). Talk about other ways they can live by the Girl Scout Law.
- ◆ Play Girl Scout Hop Scotch
- ◆ Talk about the Girl Scout Motto: “Be prepared,” and discuss what it means. (Girl Scouts try to be ready for any situation and to be able to help those in need.) One way Girl Scout Brownies learn to “be prepared” is by earning the Journey Awards. Each award allows the girls to learn more about themselves (Discover), form or expand on relationships (Connect), and help make the world a better place (Take Action).

Creating troop guidelines:

Now is a good time to set up some basic troop guidelines with the girls. Remember to keep the guidelines simple for younger girls. Talk with the girls about how they would like to be treated by others, how they should treat the property and meeting place, the adults, etc. Use a large piece of newsprint to make a list of the guidelines that the girls suggest. Show the girls how these guidelines relate to the Girl Scout Law.

Then let the girls decide what the consequences will be for those who forget the rules. (Caution: girls are extremely hard on each other when it comes to consequences; make sure to keep them realistic.) Let girls decorate the outside border of the Troop Code of Conduct chart and the Kaper Chart if needed.

One idea is to include writing “Brownie Girl Scout Troop #000 we all lend a helping hand!” on the Kaper Chart and letting girls trace their hand onto a piece of construction paper, cut it out, decorate and write her name on it and glue it to the border of the chart. Another idea is for each girl to write one of the Girl Scout Laws on a strip of paper, sign her name and glue it to the edge of the Troop Rules poster. If time allows, transfer the troop guidelines and

consequences girls developed to the center of the poster board. (You may not have time to do this at the meeting. It can be done later. We suggest laminating both posters for longer wear.)

Post the Troop Code of Conduct poster and Kaper Chart at every troop meeting.

Clean-up

- ◆ Remind the girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it. ALL girls should participate!

Closing

- ◆ Form a Brownie Ring and ask girls to think of three ways they can be helpful at school or home during the next week. Then pick one thing to do and come prepared to share it at the next meeting.
- ◆ Explain that they will receive prepare for their Investiture Ceremony at the next meeting.
- ◆ Rotate the tags on the Kaper Chart to determine who will take the snack box home. Announce any final reminders or comments.
- ◆ Form a Friendship Circle, sing "Make New Friends," and do a friendship squeeze.
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

Options

- ◆ Snack time (optional)
- ◆ Take a nature walk or play an outdoor game.
- ◆ Earn the Safety Award

Games, Songs, and Meeting Helps

G FOR GENEROSITY (PEP SONG)

Hooray for Girl Scouts
Hooray for Girl Scouts
Someone's in the stands yelling
Hooray for Girl Scouts
1, 2, 3, 4 who you gonna yell for?
Girl Scouts! That's Us!

She wears a G for Generosity
She wears an I for Interest, too
She wears an R for Real Life Sportsmanship
And an L for Loyalty, for Loyalty
She wears an S for her Sincerity
She wears a C for Courtesy
She wears an O, U, T for Outdoor Life, Outdoor Life
And that Girl Scout is ME!

Girl Scout Hopscotch

Ages: 5-8

How many can play: two or more

Objective: To be the first to complete the hopscotch

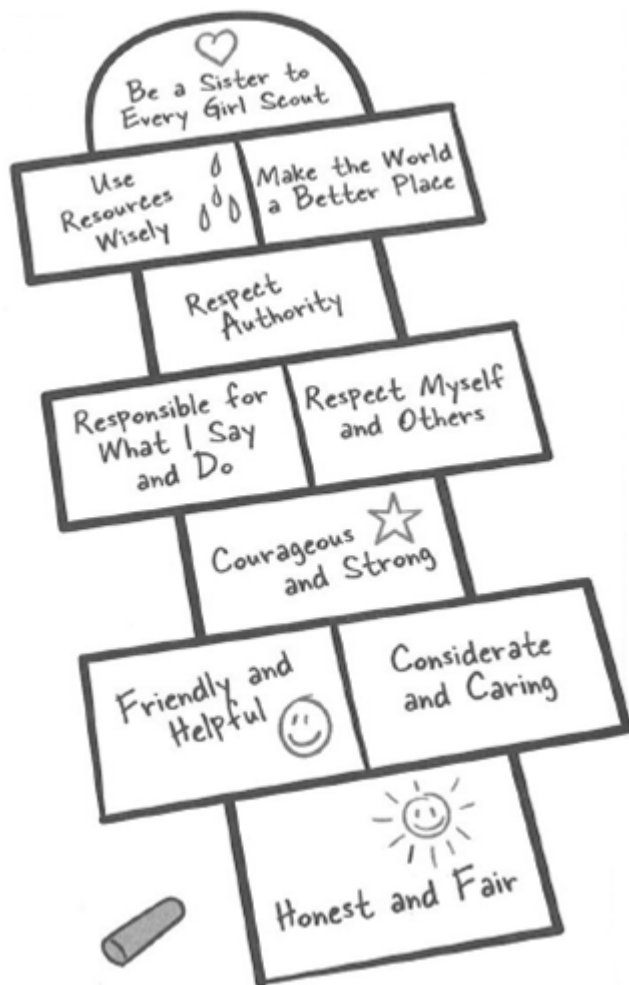
Materials: Chalk, Markers for each player (stones, coins, buttons)

Before you play:

1. Draw a rectangle (approximately 3 ft. x 8 ft.). Divide the rectangle into 9 spaces. Draw a half circle at the top. With more than three or four players, divide the group into even teams and create one hopscotch field per team.
2. Write the words of the Girl Scout Law within each square.
3. Designate a starting line, with distance determined by the players' ages and abilities.

How to play:

1. From behind the starting line, the first player aims her marker for the first square, "Honest and Fair."
2. If the marker lands in the "Honest and Fair" square, she hops over that square, and all the way through the hopscotch field. If she makes it through the field (turning around at the top), on the return trip she picks up her marker from the first square. On her next turn, she aims for the next square, "Friendly and Helpful."
3. If a player misses her toss, steps on a line, or lands with two feet, her turn ends. On her next turn, she begins with the square where she left off. (She does not need to start from the beginning.) The winner is the first player to go through the hopscotch field successfully.



Variation: Allow younger or physically challenged players to hop with two feet. Use a buddy system-one girl tosses and another girl hops.

GIGGLING GERTIE

Equipment: A handkerchief

A circle is formed. One player is selected to be in the center. She laughs and tosses a handkerchief into the air. The group starts laughing. All players continue to laugh as long as the handkerchief is in the air. The instant it touches the floor, all faces must become expressionless. Anyone caught smiling is out. Play until only four or five girls are left.

Meeting 3: Be Prepared

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls know how to be prepared at home and away from home, and prepare for the Investiture Ceremony.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:**
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
 - Copies of the Dressing for the Weather activity for each girl
 - Pen or pencil for each girl
 - Scissors, crayons, markers
 - (To make Sit-Upons, ask girls to bring: plastic table cloth, or shower curtain; newspapers or other stuffing; yarn needle; yarn or string)
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Select a game to play
 - Select a craft
 - Pre-plan for the Investiture Ceremony

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags
- ◆ Play an active game
- ◆ Ask girls what they did to be helpful at school or home since your last meeting.

Opening

- ◆ Brownie Ring – Begin each week with the Girl Scout Promise.
- ◆ Gather and greet each other with the Girl Scout handshake
- ◆ Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- ◆ Explain that the girls' families are invited to the Investiture Ceremony and that it is good manners to introduce your friends to your family. Demonstrate how to introduce someone and have girls practice making introductions. "Lisa, this is my mother, Mrs. Olsen. Mom, this is my friend, Lisa."

Business

- ◆ In the Girl Scout Brownie Ring, designated girl(s) from the Kaper Chart should take attendance and collect dues. Go over everyone's kapers for today, review rules, if necessary.
- ◆ While in the Brownie Ring, review the Girl Scout Motto "Be Prepared." Ask the girls how they might be able to help the troop or their family be better prepared for the power going out, or bad weather, or a long trip. What other situations should girls be prepared for?
- ◆ Discuss what they would like to do at the Investiture Ceremony to show their families what they do in Girl Scouts (i.e., say the Girl Scout Promise, sing a song, do the "How Girl Scouts Got Started" Action Story, etc.) Practice.
- ◆ Talk about special kapers for the Investiture Ceremony (i.e., greeters, ushers, color guard, clean-up, etc.)

- While in the Brownie Ring, review the Girl Scout Motto “Be Prepared.” Ask the girls how they might be able to help the troop or their family be better prepared for the power going out, or bad weather, or a long trip. What other situations should the girls be prepared for?

Activity/Exploration

- What types of clothes are needed for each type of weather? Let the girls begin the “Dressing for the Weather” activity. As an option, the girls can color and cut out the clip art pictures of different clothes that might be needed for different types of weather.
- Being prepared at home is very important. Review with the girls the Emergency Who’s Who card and ask them to talk to a family member about who to call in case of emergency. If you have time, have the girls practice making pretend phone calls. One person can be the emergency operator and another person can pretend to make the phone call. Working with your Girl Scout Brownies with this information reinforces reading skills and ensures that girls know their address and family telephone numbers. Make sure you have this information on-hand for girls who may not be sure. Have the girls follow the emergency guide on the activity sheet.
- Practice Situations: 1) You were walking home from school and were locked out of the house; 2) You are home alone after-school and some older kids begin to throw sticks and rocks at the house; 3) Your sister fell when running on the sidewalk, her leg is bent and it really hurts. There is no adult at home; 4) The only adult at home has fallen down the stairs and cannot get to the phone.
- Something Girl Scouts have always made to help them be prepared is a Sit-upon (instructions included in the following pages). Girl Scouts make sit-upons to use when the ground is damp or too hot or cold, or they want to keep their clothes clean. Today we are going to make a sit-upon to use at troop meetings, or other Girl Scout get-togethers.



Clean-up

- ALL girls should participate! Remind girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it.

Closing

- Form a Girl Scout Brownie Ring and rotate tags on the Kaper Chart to determine who will take the snack box home. Announce any final reminders or comments and complete the friendship squeeze.
- Collect nametags and sign-out.

Options

- Snack Time (optional): Healthy Snack Party Mix – serves 2-3 people
 - ½ cup dried banana or apple chips
 - ½ cup raisins
 - ¾ cup granola
 - Mix the ingredients in a serving bowl. This recipe serves about 3 people.
 - ½ cup sunflower seeds
 - ½ cup popcorn

Games, Songs, and Meeting Helps

Grab Bag

Ages: 5-11

How many can play: 4 or more

Objective: To put on the least amount of clothing.

Materials: A laundry bag filled with old clothes in various sizes – hats, shoes, shirts, socks, jackets, gloves, scarves, etc.

How to play:

1. Players sit in a circle. One player is selected to be the “caller.”
2. Caller stands outside the circle with her back to the group.
3. Players in the circle pass the laundry bag. When the caller yells “stop,” whoever has the laundry bag pulls out an article of clothing, with her eyes closed, and puts it on.
4. The game continues until the laundry bag is empty. The player wearing the fewest articles of clothing from the laundry bag is the winner. The person wearing the most clothes is the next caller.

Make New Friends

Make new friends but keep the old;
One is silver and the other gold.

The circle is round and has no end;
That’s how long I want to be your friend.

(Optional Verses)

A fire burns bright, it warms the heart
We’ve been friends, from the very start.

You have one hand, I have the other
Put them together, we have each other.

Silver is precious, gold is too
I am precious, and so are you.

You help me, and I’ll help you
And together, we will see it through.

The sky is blue, the Earth is green
I can help, to keep it clean.

Across the land, across the sea
Friends forever, we will always be.

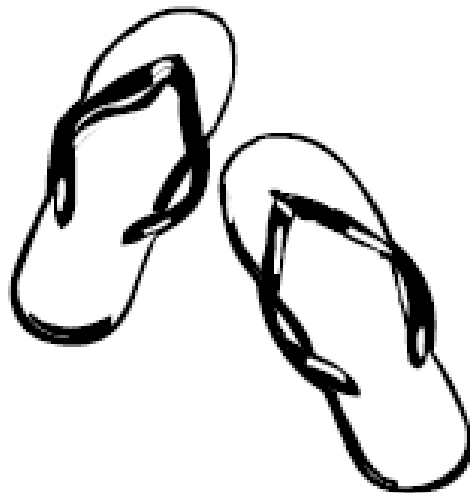
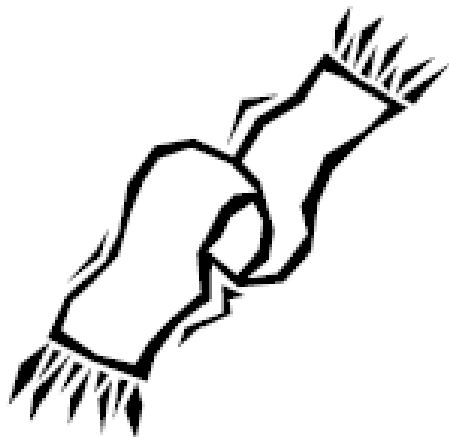
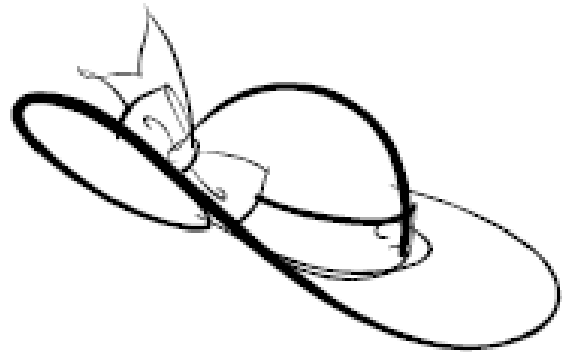
⊕ Dressing for the Weather ⊕

What do you do if it is raining outside? If it is windy? If it is very sunny? Draw pictures of the types of clothes you need for each type of weather.

How would you dress for the Weather?

<p>WINDY DAY</p>	<p>SUNNY DAY</p>
<p>SNOWY DAY</p>	<p>RAINY DAY</p>





🌀 Emergency Who's Who 🌀

Girl Scout Brownies are prepared! You can be ready for emergencies by making a list of important phone numbers with your family and practicing who to call in case of emergency.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ask a family member to help you make a list of numbers to keep by the telephone:

Family Numbers: _____

Neighbors: _____

Fire Department: _____

Police: _____

Ambulance: _____

Poison Control Center: _____

Doctor: _____

Dentist: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

What would you say or do if you had an emergency call?

Follow this emergency guide:

1. Use the emergency numbers list and dial the number you need.
2. Tell who you are. "Hello my name is _____."
3. Tell where you are. "I am at _____."
(street, address, name of park or store, etc.)
4. Tell what the emergency is. "This is an emergency. I need _____."
5. Try to stay calm and follow directions.

⊕ Sit-Up⊕

There are a lot of ways to make a sit-upon. Below are two quick and simple methods. You can find a number of other sit-upon instructions on the internet. Be creative and have fun!

Materials Needed:

- Old plastic tablecloth
- Large Needle
- Yarn or String
- Plastic Bags for stuffing

Instructions: (Option 1)

Any heavy-duty fabric can be used for this project, but the best fabric to use for this item is an old tablecloth - the kind that has plastic on one side and material on the other.

- Cut 2 squares out of your fabric. They should be the same size and approximately 2 feet X 2 feet wide.
- Cut a piece of yarn or string about 3 feet long and thread it onto the needle. Pull the yarn or string through the needle eye and then tie the ends together.
- With the wrong side of the fabric together, start at any of the 4 corners and sew the edges together using a simple running stitch (see picture below). Leave about an inch around the edge of your material. Sew 3 of the 4 sides together, threading more yarn or string onto your needle if necessary.
- Once you have 3 sides sewn, stuff your sit-upon full of plastic bags so it looks like a pillow. Sew the last side closed in the same manner you sewed the rest of your sit-upon. Your sit-upon is now ready to use, and it is quite handy for finding a dry spot to sit outside on a damp day!

Instructions: (Option 2)

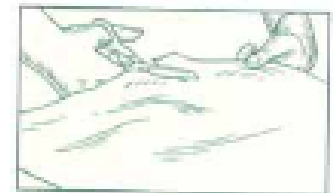
Any heavy-duty fabric can be used for this project, but the best fabric to use for this item is an old tablecloth - the kind that has plastic on one side and material on the other.



- Cut the waterproof material into two large squares big enough for you to sit on.
- Put newspapers or old rags between the two squares to form a cushion.
- Sew the two squares together with yarn or string, using the yarn needle.

Be sure to sew completely around the edges of the sit-upon.

- You are now ready to use your sit-upon!



Meeting 4: The Brownie Story

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls will learn The Brownie Story.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:**
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
 - Copy of the Wise Owl pattern for each girl
 - Copy of the Owl Pattern pieces for each girl
 - Paper, crayons, markers, pens/pencils, scissors
 - The Brownie Story
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Make copies of the Owl Job Holder and the Job Holder Pattern pieces for each girl.
 - Hang the Kaper chart and Troop Code of Conduct poster where all girls can easily see them.
 - Gather supplies or equipment needed.

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags
- ◆ Have the Assistant Leader or other helper (older Girl Scouts are great for this!) teach the **Brownie Smile Song** or **Make New Friends** (additional verses) if girls do not already know it.
- ◆ Ask girls how they are preparing for their Investiture Ceremony

Opening

- ◆ Brownie Ring – Begin each week with the Girl Scout Promise and a song.

Business

- ◆ While in the Brownie Ring, the girl designated on the Kaper Chart should take attendance and collect dues. Point out the posted Kaper Chart and go over everyone's kapers for today. Discuss any old or future business such as collecting permission slips, special fees, etc.
- ◆ Tell the girls they will learn about becoming "brownies" today. Read and discuss The Brownie Story (pgs. 17-21 of GGS for Brownies).

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ Each girl will make a "Wise Owl Job Holder" to take home. Each girl should cut out an owl pattern and glue the eyes, beak and feather pouch onto the owl base. Maybe you could purchase sequins or wiggly eyes for the eyes or real feathers for the wings. The girls would love that. Make sure they understand to glue **ONLY THE EDGES** of the pocket so it can hold their job feathers. Help the girls write a simple job to be done at home on each feather (e.g.: make my bed, set the table, clean my room, take out trash, etc.)
- ◆ Explain to the girls that each day they are to take out one feather and complete that job. At the end of the week, when all jobs have been completed, they will become Brownie Girl Scouts.
- ◆ Read The Brownie Story

- ◆ Play the Telephone game. Girls sit in a circle. The first girl whispers a phrase or a sentence (Girl Scout Brownies are Amazing!) Each girl whispers what she heard to the next girl. The last girl announces the statement to the entire group.
- ◆ Talk about what happens when we pass along stories – sometimes the stories change. If we are responsible for what we say, it is important to make sure we know what we heard before we repeat it. How could we be sure about what was said? (Repeat it back to the person who said it to be sure and then pass it along). Practice this important idea.

Clean-up

- ◆ ALL girls should participate! Remind girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it.

Closing

- ◆ Rotate tags on the Kaper Chart to determine who will take the snack box home.
- ◆ Form a Friendship Circle. Announce any final reminders or comments
- ◆ Remind girls (and parents) of the upcoming Investiture Ceremony and do the Friendship Squeeze
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

Games, Songs, and Meeting Helps

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 couldn'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!

Make New Friends

Make new friends
But keep the old.
One is silver
And the other gold.

A circle is round
It has not end.
That's how long
I want to be your friend.

Little Sally Walker

Equipment: None

Court: Get everyone in a circle with one person in the middle.

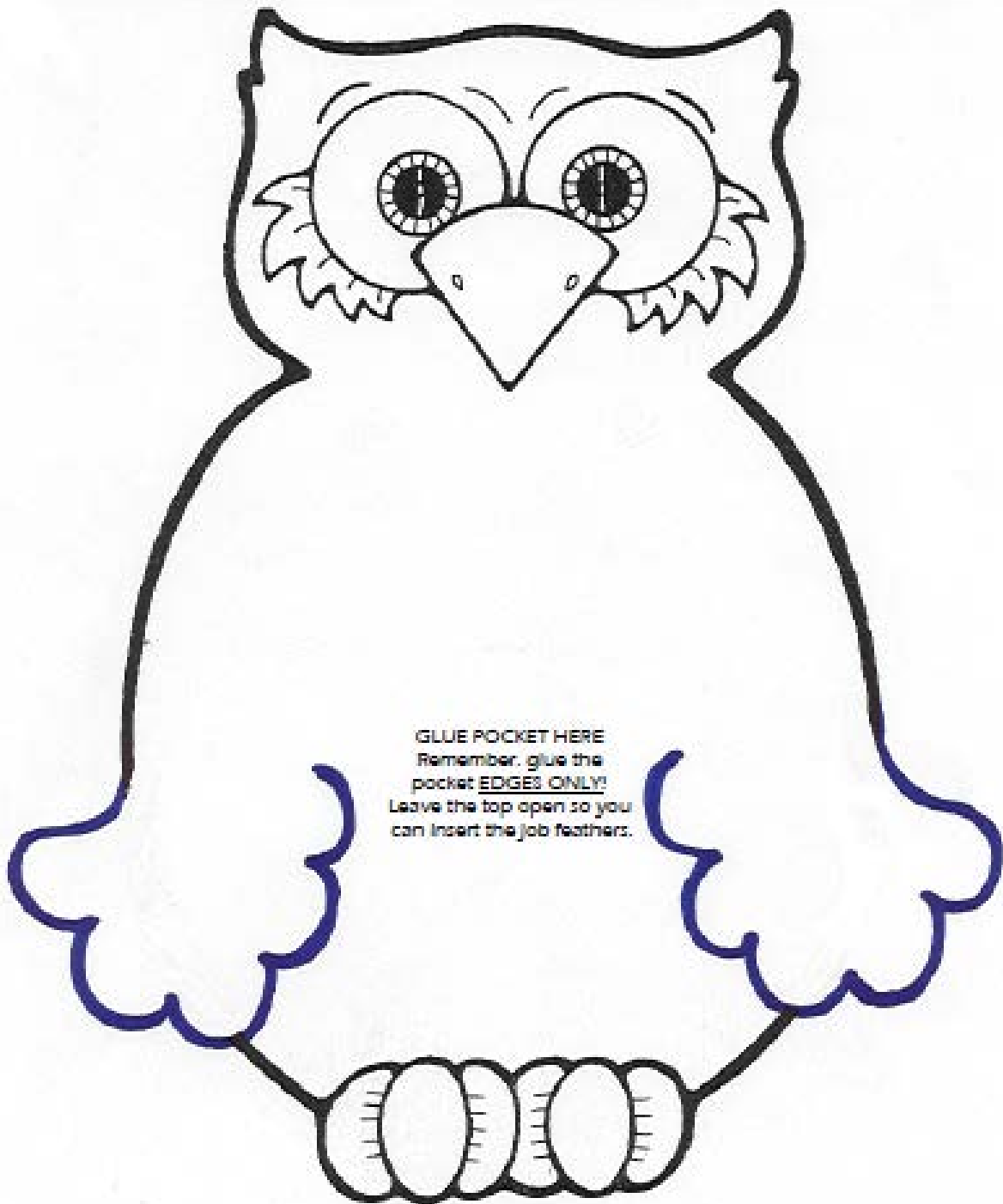
The person in the middle walks around inside the circle while everyone else sings,

"Little Sally Walker walking down the street.
She didn't know what to do so she stopped in front of me...(at this point, the one in the middle stands in front of someone and does a dance move)

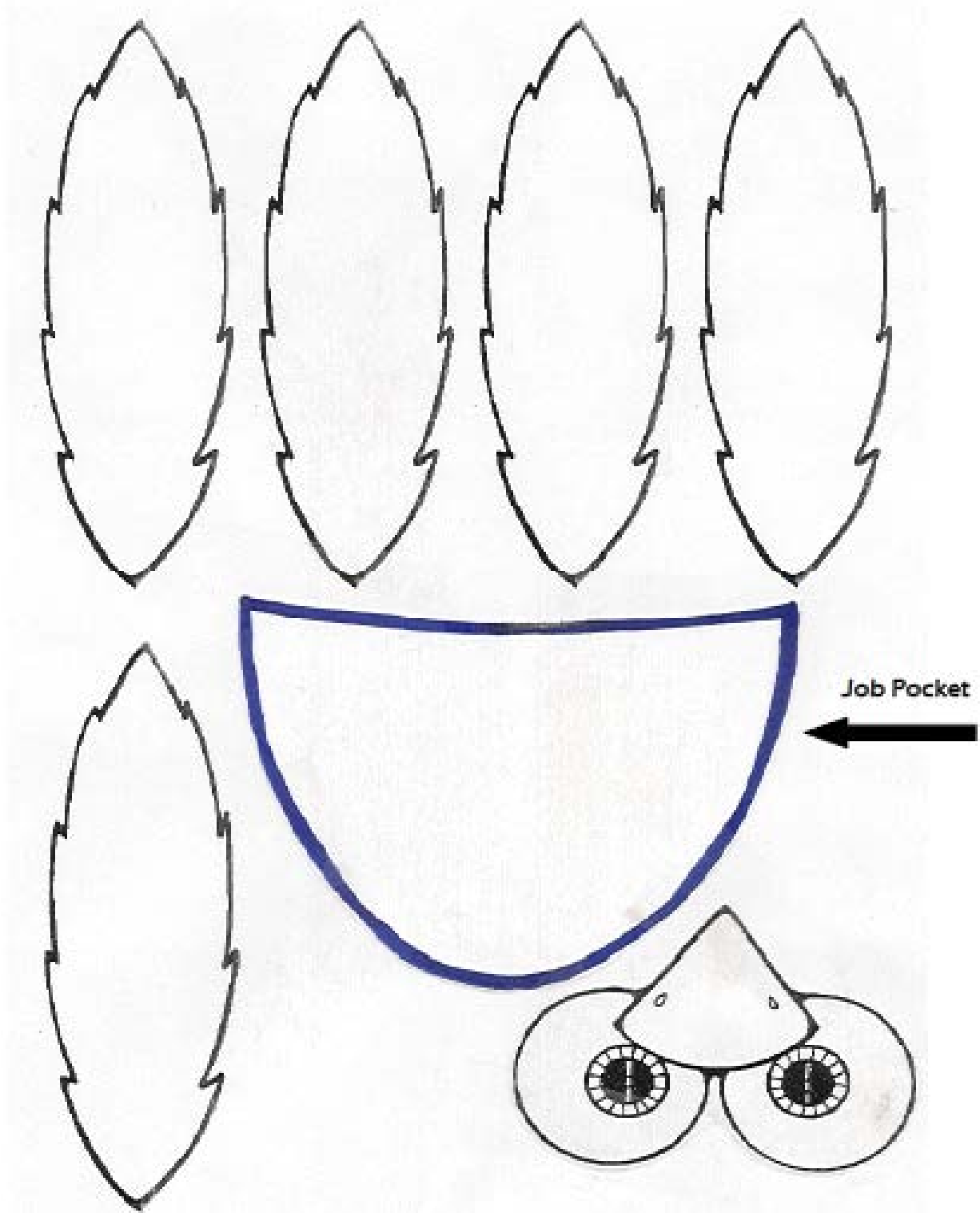
(Still singing...) "Hey girl, do your thing, do your thing and switch!" (the girls switch places then the person that got picked does the dance move) "Hey girl, do your thing, do your thing and switch!"

♻️ Wise Owl Job Holder Pattern ♻️

Copy a pattern for each girl on brown cardstock.



🌀🌀🌀 Wise Owl Job Holder Pattern Pieces 🌀🌀🌀



Meeting 5: Planning the Investiture/Rededication Ceremony

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** The girls take time to plan their own Investiture/Rededication ceremony.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:**
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Pre-printed invitations or construction paper
 - Copies of the Ceremony Planning Guide
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
 - Copies of the owl name tags
 - Paper, crayons, markers, pens, pencils, scissors
 - Glue, masking tape, safety pins
 - Tissue paper
 - Chenille stems
 - Other materials needed for decorations
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Review your Brownie GGGs
 - Make copies of the Ceremony worksheet if you choose to use it
 - Make enough copies of the sample invitation (if you choose to use it) so each girl will have one
 - Make enough copies of the owl name tag to make one for each member of her family
 - Gather other supplies or equipment needed.

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags
- ◆ Have the girls practice the Brownie Smile Song.

Opening

- ◆ Brownie Ring – Call the meeting to order using the quiet sign and lead the group in the Girl Scout Promise and a song.

Business

- ◆ The “Troop Helper” designated on the Kaper Chart should take attendance and collect dues. Discuss any old and/or future business, etc.
- ◆ Ask how many of the girls completed their jobs last week. Tell the girls how proud you are of them! Today, they will be planning their Investiture/Rededication ceremony so that everyone can become a Girl Scout Brownie! (**NOTE:** An investiture is a ceremony to officially welcome a girl or adult into Girl Scouting for the first time. Girls or adults who have been Girl Scouts before will rededicate their commitment to Girl Scouting by renewing the Girl Scout Promise.)
- ◆ Explain that an Investiture is a special ceremony that official welcomes a girl or adult into Girl Scouting for the first time. Girls or adults who have been Girl Scouts before will be rededicating their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law at the ceremony.

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ Use the Ceremony Planning Guide and Worksheet to help the girls make plans for the Investiture/Rededication Ceremony. Read over the sample ceremony: the Brownie Story Ceremony. Ask the girls if the ceremony is something they would like to do.

Would they like to change it? Add something or leave something out? If the girls don't care for the sample ceremony included, have them adapt it or completely disregard it (or use another one included in the following pages of this jumpstart guide) and create their own ceremony. Let them be creative!

Let girls use the Ceremony Planning Guide to make notes for the rest of the ceremony plans.

- ◆ Girls should help decided things like:
 - Where would they like to have the ceremony?
 - Who would they like to invite? Etc.
 - Would they like to open with a flag ceremony?
 - Serve refreshments?
 - Who will bring the refreshments?
 - Will they make decorations? Etc.
- ◆ Set out the construction paper, markers, crayons, scissors, glue, pens or pencils, etc., and let each girl make an invitation for her family. Check to make sure girls put the correct information on the inside of the invitation regarding the time, date, place, etc. **Tell the girls you will be collecting the invitation at the end of activity time today.**

If time allows, let the girls begin making decorations such as flowers for the tables, trefoil symbols to hang on the wall, a special name tag for each family member, etc. for the sample ceremony included you will need a "pond." (See pond ideas below.) Lilly pads and fish for the pond are fun decorations. An owl in a tree gives the effect of the Magic Forest.

- ◆ Pond ideas:
 - Get a mirror and place greenery around it
 - Use foil to make a larger pond area. Place the foil shiny-side up and place greenery around it
 - Purchase blue corrugated paper and cut out an area near an edge to place a mirror in. Or arrange several pieces of foil around the edge so each girl will have a reflective area.

Clean-up





- ◆ ALL girls should participate! Remind girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it.

Closing

- ◆ Friendship Circle to end meeting. Explain to the girls that the reason you collected the invitations is so you can write a message to each of their families in them. Rotate the tags on the Kaper Chart to determine who will take the snack box home (it may be a good idea to have several parents bring snacks for the investiture ceremony – given the number of people coming). Announce any final reminders or comments and end with a song and the friendship squeeze.
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

NOTE: Make a note in each invitation of what the family can contribute towards the refreshments (bag of cookies, large bottle of soda, napkins, cups, etc.) or include a special note to parents explaining how important the ceremony is to the girls and encouraging them to make every effort to attend. **REMEMBER:** Call your local service center to reserve any equipment that your girls have decided to use (i.e. bridge, logs and candles, flags, etc.)

Sample Investiture Ceremony Invitation

<p>Please come to my Girl Scout Brownie Investiture and Rededication Ceremony</p> 	<p>Date: _____</p> <p>Time: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>R.S.V.P: _____</p> <p>Special Notes: </p>
<p>Please come to my Girl Scout Brownie Investiture and Rededication Ceremony</p> 	<p>Date: _____</p> <p>Time: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>R.S.V.P: _____</p> <p>Special Notes: </p>

If the girls choose this invitation, make a copy on cardstock or heavy paper for each girl. Cut the page in half and have girls decorate their invitation and collect them. An adult might want to fill out the information inside the card or insert a note from the leader before the girls take the invitations home.

Ceremony Planning Guide

What is the purpose or reason for the ceremony?

- ◆ Investiture and/or Rededication?
- ◆ Bridging Ceremony?
- ◆ Court of Awards?
- ◆ Founder's Day (Juliette Low's Birthday)?
- ◆ Girl Scout Birthday?
- ◆ Girl Scout Sunday?
- ◆ Scout's Own?
- ◆ Thinking Day?

Where will the ceremony be held and who will reserve the site?

- ◆ Indoors or outdoors?
- ◆ Someone's home?
- ◆ At the Meeting Place?
- ◆ School?
- ◆ Church?
- ◆ Camp?

Who should we invite?

- ◆ Troop members only?
- ◆ Parents and friends?
- ◆ Sister troop or other troops?
- ◆ Sponsors?

How will we begin or open the ceremony?

- ◆ Flag ceremony?
- ◆ Welcome and introductions?
- ◆ Leader will ask girls to come forward and take their place?
- ◆ Song or poem?
- ◆ Invocation or inspirational thought?
- ◆ Walk quietly to the place the ceremony will be held?

What will the main section of the ceremony consist of?

- ◆ Recite Girl Scout Promise and Law?
- ◆ Candle-lighting ceremony?
- ◆ Girl Scout Songs?
- ◆ Court of Awards?
- ◆ Recognition of parent helpers?
- ◆ Short Story?
- ◆ Presentation of the World Trefoil pin?
- ◆ Bridging ceremony?

How will we conclude the ceremony?

- ◆ Recite Girl Scout Promise?
- ◆ Friendship Circle and squeeze?
- ◆ Invite guests to enjoy refreshments?
- ◆ Sing Taps or other song?
- ◆ Retire the flag?
- ◆ Leave the ceremony area?

What kind of equipment or materials will we need for the ceremony?

- ◆ Candles, candle holders, and matches?
- ◆ A bridge or stepping stones?
- ◆ Mirror or foil for pond and greenery?
- ◆ Flags and flag stands?
- ◆ Decorations
- ◆ World Trefoil Pin or other ceremony board?
- ◆ Pins or other earned awards for girls?
- ◆ Recognitions for adults and/or sponsors?
- ◆ Refreshments?
- ◆ Paper goods and/or Serving items

Other Notes:

Ceremony Worksheet

Name of Ceremony: _____
 Date of Ceremony: _____ Time: from _____ to _____
 Place of Ceremony: _____ Practice Date: _____
 Who will we invite? troop members only family and friends sponsors

	Ceremony Outline	Who will do this part?
How will we begin?		
What will we do for the main part of the ceremony?		
What songs, poems/verse, or quotations will be included?		
How will the ceremony end?		

What equipment or decorations will we need?

(i.e. candles, flags, bridge?)

Who will bring this item?

What will we serve for refreshments?

(Do not forget the paper goods and serving items.)

Who will bring this item?

How much will the ceremony cost? _____ What funds will we use? _____

Tissue Paper Flowers

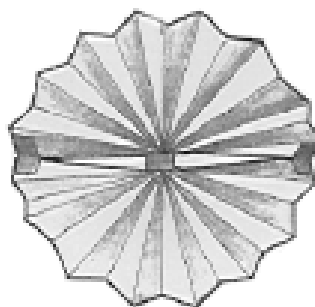
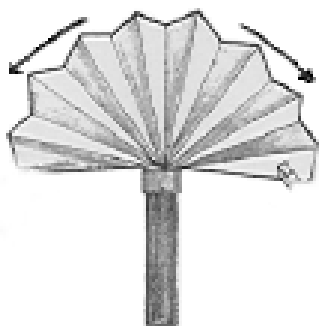
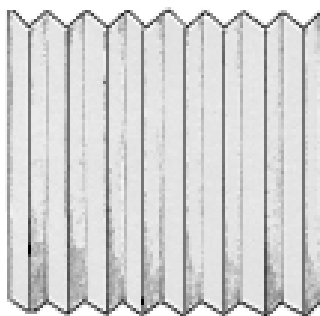
Supplies needed:

- Tissue paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Chenille stems (pipe cleaners)
- Confetti
- Tape

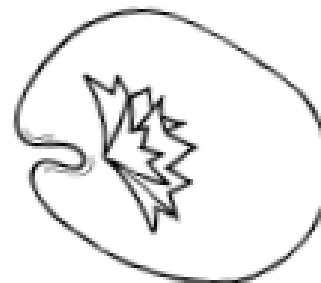
Instructions

- Cut tissue paper into 6"x12" sheets
- Place 3 – 4 cut sheets on top of each other and "fan-fold" or "scrunch" together in the center.
- Secure with a chenille stem or tape
- Open the fan folds and gently separate the tissue paper to form the flower. (Remind girls that tissue paper tears easily so pull the sheets apart gently.)
- Shape as desired.
- Add confetti to center for added sparkle.

NOTE: To carry out a specific color scheme, the 4 sheets of tissue paper should be the same color. For a fiesta flare, have each sheet be a different color. Let girls experiment and have a good time!

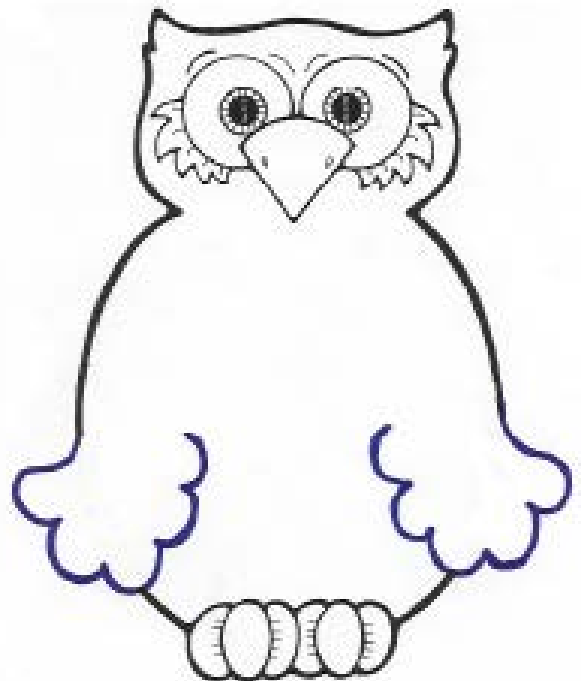
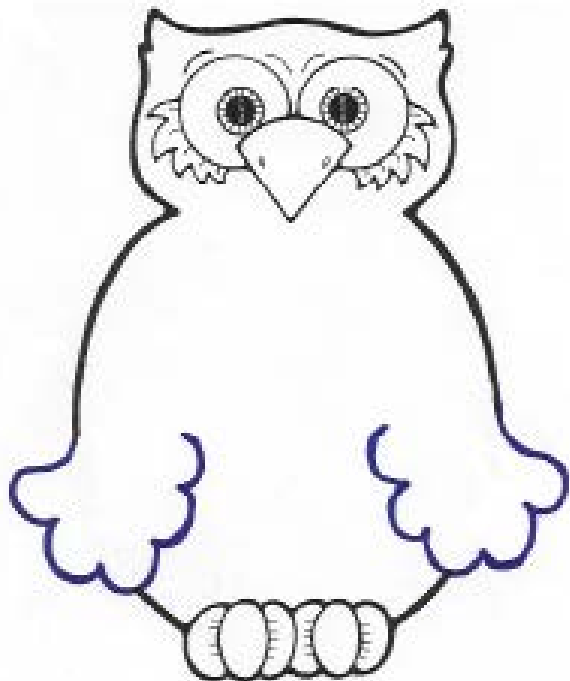
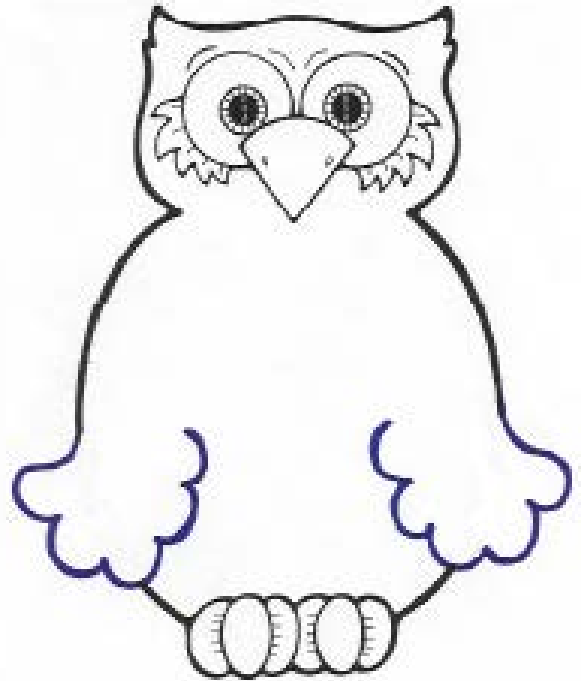
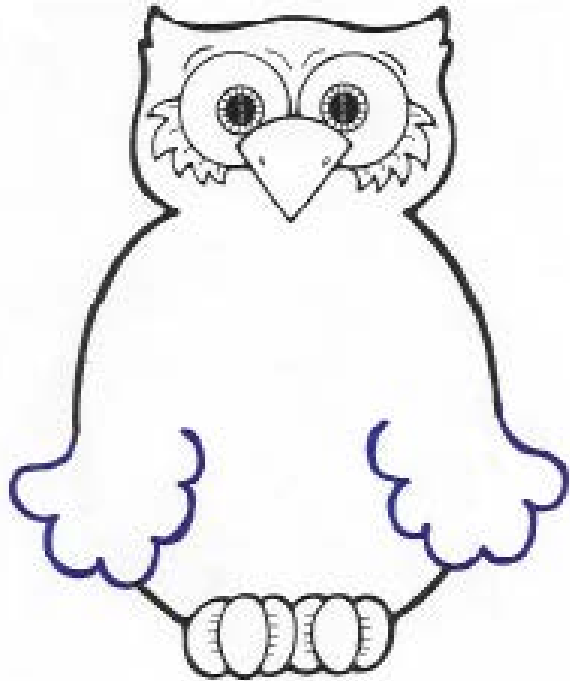


IDEA: Tape the flower on top of a heart shape or lilly shape cut from green construction paper to form a lilly pad for the pond used at the investiture/rededication ceremony!



Owl Name Tags

Make enough copies on cardstock so girls can make an Owl name tag for each member of their family. Let girls decorate a tag for each family member and print their name on it. Use masking tape to attach a safety pin to the back.



Meeting 6: Ceremony Practice and Finish Decorations

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls will finish preparing for Investiture Ceremony and practice
- ◆ **Toward the Award:**
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Any materials needed to finish decorations started at last meeting
 - Any materials that the girls have decided to use in the ceremony (e.g. candles, logs, matches, etc.)
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Select a game to play
 - Make a copy of the sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Gather any decorations started and/or materials needed to complete decorations

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags
- ◆ Play a game

Opening

- ◆ Brownie Ring – recite the Girl Scout Promise and sing a song. The “Troop Helper” designated on the Kaper Chart should take attendance, collect dues, etc. Discuss any old or future business, etc.



Business

- ◆ Tell the girls that they will practice the Investiture/Rededication Ceremony and finish making decorations today. Remind girls that they should wear their uniform or nice school clothes. A uniform **is not required**.

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ Whether you are using one of the ceremonies included in this packet or if the girls created their own ceremony, practice each part.

It is very important that girls have a chance to practice. Ceremonies have a tendency to make girls very nervous. If they know what their role is, they will be a little more at ease. Remember, ceremonies should be FUN, not frightening.

- ◆ Finish any decorations for the ceremony.

Clean-up

- ◆ ALL girls should participate! Remind girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it.

Closing

- ◆ Call girls to Friendship Circle. Give the girls the invitations that they made last week with the note about the refreshments attached inside. To take home today. Go over them with the

girls so they will be aware of what refreshment items they should bring to the ceremony. Remind girls that if they have a uniform they would wear it to the ceremony; however, a uniform is not required. Answer any last minute questions or concerns the girls may have so they are not nervous about the approaching ceremony.

- ◆ Rotate the tags on the Kaper Chart to determine who will take the snack box home. Announce any final reminders or comments, conduct the friendship squeeze. Let the girls know that you will see them at the Investiture Ceremony!
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

Games, Songs, and Meeting Helps

I'm a Girl Scout (To the tune of Frere Jacques)

I'm a Girl Scout
I'm a Girl Scout.
Who are you?
Who are you?
Can't you tell by looking?
Can't you tell by looking?
I'm one too.
I'm one too.

Meeting 7: Brownie Investiture Ceremony

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Families are introduced to Girl Scout Brownies, and families celebrate with girls as they are officially welcomed in Girl Scouts.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:**
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
 - Girl Scout Brownie membership pins, Safety Award (if earned)
 - Paper, crayons, markers
 - Adhesive
 - Refreshments
 - Camera (optional)
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Select a game to play
 - Make a copy of the sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Purchase Girl Scout Brownie membership pins and the Safety Award (if completed)
 - Complete any planning for the Investiture Ceremony if necessary
 - Set up and decorate the ceremony place
 - Position the table with the candles near where Leader will be standing
 - Sort awards into individual bags
 - Arrange and set-up your ceremony site, including seating for family members, an activity area, a refreshments area, and an area for the Art Gallery.
 - Prepare background music (optional)
 - Prepare refreshments
 - **Note:** Schedule the Investiture Ceremony meeting at a time that allows families to attend.

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags
- ◆ Girls introduce friends to their families and usher them to the seating area.
- ◆ (Designate someone to take pictures)

Opening

- ◆ Welcome families and guests. Explain that they have been invited to learn about what Girl Scout Brownies do at troop meetings and to celebrate their becoming full members in an Investiture Ceremony.
- ◆ Girls form a semi-circle, facing families and greet each other with the Girl Scout handshake.
- ◆ Share general information about how you open meetings and the Girl Scout Promise before girls say the Promise.
- ◆ Sing "Make New Friends."

Business

- ◆ Have the girls sit in the Girl Scout Brownie Ring and explain that this is their business and planning time to share ideas, make decisions, and talk as a group.
- ◆ Show how girls have learned the quiet sign, the list of rules they developed, and how kapers are done.

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ Explain that it is now time to explore what it is to be a Brownie
- ◆ Read “How Brownies Got Their Name” and “The Brownie Story.”
- ◆ Explain that we are going to make an art gallery celebrating women who are courageous and strong. Divide into groups so every girl is with at least one adult. Ask adults to tell a story about a woman who is courageous and strong (this does not have to be a famous woman) and then work together to draw a picture of her. Let them know how much time they have before they share their story and picture with the large group.
- ◆ Gather in the Brownie Ring and have girls/groups tell about their picture and hang it on the wall.
- ◆ Take a moment to admire the art gallery you have created.
- ◆ Say the Girl Scout Law

Investiture Ceremony

- ◆ Gather girls to form a semi-circle facing family members.
- ◆ Explain that an Investiture Ceremony is used to welcome a new girl or adult in Girl Scouts and they only go through an investiture once in their lifetime. Girls who are already invested are “rededicated.”
- ◆ Explain that Girl Scouting was started by a woman named Juliette Gordon Low over 100 years ago and the girls want to share an action story to help families know about her too.
- ◆ Say, “You are about to become a Girl Scout Brownie. Together we will explore all the fun and adventure of Girl Scouting.”
- ◆ Say, “The Girl Scout Promise is the pledge that tells us how to live our lives as a Girl Scout.” Lead the girls in saying the Girl Scout Promise.
- ◆ Give each girl the Girl Scout membership pin and welcome them with a Girl Scout handshake. *Option:* Place the Girl Scout Brownie pin upside down on the vest or sash. Explain that the pin is upside down because she must go home and do three good turns (good deeds), one for each part of the Girl Scout Promise. When completed, her parent/guardian can turn the pin right side up. Tell the girls that you hope to see all the pins turned over by the next meeting.
- ◆ Girls sing “Brownie Smile Song” or “Girl Scouts Together.”
- ◆ Give the girls their Safety Award.
- ◆ Thank families for attending and let them know that refreshments will be served now.

Clean-up

- ◆ ALL girls should participate! Remind girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it.

Closing

- ◆ Form a Brownie Ring, sing a song, and do the Friendship Squeeze.
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

Options

Play more games or spend time outdoors.

Meeting 8: Girl Planning

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls work together to decide what the rest of their Girl Scout year will look like.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:**
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
 - Girl Scout Brownie Journeys
 - Construction paper strips (at least 5 per girl)
 - Scissors (if the strips are not pre-cut)
 - 1 Trefoil symbol with your troop number printed on it
 - 1 large newsprint
 - Stapler and staples
 - Crayons and markers
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Review your Brownie GGGs and Journeys
 - Make enough copies of the paper strips so each girl will have at least five
 - Make a copy of the Trefoil emblem and cut it out
 - Gather other supplies or equipment needed

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags.
- ◆ Set out or display pictures from the Investiture/Rededication Ceremony. Girls may also like to bring pictures from home.

Opening

- ◆ Brownie Ring – Begin each week with the Girl Scout Promise and a song.

Business

- ◆ While in the Brownie Ring, the girl designated on the Kaper Chart should take attendance and collect dues. Point out the posted Kaper Chart and go over everyone's kapers for today. Discuss any old and future business such as collecting permission slips, special fees, etc.
- ◆ If you have any pictures from the Investiture/Rededication Ceremony share them with the girls. Would they like to start a troop photo album? Do the girls want to plan a scrapbook activity at a future meeting?

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ Troop Activity Chain: Today, girls will be deciding the direction they would like the troop to progress in. Are they interested in Journeys? Field Trips? Selling Cookies? Fall Product? Do they want to go camping? Do they want to help others (community service)? Arts and crafts? Learn to canoe? **The choices are endless and they should help decide where to go from here.**
- ◆ Before the activity chain is completed, it may be useful to brainstorm a list of activities that the girls can choose from in addition to thinking of a new idea. This will help them feel more confident in the activity and complete the next part successfully. Brainstorming and writing ideas on a whiteboard, newsprint, or chalk board can help with spelling issues. Girls at this age are really concerned with spelling things correctly.

Once you have completed the group brainstorming, give each girl several activity strips to complete. Tell girls to write an activity that they would like to do during the troop year on each strip. Have girls decorate the strips. The leader can also make activity strips. After about 20 minutes, tell girls it is time to make the troop activity chain. The leader should staple the first strip, forming a circle, to the trefoil. Insert the second strip through the first and staple it into a circle. Continue to add strips forming a chain until all have been attached.

Now call girls back to the Brownie Ring. Take the activity chain and spread it around the circle. Let girls read the activity strips in front of them out loud (it does not have to be the girl's strips).

After all the activity strips have been read, talk about the activities that were mentioned most often. Have the girls choose several activities that they would like to do most. When would they like to do them? Look through the GGGS and Journeys to see which badges/patches these activities relate to.

Let girls look at some of the projects available; is there one that they would really like to try? Add the ones that interest them to the troop goal list. Help girls prioritize the list into the top 5 (five) activities. Talk about when during the year the girls would like to do the activities.

Explain to girls that this troop goal list will become the "map" for their Girl Scout Brownie year. You will be able to help them plan and do activities towards the goals they have developed. Assure them that they can re-do the goals at any time.

Refer to the goals when planning your next troop meeting and throughout the year. The Council Calendar may list activities that relate to your troop's list. Now that you have your troop goals, you can lead the girls in the direction needed to accomplish them.

Clean-up

- ALL girls should participate! Remind the girls of kapers and how working together to leave the site better than you found it.

Closing

- Form a Brownie Ring and Friendship Circle to end meeting. Rotate the tags on the Kaper Chart to determine who will take the snack box home. Any final reminders or comments – friendship squeeze.

Games, Songs, and Meeting Helps

What Time Is It Ms. Wolf?

One person is "it" – Ms. Wolf stands at one end of the room, or field with her back turned to the other girls. The other girls stand at the far end of the gym or the field, and they chant, loudly, in unison, "What time is it, Ms. Wolf?" Ms. Wolf answers with different times, for example, "It is one o'clock!"

The other girls take a step for every hour that Ms. Wolf exclaims that it is. So, for one o'clock, they take one step toward Ms. Wolf's back. For seven o'clock, they take seven steps. And they count out loud in unison as they take the steps. It is up to them whether they take large or small steps.

Eventually, Ms. Wolf will announce, "Lunch time!!" She will then turn around and chase the girls who have been approaching her from behind. Any that she tags, become Wolves themselves. Any that run back to the beginning without being tagged get to ask what time it is, and play the game again.

Any new wolves, do the chasing with the original wolf in subsequent lunch times, and any girls who were not tagged before who are tagged by either the original wolf, or new wolves, become wolves themselves.

The Brownie Story (with actions)

Have the girls count off 1-6. This will divide your group into six smaller ones. Give each group their "cue word" and let them practice their sound and motion, so they know what to do when their "cue word" is read.

Word Sound Motion

Girls – giggle hands in front of mouth

Granny – "oh, my!" both hands slap knees

Brownies – Be Prepared! Stand and make the Girl Scout Sign

House – "come in!" motion with right hand to come in

Owl – "whoo-who" bend arms and flap hands

Forest – moannnnnnn and sway with arms up and fingers moving

Story

Once upon a time, there were two little girls who lived in England with their granny and their father. The girls played all day while the granny and father had to work very hard. One day granny told the girls about the Brownies, who used to do lots of things to help around the house. They are gone now, she said, but we were always so much happier when they helped. The girls wanted to know where the Brownies had gone and how to get them to come back. Granny said, "only the wise old owl knows!"

That night, when everyone else was asleep, one of the girls ran out of the house into the magical forest. There she found the wise old owl. "Please," said the girl, "where can I find the Brownies to come and live with us?" The owl said, "I know where two live – right in your house!" She was very surprised! "Tell me how to find them," she begged. He told her to go to the pond in the magic forest, turn around three times and say, "twist me, turn me and show me the elf...I looked in the water and saw...!" The wise old owl said "When you finish the rhyme, you will see the Brownie in the magic pond."

The girl went to the pond in the magical forest and did as she had been told. She went back to the forest and found the wise old owl and said, "something must be wrong, I did all you told me to do and I only saw myself! And I am not a Brownie!" "Are you sure?" said the owl. "To be a Brownie, you must be ready to help those around you, make friends wherever you can, and every day try to discover something new. "I'd like to be a Brownie" said the girl. "Then go home and try", the wise old owl said kindly. He touched her hand with his feathers, and suddenly she was back in her house, in her own bed.

Quietly, she woke up her sister and told her all that had happened. Together the girls tip-toed into the kitchen and began to clean the house. In the morning, when granny and father saw the house, they wanted to know what had happened. "Who did this?" said granny and father. The girls danced around and shouted, "it's the Brownies!" And from that day on, theirs was a very happy house near the forest, all because of the Brownies!

As a Girl Scout Brownie I would like to

As a Girl Scout Brownie I would like to

As a Girl Scout Brownie I would like to

As a Girl Scout Brownie I would like to

As a Girl Scout Brownie I would like to

Meeting 9: Introduction to Cookie Program Activity and Money Manager

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls will know more about what money is worth and learn about/prepare for the Girl Scout Cookie Program Activity.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:** Earn the Money Manager badge.
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
 - Money Manager badges
 - Cookie Activity materials
 - Play money and large number of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters
 - Permission forms for field trip during meeting #10.
 - Pens and paper
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Select a game to play or learn a song.
 - Select an activity from the Cookie Activity materials
 - Purchase a Money Manager badge for each girl.

Note: This meeting should be scheduled either during December or the first part of January and can be done out of order.

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags.
- ◆ Play a game or teach a song.

Opening

- ◆ Gather and greet each other with the Girl Scout handshake.
- ◆ Say the Girl Scout Promise.
- ◆ Ask each girl to share what she likes to do for fun.
- ◆ Ask for requests for today's song and sing.

Business

- ◆ In the Girl Scout Brownie Ring, review rules, assign kapers and talk about preparing to sell cookies.
- ◆ "Today we are going to review and learn more about money and what it is worth, learn how to shop and have fun, and get ready to participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program Activity."

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ Ask the girls to pull out the Money Manager packet from the Badges section of the Girl's Guide.
- ◆ Complete the steps to understand how to manage money wisely.
- ◆ Conduct one or more of the activities from the Cookie Program materials.

- ◆ Have your Troop Cookie Organizer review GSCI's Cookie Program Activity materials with the girls.
- ◆ Congratulate the girls for earning the Money Manager badge.

Clean-up

- ◆ ALL girls should participate! Remind girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it

Closing

- ◆ Form a Brownie Ring and discuss how we can budget some money to help others by reaching our Cookie Program Activity goal.
- ◆ Explain that they will spend some time outdoors at the next meeting and that they should dress appropriately.
- ◆ Form a Friendship Circle, sing a song and do a friendship squeeze.
- ◆ Hand out the Money Manager badge and Cookie Program Activity Materials.
- ◆ Have girls use the Money Manager badge sticker and awards log in their Girl's Guide.
- ◆ Hand out field trip information and permission forms, if applicable.
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

Games, Songs, and Meeting Helps

I'm a Girl Scout (To the tune of Frere Jacques)

I'm a Girl Scout
 I'm a Girl Scout.
 Who are you?
 Who are you?
 Can't you tell by looking?
 Can't you tell by looking?
 I'm one too.
 I'm one too.

Meeting 10: Be a Philanthropist

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls know how to make the world a better place by being Philanthropists.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:** Earn the Philanthropist badge
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
 - Philanthropist badges
 - Recycled materials for the games
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Visit the Red Cross office and or invite a representative to your meeting to talk about how to be a Philanthropist.

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags and collect completed parent/guardian permission forms.
- ◆ Play a game
- ◆ Ask girls about the Cookie Program Activity.

Opening

- ◆ Gather and greet each other with the Girl Scout handshake.
- ◆ Say the Girl Scout Promise.
- ◆ Share which Girl Scout Cookie is their favorite.
- ◆ Ask for song requests.

Business

- ◆ In the Girl Scout Brownie Ring, review rules, assign kapers and follow up with any Cookie Program Activity business.
- ◆ Explain that they will meet with an older Girl Scout troop at the next meeting. Both troops will show something they like to do. Discuss the things they would like to share with the older Girl Scouts.
- ◆ "Today we are going to learn about what it means to make the world a better place by being Philanthropists.

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ Visit the Red Cross office; talk to someone about how you can be Philanthropists.
- ◆ Congratulate the girls for earning the Philanthropist badge.

Clean-up

- ◆ ALL girls should participate! Remind girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it

Closing

- ◆ Form a Brownie Ring and ask the girls to think of other ways that they can make the world a better place. Encourage the girls to share these ideas with their families.
- ◆ Explain that they will meet with another troop to celebrate World Thinking Day at the next meeting.
- ◆ Form a Friendship Circle, sing a song, and do a friendship squeeze.
- ◆ Hand out the Philanthropist badge.
- ◆ Have girls use the Philanthropist badge sticker and awards log in their Girl's Guide.
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

Meeting 11: Making Friends and World Thinking Day

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls know how to make friends and celebrate World Thinking Day.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:** Earn the Fair Play badge; earn the World Thinking Day award
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
 - Making Friends badges
 - World Thinking Day award
 - Materials selected for World Thinking Day award activity
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Plan a meeting with an older Girl Scout troop to share games Girl Scout Brownies like to play and ask them to teach you a game they liked to play when they were Girl Scout Brownies.
 - Find out how to earn the World Thinking Day award (GGGS page 24) and plan meeting activity.
 - Purchase World Thinking Day awards
 - Learn a game

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags.
- ◆ Play a game
- ◆ Ask the girls if they talked to their families about how they could be Philanthropists.

Opening

- ◆ Gather and greet each other with the Girl Scout handshake.
- ◆ Say the Girl Scout Promise.
- ◆ Sing a song

Business

- ◆ In the Girl Scout Brownie Ring, have both troops share their troop rules and kapers and talk about what is the same and different.
- ◆ "Today we are going to learn about what it means to play fair and celebrate World Thinking Day.

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ Ask the older Girl Scouts to buddy up with Brownies and play a game.
- ◆ Ask the older Girl Scouts to share a favorite activity with the Brownies.
- ◆ Do a World Thinking Day Activity together.
- ◆ Get in the Brownie Ring and with the help of the older Girl Scouts and teach the rest of the troop the new game you learned and/or shared.
- ◆ Congratulate the girls for playing fair and for earning the Fair Play badge.

Clean-up

- ◆ ALL should participate! Remind girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it.

Closing

- ◆ Form a Brownie Ring and ask both troops to share how they close their meetings.
- ◆ Hand out the Fair Play badge and World Thinking Day award to each Brownie.
- ◆ Have girls use the Fair Play badge sticker and awards log in their Girl's Guide.
- ◆ Form a Friendship Circle, sing a song, and do a friendship squeeze.
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

Options

- ◆ Snack Time (optional) of each troop bringing a favorite snack or snacks from around the world.

Games, Songs, and Meeting Helps

World Thinking Day Award Activities

www.girlscouts.org/world_thinking_day

Meeting 12: Girl Scout Brownie Journeys

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls learn about Leadership Journeys.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:**
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
 - *It's Your World – Change It! Brownie Quest* book set
 - Crayons, markers
 - Bandanas
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Learn a new game

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags.
- ◆ Ask the girls what they thought of the meeting with the older Girl Scout troop.

Opening

- ◆ Gather and greet each other with the Girl Scout handshake.
- ◆ Say the Girl Scout Promise.
- ◆ Take turns saying one thing about one of your Brownie friends that is different from you (i.e., color of your hair) and why you like it. Then say one thing you have in common (i.e., like to read or eat ice cream).
- ◆ Sing “Make New Friends” and ask the girls if they have a song they would like to teach the group.

Business

- ◆ In the Girl Scout Brownie Ring, review rules and assign kapers.
- ◆ “Today we are going to learn about Girl Scout Leadership Journeys and choose an activity for our troop.

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ Work with girls to create an obstacle course(s) and decide what they have to do as they pass through the course (using no materials or materials at-hand). For example, bunny hop five times, crawl, use a spoon to move items from one spot to another, do five jumping jacks, toss something into a basket, walk a line, etc. Make sure everyone gets to try the obstacle course.
- ◆ Create a new obstacle course to go through blindfolded. Agree on a rule (i.e., using only their voice to lead their partner through or no talking and only leading). Girls take turns leading a blindfolded partner through the obstacle course.
- ◆ Gather in a Brownie Ring to read “Start Your Brownie Adventure” and “Awards that Show What You’ve Learned” on pages 6 – 7 and 30 – 31 of *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*.

- ◆ Explain that next year in Girl Scout Brownies they will do a full Girl Scout Leadership Journey – either *It's Your Story – Tell It! WOW! Wonders of Water* or *It's Your Planet – Love It! A World of Girls*. Ask the girls which Journey sounds most interesting to them.
- ◆ For a future meeting, the troop gets to choose what they will do. Share the options and vote for the activity you will do:
 - Attend a GSCI-Sponsored Program Event.
 - Attend a GSCI-Sponsored Summer Camp Session or attend either your service area's weekend encampment or summer day camp.
 - Do activities from the first Girl Scout Leadership Journey: *It's Your World – Change It! Brownie Quest*.
- ◆ Explain that an important part of a Leadership Journey is taking action. Girl Scouts take action by identifying community needs and educating and inspiring others to act.

Clean-up

- ◆ All girls should participate! Remind girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it

Closing

- ◆ Form a Brownie Ring and ask the girls what they liked about the Leadership Journey.
- ◆ Explain what will happen at the next meeting.
- ◆ Form a Friendship Circle, sing, "Brownie Smile Song," and do a friendship squeeze.
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

Options

- ◆ Teach the Rain game

Games, Songs, and Meeting Helps

RAIN

Everyone sits in a circle with their eyes closed (optional). The leader starts by rubbing her hands together. The person to the right of the leader listens for this sound and then joins in, then the next person to the right, until everyone is doing it. The sound this rubbing makes is much like a soft spray of rain. When all are rubbing their hands, the leader than starts a new sound—finger snapping. The rain is gaining in intensity. Each player must continue to rub hands until she hears the person on their left change sounds. After finger snapping has gone all the way around, the leader starts the next sound—hands slapping thighs. Finally hands slapping thighs plus stomping feet. To end the rain storm, completely reverse the activities. The last sound to be passed is a silence as each person, one by one stops rubbing hands.

Meeting 13: Girl Scout Brownie Safety Award

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls learn about the special award – Safety award
- ◆ **Toward the Award:** Complete the three activities required to earn the Safety award.
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Read through the Safety Award information in your GGGG pg. 38.
 - Have a list of all the girls' phone numbers and addresses.
 - Ask a fire department paramedic to come to the meeting to discuss how to stay safe at school, how a smoke alarm works, and what natural disasters are common in your area
 - Get a map of your neighborhood to mark important points
- Make Brownie decorations

If girls are finishing third grade, they can earn the Bridging Award (GGGS pages 22 – 23) and participate in a bridging ceremony. Contact your Service Center to reserve the bridge or make an indoor symbolic bridge (i.e., an arch of colored paper, stepping stones, cut out of cardboard – one for each part of the Girl Scout Law, an upside down card table with a string of crepe paper between the legs, etc.)

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags.
- ◆ Practice writing down their phone number and address.

Opening

- ◆ Gather and greet each other with the Girl Scout handshake.
- ◆ Say the Girl Scout Promise.
- ◆ Have each girl show how they can recite their phone number and address.
- ◆ Discuss when it is appropriate to give out your phone number and address and to whom.
- ◆ Sing a song and ask the girls if they have a song they would like to teach the group.

Business

- ◆ In the Girl Scout Brownie Ring, review rules and assign kapers.
- ◆ "Today we are going to learn about simple ways on how to stay safe and locate important points on a map"

Activity/Exploration

- ◆ Our guest will demonstrate various safety procedures.
- ◆ Make their own maps.
- ◆ Practice the flag ceremony for the upcoming End of the Year celebration.

Clean-up

- ◆ Remind girls of kapers and work together to leave the site better than you found it

Closing

- ◆ Form a Brownie Ring and ask the girls what they learned about safety.
- ◆ Explain what will happen at the next meeting.
- ◆ Form a Friendship Circle, sing, “Brownie Smile Song,” and do a friendship squeeze.
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

Options

- ◆ Check with the local fire department, American Red Cross and other organizations and websites for coloring pages related to safety topics.
- ◆ Teach and sing additional verses of “Make New Friends.”

Games, Songs, and Meeting Helps

Make New Friends.

Make new friends
But keep the old.
One is silver
And the other’s gold.

A circle is round
And have no end.
That’s how long
I want to be your friend.

I have a hand
And you have another.
Put them together
And we have each other.

Meeting 14: Year End Celebration

Meeting at a Glance

- ◆ **Goal:** Girls receive their earned awards, celebrate being First-Time Girl Scout Brownies, and Spring Register for the next membership year.
- ◆ **Toward the Award:** Membership Star with green disc, any other awards the girls earned. For girls who are bridging to Juniors, Girl Scout Brownie Membership Pin (optional), and Bridge to Girl Scout Brownie award (if earned).
- ◆ **Supplies:**
 - Nametags
 - Pen and sign-in/sign-out sheet
 - Kaper chart
 - Girl Scout Brownie, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*
 - Crayons, markers, blindfolds
- ◆ **Prepare Ahead:**
 - Purchase awards and prepare recognition items ahead of time by packaging each girl's awards in a bag, on a vest, on a piece of felt or on a ribbon (this will save time pinning the girls).

Pre-Meeting

- ◆ Greet, sign-in, and put on nametags.

Opening/Ceremony

- ◆ Welcome girls, families, and guests.
- ◆ Introduce volunteers
- ◆ Ask everyone to stand for the Flag Ceremony (this can include the Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise)
- ◆ Girls form a semi-circle in front of families and introduce each girl.
- ◆ Explain why you are having this ceremony.
- ◆ Girls recite the Girl Scout Law
- ◆ Each girl tells her favorite part of being a Girl Scout Brownie.
- ◆ Girl Scout Brownies sing a song that they have chosen.
- ◆ Give each girl their awards and exchange the Girl Scout handshake.

Closing

- ◆ Form a Brownie Ring and ask the families and guests to join in.
- ◆ Explain Friendship Circle and Squeeze.
- ◆ Thank everyone for coming.
- ◆ Sing "Make New Friends" or a song that the girls have chosen and do a friendship squeeze.
- ◆ Collect nametags and sign-out.

Celebration

- ◆ Invite the families to have refreshments.

Options

- If a Girl Scout Brownie is bridging, the girl also shares what she looks forward to as a Girl Scout Junior and then walks across the bridge. When she reaches the other side, give her a membership star with a green disc, Girl Scout Brownie Pin (optional) and Bridging Award (if earned). Exchange the Girl Scout handshake.

Section 6: Ceremonies for Girl Scout Brownies

Girl Scout Ceremonies

Ceremonies play a very important role in Girl Scouting, and there are many opportunities to use them. A ceremony may welcome new girls into Girl Scouting (Investiture), observe a special Girl Scout day (Thinking Day Ceremony), may recognize accomplishments (Court of Awards), or may open or close a meeting (Flag Ceremony).

Troops may also design their own ceremonies around special occasions. Use ceremonies as often as you wish – just remember to let the girls help you plan them! Sample ceremonies are available in the Appendix of this packet.

Below are some tips to help you have a successful Girl Scout ceremony.

- ◆ Practice the ceremony in advance, but do not expect the girls to memorize every word.
- ◆ Invite guests to your ceremony when appropriate. The presence of relatives and friends can make the ceremony even more special for the girls.
- ◆ Try to include the Girl Scout Promise and Law in every ceremony.
- ◆ Set the right atmosphere for your ceremony: the setting, the music, and lighting can help.
- ◆ Balance the joy and the seriousness of the event.

Suggested Dates and Occasions

INVESTITURE

A ceremony to welcome new girls and adults into the Girl Scouting program. It is held anytime a person joins the Movement as a new member. **Note:** A person is invested only once in their lifetime.

REDEDICATION

A ceremony for girls and adults who have already been invested at some time in their life. It is a time for them to reaffirm their belief in the Promise and Law and to reflect upon the meaning of Girl Scouting in their lives. It is usually held at the beginning of each Girl Scout year. **Note:** If a person rejoins the Movement after a period of absence, they are welcomed back at a rededication ceremony.

FOUNDER'S DAY (Juliette Low's Birthday)

A ceremony and/or celebration held on or about October 31 of each year. It is a program to recognize the important role that Juliette Gordon Low played in the development of the Girl Scouting program in the United States.

PATROL LEADER INSTALLATION

A ceremony at which time patrol leaders receive the double gold cords of their position. It is held each time new patrol leaders are selected.

TROOP BIRTHDAY PARTY

A ceremony and/or celebration recognizing the anniversary date of the beginning of the troop.

WORLD THINKING DAY

A ceremony and/or celebration held on or about February 22 each year. New members can receive the World Trefoil Pin and all Girl Scouts observe the international aspects of the Movement.

GIRL SCOUT'S BIRTHDAY

A ceremony and/or celebration to mark the beginning of Girl Scouting in the United States, which is March 12, 1912.

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY/SABBATH

A ceremony held each year during Girl Scout Week – the week of March 12. It is a time for Girl Scouts to reflect upon the importance of the words "to serve God" in the Girl Scout Promise. Some religions observe Girl Scout Sunday on the Sunday beginning Girl Scout Week, while other religions observe the Girl Scout Sabbath on the Saturday ending Girl Scout week. People of the Jewish faith also call it Shabbat.

GIRL SCOUT WEEK

Ceremonies and celebrations are held throughout the week of March 12 each year.

COURT OF AWARDS

A ceremony to recognize the achievements of Girl Scouts. It is on this occasion that girls receive the insignia they have earned. This ceremony can be held any time during the Girl Scout year. At the last Court of Awards of the year, members can receive their membership stars.

FLY-UP

A ceremony held at the end of the Girl Scout year for Girl Scout Brownies bridging to Girl Scout Juniors. It is at this time the girls receive their Girl Scout Brownie wings.

BRIDGING

This ceremony is held for any Girl Scout moving up to a new grade level in the program: Girl Scout Brownies to Girl Scout Brownies, Girl Scout Brownies to Girl Scout Juniors, Girl Scout Juniors to Girl Scout Cadettes, Girl Scout Cadettes to Girl Scout Seniors, Girl Scout Seniors to Girl Scout Ambassadors, and Girl Scout Ambassadors to Adult Girl Scouts.

CAMPFIRE

A ceremony and/or celebration held around a fire. The meaning of a campfire lies in the spirit of the program. It can unlock the spirit of mystery, romance, sisterhood, humor, and magic within the heart of each participant.

ADULT RECOGNITION

An occasion at any time of the year when adults are recognized for their service to Girl Scouting.

GIRL SCOUT'S OWN

It is a solemn time given over to the girls themselves to create a moment of their very own. A Girl Scouts' Own can be held at any time and can take place at a troop meeting, at an inter-troop gathering, or at camp.

OPENING

A ceremony to begin a meeting or event.

CLOSING

A ceremony to end a meeting or event.

FLAG

A ceremony to recognize our allegiance to our nation or discard a worn flag. A flag ceremony can be held as part of a celebration. It can also be used to open a troop meeting as well as on a separate occasion.

Sample Girl Scout Brownie Investiture Ceremony

The following are some ideas for a Girl Scout Investiture ceremony. Be sure to include ideas girls made in the Girl Scout Brownie Ring when they helped plan for the Investiture. The Girl Scout Brownie should have understanding of the Girl Scout Law and be able to recite the Girl Scout Promise. Parents/Guardians should be invited to attend the event.

BEFORE THE CEREMONY:

Ask each girl to choose a special adult to help during the ceremony. Practice parts of the ceremony, like reciting the Girl Scout Promise, but do not go through an entire “dry run.” This may spoil some of the girls’ enthusiasm for the real ceremony. Be sure everyone understands what she must do during the ceremony. Practice standing in a horseshoe with leaders at the center and girls on both sides. You might also prepare a construction paper Brownie with a pin and the girl’s name on each petal or other easy ways to hand out the pins.

OPENING:

The opening can be a song, the Girl Scout Promise, or special words by the adult volunteer to set the mood of the ceremony. For example, “Today is a very special day for us. It is the day when we receive our Girl Scout Brownie membership pins and officially become Girl Scouts. To do this, we each make a promise – the same promise that all Girl Scouts everywhere make. We hold up three fingers to remind us that our Girl Scout Promise has three parts: to serve God and our country, to be helpful to others and to try to be the best person we can by following the Girl Scout Law. Today we have (number of) new girls joining Girl Scouts. Let us make the Girl Scout sign now and say our Girl Scout Promise together.”

MIDDLE:

In this portion of the ceremony, the leader can call the names of the new members and ask them to step forward. (Patrol leaders might escort them and assist leader in presentation of pins.) The leader will then ask new girls to say the Promise together. Leader presents each girl with her pin and welcomes her with the Girl Scout handshake. Girls return to horseshoe.

CLOSING:

The closing of the ceremony can end with each girl members repeating the Promise together. It can start with the leader saying something similar to: “The Girl Scout Law has 10 parts, each represented by a small candle on our table.” Ten girls step forward, one at a time in order. The leader lights taper and gives it to the first girl; each girl hands on to the next girl, each reciting part of the Girl Scout Promise. Each girl returns to the horseshoe as she finishes. You can end with a song chosen by the girls, and then extinguish the candles.

More Ideas for a Girl Scout Brownie Investiture Ceremony

Idea #1

Supplies: Nametags, Girl Scout Brownie membership pins

Have each Brownie stand outside the room (or off to the side) with one adult. Girls knock on the door (or pretend door).

Leader calls: "Who is there?"

Girls answer "Little girls."

Leader asks: "What do you want?"

Girls answer: "We want to be Brownies."

Leader: "Why?"

Each girl gives her reason, e.g. "I want to make new friends." "I want to go camping." "I want to learn new things." "I want to make things."

Leader turns to the others in the room and says "Shall we let them in?"

Audience answers: "Yes."

Girls come in and form a semicircle around a mirror on the floor (which could be encircled in something green to give the appearance of a pool of water).

Leader takes each girl and turns her by the shoulders, saying: "Twist me and turn me and show me the elf. I looked in the water and saw..."

Brownie looks in the mirror and says: "Myself."

The leader pins on her pin.

When all the Brownies have received their pins, say the Promise.

You may want to sing a song appropriate for the occasion, such as "Brownie Smile Song" or "Where'er You Make a Promise."

NOTE: Girls should be familiar with the Brownie elf story found in the handbook.

Idea #2

Supplies: A candle for each member; three tall candles (To represent GS Promise); 10 candles (to represent GS Law); matches; membership pins (for investiture)

Leader: All around us is darkness. I light this candle to represent the flame of sisterhood that burns in the heart of every Girl Scout and it is no longer dark. Although this is a tiny flame and it lights only a small area, all of us can see it. Each one of us knows it as here and could find the way to it. Though tiny, it is a beacon to every one of us. This tiny light can grow, be multiplied and spread if someone would come to join it. (Two girls light their candles from the leader's candle.)

Girl Scout #1: Now the flame is brighter, lights a bigger area and we can see more than before. But this is only a beginning. For once there is light and people who are willing to share it, it will grow. As it is shared, it will become bigger and bigger until all who want it can have the light. (Girls light candles from each other until all are lighted.)

Girl Scout #2: See how fast the light can spread. Notice how well you can see now. This light makes it possible for us to see our friends, see their smiles and their actions. Other people can see our light.

Girl Scout #3: As this light brightens our group, so does our light as true Girl Scouts brighten our own lives and the lives of others. The smallest light held by the least of us is important to the whole world.

Girl Scout #4: Now I will light the three candles for the three parts of our promise with the same tiny light from which so much light has grown. Watch the candles take up the flame to shine on all

of us as we rededicate ourselves by saying the Girl Scout Promise. (all members repeat the Promise.)

Girl Scout Promise:

On my honor, I will try:

- 1) To Serve God, and my country,
- 2) To help people at all times,
- 3) And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

(Girls come forward, one at a time, to recite one of the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law and to light a candle which represents the part)

Girl Scout Law:

I will do my best:

- 1) To be Honest and Fair
- 2) Friendly and Helpful
- 3) Considerate and Caring
- 4) Courageous and Strong
- 5) Responsible for what I say and do
- 6) Respect myself and others
- 7) Respect authority
- 8) Use resources wisely
- 9) Make the world a better place
- 10) Be a sister to every Girl Scout

Leader: This pin tells everyone you are a Girl Scout (attaché pin to girl's clothing). Wear it proudly (give the Girl Scout handshake to the new member). Welcome to Brownie Troop # ____ (Everyone blows out candles).

Idea #3

Supplies: A candle for each girl in the troop; a troop candle; logs/candle holders for candles; pond and pond decorations; Brownie Girl Scout pin for each girl; mirror; matches; other decorations.

Leader: (Welcome parents and explain the purpose of the ceremony):

“Good evening everyone. My name is Ms. (Leader’s name) and I would like to welcome you to the Investiture and Rededication Ceremony for Brownie Girl Scout Troop # ----. This is Ms. (Asst. Leader’s name). She is the Assistant Leader for the troop and will be helping with the ceremony tonight. We are glad you could join us for this special occasion, it means a lot to your daughters. And Investiture is a ceremony to officially welcome a girl or adult into Girl Scouting for the first time. Girls or adults who have been Girl Scouts before will rededicate their commitment to Girl Scouting by renewing the Girl Scout Promise. I know the girls are excited so let’s begin.”

The leader(s) and assistant leader(s) take their places.

LEADER: (light the troop candle and say):

“This candle represents Brownie Troop # ----. Will the girls of Brownie Troop # ---- please come forward and stand behind Ms. (Assistant Leader’s name).”

(The leader should position herself near the candle table and the mirror in the magic pond.)

ASSISTANT LEADER: **“Let us enter the Magical Forest where we hope to find the magic pond.”**

The Assistant Leader leads the girls into a horseshoe formation around the magic pond (a mirror decorated to look like a pond – put a fish in it. It looks great!)

ASSISTANT LEADER: (knocking on an imaginary door): **“Knock, knock, knock.”**

LEADER: **“Who comes to the Brownie Woods?”**

BROWNIES (answer together): **“We do.”**

LEADER: **“What do you want?”**

BROWNIES (answer together): **“We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts.”**

LEADER (calling one girl up at a time): **“_____, please come forward. Have you completed your Brownie good deeds?”**

GIRL: **“Yes.”**

LEADER (gently turning girl in a circle): **“Twist me and turn me and show me the elf, I looked in the water and saw...”**

GIRL (glances into the pond (mirror) and says): **“Myself!”**

LEADER (handing the girl a candle): **“Please light your candle from the troop flame.”**

(Girl lights candle and places it in the log or candle holder. The leader should help girls if needed so they do not burn themselves or drop the candle.)

LEADER: **“_____, I would like to present you with your Brownie Girl Scout pin.”**

(Leader pins the girl and then shares a Girl Scout handshake.)

LEADER: **“Please return to the forest as a Brownie Girl Scout.”**

(The girl returns to stand with the other girls and the Assistant Leader.)

(Continue as above with each new girl in the trop. For returning girls, ask them if they are ready to be rededicated to Girl Scouting and follow the same procedure with them. (It is alright if returning girls have done the “twist me, turn me” before, they love to do it again. So do not leave them out.)

After all the girls, the leader will pin the Assistant Leader (adults wear the adult pin, no the Brownie pin) and she in turn, pins the Leader.

LEADER (to Assistant Leader):

“Ms. (Assistant Leader’s name), do you promise to do your best to inspire the girls of Brownie troop # ---- to discover a sense of self and values, connect with others and take action to make the world a better place?”

ASSISTANT LEADER: **“Yes, I do.”**

(Leader now pins Assistant Leader.)

ASSISTANT LEADER (to Leader):

“Ms. (Leader’s name), do you promise to do your best to inspire the girls of Brownie Girl Scout Troop # ---- to discover a sense of self and values, connect with others and take action to make the world a better place?”

LEADER: **“Yes, I do.”**

(The Assistant Leader now pins the Leader.)

LEADER: **“Brownies in the Magical Forest, please join me in the Girl Scout Promise.”**

(All join in the Girl Scout Promise.)

LEADER: **“Moms and Dads , I present Brownie Troop # ----.”**

After the applause inform the parents that the Brownies will now be serving refreshments.

Enjoy visiting. Your Investiture went great!



Traditional Candlelight Investiture/Rededication Ceremony

Before and/or after the investiture/rededication portion of the ceremony a troop may choose to have a flag ceremony, sing a song, etc. However, the investiture/rededication should be the main part of the ceremony.

Supplies:

- ◆ 14 candles (three for the Girl Scout Promise, 10 for the Girl Scout Law and one to light all other candles)

The Troop stands in horseshoe formation around a table with ceremonial candles. Open end of the horseshoe should be towards the audience.

The Adult Volunteer or one of the girls begins the ceremony by explaining the meaning of “investiture” and/or “rededication” and the symbolism of the tree candles for the Girl Scout Promise and ten candles for the Girl Scout Law.

The participating girls and/or adults begin to light the candles. This is show by the *. One candle is lit for each part of the Girl Scout Promise and the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law. The number of participants will determine how many candles each girl/adult lights. If you need more “parts,” consider having one girl speak and one girl light the candle.

1. The Girl Scout Promise: On my honor, I will try * (this is the candle used to light all others)
2. To serve God and my country*
3. To help people at all times *
4. And to live by the Girl Scout Law. *
5. The Girl Scout Law: I will do my best to (no candle lit)
6. Be honest and fair *
7. Be friendly and helpful *
8. Be considerate and caring *
9. Be courageous and strong, and *
10. Be responsible for what I say and do. And to *
11. Respect myself and others *
12. Respect authority *
13. Use resources wisely *
14. Make the world a better place *
15. Be a sister to every Girl Scout. *

Leader: “At this time the girls of Troop # _____ will rededicate themselves to the service of Girl Scouting.”

- ◆ All returning members are called forward. They repeat the Girl Scout Promise and are welcome back to the troop by an adult member with the Girl Scout Handshake. They then return to the horseshoe.

Leader: “Now our new members will be invested into Girl Scouting.”

- ◆ Leader, or one of the rededicated girls, calls each new girl and adult forward.
- ◆ Each new member then repeats the Girl Scout Promise and receives their Girl Scout Brownie Pin and Promise Circle.

Bridging to Juniors Ceremony

This ceremony is held at the end of the last year of the Girl Scout Brownie program as Brownies bridge to Girl Scout Juniors. A Girl Scout Brownie “flies up” to Junior Girl Scouting in the spring, and receives her Girl Scout Brownie Wings. If possible, have your fly-up ceremony with a Girl Scout Junior troop in your Service Area. Often all age groups of girl Scouts are involved, including parents.

Supplies:

- ◆ Brownie wings
- ◆ Bridging patch
- ◆ Membership stars with green disc
- ◆ Bridging certificates
- ◆ Age level pins
- ◆ Refreshments
- ◆ Brown construction paper (cut to represent stones)
- ◆ Write a GS Law on each one
- ◆ Girl Scout Junior troop and adult volunteers

Girl Scout Brownies sit on one side of the room in a Brownie Ring. The Girl Scout Juniors sit in a horseshoe (always make the open end toward the audience) on the other side of the room. Place your ‘stepping stones’ between the two groups and tape them down to the floor.

Everyone sings *Girl Scouts Together*.

Girl Scout Brownie Adult Volunteer:

Brownie Girl Scouts, you are just about
To become a Junior Girl Scout.
Next year, you will find
That Junior Girl Scouts are true and kind.
So now I give you Brownie Wings
So you may fly to bigger things.

She pins the wings on each Girl Scout Brownie. The Girl Scout Brownies then takes a few steps forward.

Girl Scout Junior Adult Volunteer: Hello there! Who are you dressed in brown with such cheerful smiles and not one frown?

Girl Scout Brownies: We are Girl Scout Brownies and we like to have fun.
Girl Scout Junior we’d like to become.

Girl Scout Junior Adult Volunteer: By what right do you ask?

Girl Scout Brownies: By the right of our wings. (Point to their wings).

Girl Scout Junior Adult Volunteer: We welcome you to Junior Girl Scouts. Please cross the bridge one at a time.

As each girl crosses, she is met by the Girl Scout Junior Adult Volunteer and a Girl Scout Junior. She is given her Girl Scout pin and led to the Junior horseshoe by the Girl Scout Junior.

Girl Scout Juniors:

Welcome to Junior Girl Scouts
You’re a Girl Scout Brownie nevermore.
We’ll have lots of fun and lots of games,
As we teach you Girl Scout lore.
WELCOME, BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS!

Ceremony Planner Form

Purpose of Ceremony:	Theme of Ceremony:		
When will it take place?	Where will it take place?		
Who will be invited?			
	Activities	Props	Who's Responsible
Before Ceremony:			
Opening:			
Main Part:			
Closing:			
Evaluation: What did the girls see? What did they hear? What did the girls like? What did they not like? What did they learn? What would they change for next time?			

Section 7: Songs, Crafts, Games, Snacks

Songs for Girl Scout Brownies

Brownie Smile Song

I've something in my pocket
It belongs across my face.
And I keep it very close at hand
In a most convenient place.
I'm sure you couldn'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!

Girl Scouts Together

Girl Scouts together, that is our song,
Winding the old trails rocky and long.
Learning our motto, living our creed.
Girl Scouts together in every good deed.

Girl Scouts together, happy are we.
Friendly to neighbors far o'er the sea.
Faithful to country, loyal to home.
Known as true Girl Scouts wherever we roam.

Whene'er You Make A Promise

(Tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a little Brownie, dressed in blue
I am a Girl Scout, you are too!
When I go to meetings, I sing and shout
I love being a Girl Scout Brownie!

We Are Brownies

(Tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

We are Brownies, we are Brownies,
In a ring, in a ring.
We are Girl Scout Brownies, we are Girl
Scout Brownies
Hear us sing, hear us sing.

Make New Friends

Make new friends and keep the old,
One is silver and the other gold.
A circle is round, it has no end,
That's how long I want to be your friend.

The Bear Song

(Repeat each line before singing the next line)

1. The other day I met a bear, a great big bear
a way up there.
2. He looked at me, I looked at him, he sized
up me, I sized up him.
3. He says to me "Why don't you run, I see
you ain't got any gun."
4. I say to him "That's a good idea, so come
feet, let's up and fleet.
5. Ahead of me I saw a tree, a great big tree,
oh glory be.
6. The lowest branch was 10 feet up. I'd have
to jump and trust to luck.
7. And so I jumped into the air but I missed
that branch away up there.
8. Now don't you fret and don't you frown I
got that branch on the way back down.
9. Now that's all there is, there ain't no more.
Unless I meet that bear once more.

I'm A Girl Scout

I'm a Girl Scout. I'm a Girl Scout.
Who are you? Who are you?
Can't you tell by looking?
Can't you tell by looking?
I'm one too. I'm one too.

Pretty Lady

We're going to the circus, we're going to the
fair,
To see the pretty lady, with flowers in her hair.
So shake it, shake it, shake it, shake it if you
can,
Wobble to the bottom, and wobble to the
top,
Turn around and turn around, and this is
where you stop.

Piece of Tin

I have this little piece of tin,
Nobody knows what shape it's in.
It's got four wheels and a running board,
It's got four doors and it's a Ford.
Honk, honk, rattle, rattle, rattle, crash,
bang, bang,
Honk, honk, rattle, rattle, rattle, crash,
bang, bang,
Honk, honk, rattle, rattle, rattle, crash,
bang, bang,
Honk, honk, honk, honk, honk, honk, Beep,
Beep!

Girl Scout Spirit

I've got that Girl Scout Spirit, up in my head,
Up in my head, up in my head.
I've got that Girl Scout Spirit, up in my head,
Up in my head to stay.
#2 Deep in my heart
#3 Down in my knees
#4 Down in my toes
#5 All over me

Taps

Night time: Day is done, gone the sun, from
the lakes, from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

Day time: Thanks and praise, for our days,
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars,
Neath the sky. As we go, this we know, God is
nigh.

Brownie Ring Chant (Round-About Round)

Round and round and round about,
Turn about and in and out.
Come into the Brownie Ring
Ready for 'most anything.

Round and round and round about,
Take the hand of a Brownie Scout.
Here we are in Brownie Ring,
Read for 'most anything!

Crafts for Girl Scout Brownies

Little Hands Greeting Cards

Supplies: card stock, pencils/crayons/markers, scissors, decoration extras

Instructions: Fold the piece of card stock in half. Trace the girl's hand on the paper with the little finger on the fold. Cut out around the hand, leaving the little finger as the fold. Decorate with crayons, etc. Card looks like two hands opening.



Paper Sculpture

Stars and Stripes Sculpture Supplies: Red, white, and glue paper; blue stick; scissors; stars shapes.

Shape Sculpture Supplies: Red, yellow and blue paper; glue stick; scissors; circle, triangle, and square shapes.

Instructions for Stars and Stripes Sculpture: Draw star shapes on paper and cut them out. Cut different size strips of red and white paper. Fold some strips into circles. Accordion fold others. Arrange stars and stripes on a piece of blue paper and glue into place.

Instructions for Shape Sculpture: Draw circle, triangle and square shapes on red, yellow and blue paper and cut them out. Cut different size strips of red, yellow and blue paper. Fold some strips into circles, some into squares, and others into triangles. Cut out large shapes for a base. Arrange shapes and strips on your base and glue into place.

Tie Dye Socks

Supplies: Plastic bowl or pan, Nontoxic fabric dye, White socks, Rubber bands, Pennies, Rubber gloves, Plastic spoon, Newspaper

Time needed: Under 1 Hour

Instructions: Begin by covering the work area with newspaper. In a plastic bowl or pan, dissolve a packet of nontoxic fabric dye in hot water, according to the package directions. Add more hot water until there is enough to cover a couple of pairs of socks. Dampen the white socks with clear warm water, then bundle them up in rubber bands. To make stripes, wrap three or four rubber bands around the foot and top of the sock. To make circles (great for the heels), pinch a section of the sock and tie, about an inch down, with a rubber band. For a pattern of tiny rings, slip pennies or buttons into the socks and wrap bands around them. Wearing rubber gloves submerge the bound socks in the warm dye and stir occasionally with a plastic spoon. After 20 minutes or so (the color will lighten after the fabric is rinsed and dried), run them under cool water, squeezing until the water runs clear. Remove the bands (and any pennies), smooth out the socks, and rest them flat on newspaper. Let them dry overnight.

Games for Girl Scout Brownies

Ball Toss Name Game

Stand the girls in a circle. Leader throws one the ball, they say their name, all daisy's repeat the name, then daisy passes the ball to someone else.

Umbrella

Number of kids: Enough to maneuver the parachute or sheet. A few adults will help.

How the game is played: Have the children hold the edges of the blanket. Say, "I hear thunder! I think it's going to rain!" while helping them shake the parachute or sheet. Lift the parachute or sheet high and let it fall, while calling the kids, one at a time, to run under the parachute or sheet. ("Sarah! It's raining! Run under the umbrella!") When everyone is under, play again. This time, have everyone get under the umbrella at once.

Tips for adults: Some children just don't like having things put over their heads or faces, so watch to make sure that all kids are feeling safe and happy. If someone doesn't want to run under the parachute, you can say, "Josh likes the rain. He's going to help hold our umbrella!"

Islands

Supplies: newspaper

Spread out several sheets of newspaper scattered on the floor of the playing area. These are the Islands. Players are to roam around the playing area until the leader yell "shark". Then the players must get on an Island, their feet can't touch the floor. At another signal they roam the playing area again and the leader takes away one of the Islands. Play continues until only one Island is left. It's great fun to see lots of Sparks crammed onto one sheet of paper. Be sure to tell them that co-operation is the key to this game.

Weather Relay

Have one bag for each team. The bag contains mittens, hat, scarf, coat – or whatever you want to put in the bags. The 1st person has to put on the clothes, run to the other end, and take off the clothes. Then the 2nd person repeats the process. And so on until everyone on each team has done it. The first team that has all the members finish the process wins.

Bo-Bo

In a circle, each girl has their hands palm up, right hand on top of neighbors, as you sing clap hand around circle until you get to counting. Avoid being hit on #8. If hit, go into the center and start a 2nd circle. If missed, person to your right goes into the circle. Sing the song:

BoBo ski wattlein totlin
Ay, Ay, - Boom, Boom
Boom, boom, boom.
Itty, bity, wattlein totlin
Bo, Bo, ski wattlein totlin
Bo, Bo, ski wattlein totlin
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Additional Games

Brownie Mix

Call out ways Girl Scout Brownies can get together. The girls move around and mix with each other. Conclude with some idea that brings the whole group together, i.e. "Everyone who can say the Girl Scout Promise."

Get together with everyone who:

- ◆ Has blue eyes
- ◆ Has the same color of socks
- ◆ Wears glasses
- ◆ Likes to color
- ◆ Has a birthday this month
- ◆ Likes chocolate milk

Brownie to Brownie

Each Girl Scout Brownie should choose a partner and introduce themselves. The leader yells out "elbow to knee" or whichever appropriate two body parts they choose. This would mean that one Girl Scout Brownie would put their elbow on their partner's knee. Then the leader may say "thumb to head." While still holding "elbow to knee" one Girl Scout Brownie must place their thumb to the other's head. The leader continues to call out various instructions.

Whenever the leader wishes, they may say "Brownie to Brownie." This means that everyone finds a new partner and introduces themselves. Whoever is left without a partner is the new speaker and can begin yelling out new directions. If needed there may be one group of three. Human Knot
Form a circle, shoulder to shoulder, and place all hands in the center of the circle. Everyone put their right hand in the circle and grab the hand of another person. You may not hold the hand of the person next to you. Everyone may then put their left hand in the circle and grab the hand of another. Again do not grab the hand of your neighbor, nor the hand of the person that you are already holding hands with. Once everyone has another person's hand, everyone has to find a way to untangle themselves WITHOUT letting go each other's hands.

Catch the Dragon's Tail

Equipment: Bandana

Line up two lines of 5-10 people in each line, one behind the other. Players put their hands on the waist of the person in front of them. The last person in line tucks the bandana in her back pocket. On signal, the head of the dragon begins chasing the tail. When the head manages to catch the tail, the head person takes the bandana and becomes the new tail.

Find the Leader

Players: At least 4 (best with 6 or more)

The Object: To guess who's leading the group

One player, the guesser, goes around the corner of the house while the remaining players sit in a circle and select a leader (quietly!). The leader then initiates a series of motions – hand movements, claps, foot stomps and so on – which the other players copy. The guesser is then called back to watch the group, and stands in the center of the circle. The leader must change the movements every five to twenty seconds. The followers try not to give away the leader with their eyes. The guesser gets three tries to identify the right person.

Snacks for Girl Scout Brownies

ARMPIT FUDGE

Ingredients (single server version):

- 2 oz. powdered sugar (1/2 cup)
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 2 tsp. cream cheese
- Dash of vanilla
- 2 tsp. cocoa
- Sandwich-size plastic zip bag



Instructions: Place all ingredients in a sandwich-size plastic zipped bag. Squeeze out all the air. Squish and smooch (under the arm!) the bag until all the ingredients are well mixed with a creamy consistency. Add any favorite flavors or other stuff (raisings, M&M's, peanut butter, chopped nuts, etc.). Take out a spoon and enjoy.

MAGIC LEMON PUDDING

Ingredients:

- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 cup graham crackers or ginger snaps (broken)

Instructions:

1. Mix milk with lemon juice.
2. Add graham crackers or ginger snaps.
3. The pudding will congeal without cooking.



UNCOOKED BROWNIES

Ingredients:

- 4 squares semisweet chocolates
- 1 small can of condensed milk
- 1 lb. box of vanilla wafers
- Wax paper

Instructions:

1. Melt the chocolate. Add milk.
2. Heat and stir until smooth.
3. Crumble vanilla wafers.
4. Add to chocolate/milk mixture.
5. Mix well.
6. Drop on wax paper. Let harden.



Section 8: Appendix

Commonly Asked Questions

1. When should I pass out patches?

You can pass out the badges, patches or earned awards any time. Some leaders like to give them out right after the meeting where the girls have earned them. Some leaders wait until the end of the year and give all the recognitions earned at a ceremony. But, girls may have trouble remembering when and how they earned something eight months before, so several ceremonies during the year could be appropriate. Ask the girls what they prefer and see if you can come up with a system that works for everyone.

2. We are a new troop and have no money.

When starting a new troop you will not have any money, but do not be discouraged. It is common for a leader to charge dues or an activity fee. This is something that can be discussed at the first parent meeting.

Dues	Activity Fee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collecting a set amount at each meeting (girls bring \$2 to each meeting) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asking the parents to pay a set amount at the beginning of the year (15 meetings x \$2.00 per meeting = \$30 paid at one time)
Pros	Pros
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls learn responsibility by bringing money to each meeting Easiest on the parents – pay a little at a time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy for leaders to track Easy for parents to pay all at once Leaders can plan activities for the year by knowing how much money they have
Cons	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a lot of money to work with since it is coming in a little at a time Leader has to keep track of it since the girls often forget Some families may find even that small amount a hardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be a lot of money upfront for some parents What if a girl drops out of the troop – do you offer a refund?

3. Does every troop have to open a bank account?

Every troop must set up a bank account. See *Volunteer Essentials* for specifics on opening the troop bank account.

Here are a few tips to remember about the bank account:

- Every troop account must have **two non-related** troop representatives as well as **two council signers**, Pam Kovacevich, CEO, and Kim Streib, CFO.
- Depending on the bank’s policy, you may need some money to start a bank account. At the first parents’ meeting ask the parents for dues or the activity fee so you have some money to open an account.

- If you need to reimburse yourself, have the other signer on the account sign the check. Never write a check to yourself!
- Never use an ATM to retrieve money.
- Report any changes to your bank account immediately! That includes but is not limited to account numbers or signers changing.

4. Can the troop do a money earning project?

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois offers two product sale activities every year.

- Girl Scout Fall Product Activity
- Girl Scout Cookie Activity sale

5. What should the money be spent on?

- Money is to be spent on the troop. Ask the girls what they would like to do (community service projects, crafts, a council sponsored activity, camping, etc.).
- Money can also be spent on general supplies – crayons, scissors, postage stamps, gas for field trips, etc.
- Most troops will pay for the badges that are earned during troop meetings. Additional badges earned by individuals at home can be paid by the parents.
- The troop can also pay for leader trainings such as First Aid/CPR certification.
- **Remember, the money is not an individual girl's, but it is the troop's money.**

6. We had a great cookie sale! What should we do with the money earned?

The troop account should be spent during the membership year.

- Money can be used for an end of the year trip.
- Pay for next year's membership registration.
- Purchase uniforms, books, badges, program fees, etc.

7. Worried about money for the next year?

Troops can participate in the Fall Product Activity to boost their bank account.

8. Should my troop do a community service project?

Yes! Community service is a large part of Girl Scouting. Even Girl Scout Brownies can do service projects. Projects should be girl-led to help provide support to organizations the girls feel passionate about.

9. A field trip sounds like fun! Tell me more.

Most troops find an end of the year field trip a good way to conclude the year and spend troop funds. Remember, trips are like all other projects and must be grade level appropriate.

- Girl Scout Brownies enjoy swimming and nature hikes.
- Girl Scouts of Central Illinois also has many programs that are appropriate for Brownies. Check the website for upcoming activities.

With any trip be sure to communicate plans with your Membership Specialist. They are a great resource and will coach you through the planning. Do not forget, if you will be traveling outside of the GSCI jurisdiction, participating in high risk activities, or having an overnight, a **Trip Approval Form** is required.

For more information check out the **Field Trips and Overnights Resource Guide** and *Volunteer Essentials*.

10. Should I make a budget for the troop?

No, a budget is not necessary, but planning ahead and keeping records of finances is important. Be sure to keep all receipts! Although you do not need to turn them in, it is important to know what you are spending money on. Do not forget to share troop finances with the parents. At the end of the year, you are required to report troop finances to the council.

11. Should I get the girls' families involved in the troop?

Absolutely! It is important for leaders to have support from the parents. We encourage new leaders to get the parents involved early.

Below are a few ways to get parents involved and ease the load on you, the leader.

- Start the year with a parent meeting and let the parents know how to get involved.
- Encourage parents to stay at the meetings. You can always use extra hands.
- Start a troop newsletter. It does not have to be fancy, just a reminder about upcoming meetings and events.
- Ask the parents what skills or hobbies they have. Have the parents plan a meeting where they teach the girls that skill.
- Have family events such as a bowling party or end of the year bridging ceremony.
- If a parent cannot attend a meeting, ask that they plan an overnight, chaperone a trip, or organize the cookie activity for the troop.

12. How many adults do I have to have at a meeting?

Adult help is required. Refer to the table on page 16 for the girl to adult ratios.

13. Does my troop need to complete all three Leadership Journeys in the 2 years they are Girl Scout Brownies?

No. You can do as much or as little as the girls decide what they would like to do.

14. If I ask my parents to purchase just one book, what should it be?

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. It includes information regarding petals, special awards, scrapbook, and so much more.

15. I think I am ready! What is my first step in getting the troop started?

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois encourages you to host a meeting for parents to start the troop. Call the girls or send out flyers through your school or organization to all interested girls to let them know about the parent meeting. Your Membership Specialist can help you with this process. You can host the parent meeting wherever you feel comfortable (a library, a church, or a school). Refer to **Section 4** in this resource for guidelines of a parent meeting.

16. Who do I call for additional questions?

Your Membership Specialist is your link to the council! GSCI is comprised of 35 Service Areas. Each Service Area has a Membership specialist who oversees and manages the leaders in that area.

Below is a brief overview of how Membership Specialist will assist you.

- Process any paperwork or forms.
- Train and assist in all product sales.
- Host fun and informational meetings for volunteers.
- Answer any questions you have about Girl Scouts.

Organizational Tips

Girl Scout Leader's must deal with many things: paperwork, supplies, parents, training, meetings, transportation, and most importantly – the girls. Here are a few Girl Scout Troop Organizational Tips to help make this job a little easier.

Girl Scout Troop Binder with Dividers

1. Troop Roster
 - Phone list and email addresses
2. Meeting Notes
 - Calendar
 - Results of girl/adult planning sessions
3. Individual Records
 - Girl Registration forms
 - Girl Insignia Record form (one per girl)
 - General Health form – allergy's (one per girl and adult)
 - Adult Registration forms
4. Information
 - Accident Report form
 - Trip Approval form
 - Program Guide
 - Program Registration forms
 - Safety Activity Checkpoints
5. Financial Records
 - Group Dues and Attendance Record form
 - Detailed Cash Record form
 - Financial Aid form
 - Annual Finance form
 - Envelope for receipts
6. Parent/Guardian Information
 - Parent Newsletters
 - Permission forms
 - Who signed up for what

Girl Scout Troop File Box

- ◆ One file folder for each girl
Keep an emergency information card with contact information for the parents and emergency contact person inside each folder.
- ◆ File folder for the leaders/volunteers
Girls and parents/guardians can put signed permission forms, notes, etc. in the leaders' folder. It is also a good idea to have a folder for small envelopes so parents can leave money and checks. (They seal the envelope and write their daughter's name on the front).

Survival Kit for Leaders

Despite all your hard work, some plans may go awry at the very last minute. Success as a Girl Scout volunteer requires any number of intangibles – for example, a sense of humor, patience, and loads of caring. But there are some tangible items that will make your experience more relaxed and enjoyable. Put the following in a tote, backpack, or a tote bag and take it to every Girl Scout meeting, outing or event. If the girls finish their activities early, they can start something new rather than just sitting around. Also, if an activity falls through at the last minute, you will be able to create a new one using the items in your kit.

- ◆ Basic first aid kit (see Safety Activity Checkpoints)
- ◆ Pencils, crayons, markers, colored pencils
- ◆ Large tablet, construction paper, ruled paper, index cards, post-it pads
- ◆ String, ribbon, cardboard, postcards, used greeting cards, and other collage materials
- ◆ Grade-appropriate books (Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, Journey books with corresponding adult guide, magazines, flashcards)
- ◆ Balls and jump ropes
- ◆ Board games – jacks, cards, checkers
- ◆ Child-sized scissors, glue, glue sticks, tape
- ◆ Coloring pages

If you keep this kit handy during meetings, girls who complete activities early can start something new rather than just sitting around. Also if an activity falls through at the last minute, you will be able to create a new one using the materials in your kit.

Top Five Tips for Girl Scout Leaders

1. Use your Safety Activity Checkpoints and consult the guidelines for your upcoming meeting or outing.
2. Encourage the girls to partner with you. Girls should be growing in their decision-making and planning skills. The more invested they become in their activities, the happier they and you will be.
3. Ask for help and advice from other leaders, parents, and council staff and take advantage of the learning opportunities.
4. Keep in mind the Girl Scout Promise and Law and that the three Keys of Leadership are the foundation of all Girl Scout activities.
5. Have FUN! And do your best to ensure that the girls are having fun, too!

Troop Planning Calendar

PLAN AHEAD: The following is a monthly calendar that may be helpful as you work with the girls to plan activities. Be sure to check your council and service area calendars for upcoming events and activities

<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Register for Girl Scouts Parent/Guardian Meeting</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER</p> <p>Juliette Low's Birthday (31st) Fall Product Sale Investiture</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER</p> <p>Service Project Thanksgiving</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER</p> <p>Holiday celebration Catch a snowflake</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY</p> <p>Cookie Sale Winter outing</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">FEBRUARY</p> <p>Thinking Day Activity with sister troop (22nd) Games from other countries</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">MARCH</p> <p>Celebrate Girl Scouts' Birthday Girl Scout Week</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">APRIL</p> <p>Prepare for bridging Spring holiday</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">MAY</p> <p>Court of Awards Bridging Ceremony for Third Graders</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE</p> <p>School's out Day Camp</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">JULY</p> <p>Summer program opportunities, trips, hikes, sports, cookouts</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST</p> <p>Get ready for another Girl Scout year!</p> 

Girl Scout Troop _____

Dues and Attendance Record

Names												
	Attend	Dues	Attend	Dues	Attend	Dues	Attend	Dues	Attend	Dues	Attend	Dues

Sample "Snack Box" Note



SNACK TIME!



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your daughter is scheduled to supply the snack and drink for the troop meeting on _____ . Please include disposable cups and napkins with the snack. Let your daughter decide what she would like to serve for snack. There are _____ girls and _____ adults in the troop.

- Because of identified food allergies, please do not send:

- Helpful Hints: When sending the drink, please do not send water in the snack box. Pre-sweetened Kool-Aid works great, however, if you would like to send the unsweetened kind, please remember to include the sugar. We can mix the Kool-Aid at the meeting. If you are not a Kool-Aid fan, try those little box drinks or whatever else your daughter and you decide on. I am sure we will enjoy whatever you choose. Please be sure to include enough snacks for everyone. The girls really enjoy serving the leaders and we get hungry too. If at all possible, please try to line the snack box with foil so that we can keep it clean and use it all year long.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at:

(____) _____

THANKS!

Ms. _____ and the girls.

Sample Parent Letter

Girl Scouts – Troop 1319

Parent Handout

1-24-2012

Meeting Details – What We Did Tonight

- Recited the Girl Scout Promise.
- Read a story and played a game.
- Introduced Kaper Chart - Girls will have jobs to do throughout our meetings.
- Discussed our Girl Scout Rules.
- Discussed “words that hurt” and “nice words”. Activity:
 - Girls drew a picture of themselves and crumpled the picture into a ball.
 - Smoothed out the picture and noticed all the wrinkles.
 - Leaders explained that when you say something mean to someone, it will always leave a mark.
- Discussed Chore Chart: Girls have received a chore chart to complete chores at home over the next two weeks. We have provided stickers. If the girls bring back their completed chore chart (with at least 14 stickers) on February 7th, they will receive a small prize.
- Scrapbooking
- Friendship Squeeze

Badges Earned

- ALL GIRLS PRESENT- Fair Play badge
- Brynn/Lexi/Emma – Snacks legacy badge

Supplies Needed (by 2/7)

- Empty 2 liter bottle
- Recycled item (anything from home that can be used for a craft - paper towel roll, water bottles, boxes, etc.)
- Valentines: If you choose please bring prepared Valentine’s for each girl (27).

Upcoming Events

- Swimming Party – January 28th 3-5 p.m. at Pheasant Lanes
 - Parent Helpers - Elaine, Courtney, Suzie and Noel
- Camp Peairs in Hudson – March (Date to be determined)
- Children’s Discovery Museum Sleep Over – April 28th

Reminders

- Cookie order forms are due to Amy D by February 4th.
- Please turn in completed Chore Chart on February 7th.

Girl Scout Brownie Troop Meeting Planning Form

TIME	ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE
5 – 10 min.	Pre-Meeting		
5 min.	Opening		
10 min.	Business Topic:_____		
20 min.	Exploration Topic:_____		
10 min.	Clean-up		
5 min.	Closing		

Resources

Troop Management:

www.ScoutMom.com
<http://www.kscgroup.com>
<http://www.signupgenius.com/>

Ceremonies:

www.scoutingweb.com

Crafts:

www.makingfriends.com
www.ssw.com/arts-and-crafts-kits/?brws_pos=TOPHM
www.colortime.com/
<http://coloringbookfun.com/girlscouts/>

SWAPS:

http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/facts/swaps/
http://www.makingfriends.com/scouts/swap_scouts.htm
<http://swaps-a-lot.ecrater.com/>

Songs:

<http://www.scoutsongs.com/categories/girl-scout-songs.html>
<http://gsleaders.org/files/scoutsong.htm>
<http://gsmusic.com/>

Games:

<http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/girls-10-12/games/>

Service Projects:

<http://www.generationon.org/>

Outings:

www.fieldtripfactory.com/
www.Macaronikid.com

Miscellaneous:

http://kaboom.org/build_playground/more_resources/volunteer_local_project/girl_scouts_participant_patch_program
http://www.cabotcheese.coop/pages/community_and_you/girl_scouts.php
<http://www.uwhealth.org/go-red/go-red-girl-scouts-patch-program/12280>
<http://www.juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org/>
http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/facts/glossary/

Girl Scout Brownie Award Tracking Sheet

Name _____ Troop # _____

Resource	Award	Date Completed	Date Received	
Journeys	It's Your World – Change it!			
	🌱 Discover Key			
	🌱 Connect Key			
	🌱 Take Action Key			
	🌱 Brownie Quest Award			
	It's Your Planet – Love it!			
	🌱 LOVE Water			
	🌱 SAVE Water			
	🌱 SHARE Water			
	🌱 WOW!			
	It's Your Story – Tell it!			
	🌱 Hear a Story Award			
	🌱 Change a Story Award			
	🌱 Tell a Story Award			
	🌱 Better World for Girls! Award			
	Brownie Journey Summit			
	Skill Builders	🌱 Computer Expert		
		🌱 My Best Self		
		🌱 Dancer		
🌱 Home Scientist				
🌱 My Family Story				
🌱 Potter				
🌱 Household Elf				
🌱 Senses				
🌱 Hiker				
🌱 My Great Day				
🌱 Letterboxer				

Resource	Award	Date Completed	Date Received	
Skill Builders (cont.)	🌱 Pets			
	🌱 Making Games			
	🌱 Inventor			
	🌱 Making Friends			
Handbook Awards	Financial Literacy			
	🌱 Money Manager			
	🌱 Philanthropist			
	Cookie Business			
	🌱 Meet My Customers			
	🌱 Give Back			
	My Promise, My Faith			
	🌱 Year 1			
	🌱 Year 2			
	Safety Award			
	Brownie Wings			
	Bridge to Girl Scout Junior			
	Additional Awards	Global Action		
		🌱 Year 1		
🌱 Year 2				
World Thinking Day				
🌱 Year 1				
🌱 Year 2				
Cookie Activity Pin				
🌱 Year 1				
🌱 Year 2				
International Friendship Pin				
🌱 Year 1				
🌱 Year 2				
For extraordinary heroism				
🌱 Medal of Honor				
🌱 Bronze Cross				

