Working With Girl Scout Brownies
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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.
Section 1: Working With Girl Scout Brownies

Who Are Girl Scout Brownies?

Understanding the developmental characteristics of Girl Scout Brownies will help you in your role as their leaders. You will be able to appreciate why girls do what they do. Please note: These are broad, general characteristics. Each girl will grow at her own pace.

| EMOTIONAL | Girl Scout Brownies can be inconsistent in behavior and mood. They need a lot of praise and encouragement, and may react negatively to direction. They are very interested in the difference between good and bad, and do not like to try new things alone. Girl Scout Brownies like to work in groups, and like to help others. They are concerned about being accepted by others, and often have a vivid imagination. |
| SOCIAL | Girl Scout Brownies enjoy playing in groups and may begin to show independence from family. Girls of this age want to have many friends, but may have a — best friend. If you will begin to see your Girl Scout Brownies begin calling friends on the phone, and notice that they will begin to see both sides of an issue. |
| PHYSICAL | Girl Scout Brownies are very active, and are eager to learn and become independent. They can work or play in one place without fidgeting, and are able to do activities involving fine motor skills. Girl Scout Brownies have good hand-eye coordination. Girl Scout Brownies may begin to show the signs of puberty (and may be quite self-conscious about it). |
| INTELLECTUAL | Girl Scout Brownies are beginning to develop verbal skills and writing skills. Many are beginning to read at a proficient level, and are interested in make-believe and fantasy stories. Their attention span is no more than 30 minutes for an activity, and generally, they will need some action within the activity. |

What Brownies Do:

Brownie Girl Scouts work with their Girl Scout sisters to discover more about themselves, connect with other Brownie Girl Scouts, family, and community members and take action to make the world a better place. Brownie sing songs, do crafts, play games and explore new places and ideas throughout their meetings. Friendship, fun, and activities start at the Girl Scout Brownie meeting and move out to the community when they participate in camp, events, and community service.

As a Brownie, You Might…

Visiting a zoo to feed—and learn how a veterinarian cares for—baby animals
Marching in a community parade
Working on Girl Scout Brownie Journey Awards and Badges: decorating a T-shirt, learning a magic trick, exploring life on the prairie
Planning an overnight to celebrate their birthdays
Deciding how many cookies to sell to earn money for trips
Camping and making s'mores over a campfire
Learning to swim at summer camp
Girl Scout Leadership Experience with Second and Third Graders

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. As a Girl Scout Brownie leader, you need to connect what you do and how you do things with the girls, to these program processes. Let’s take a closer look:

**Girl Led – By the Girls, For the Girls:**
It’s important that Girl Scout Brownies recognize that they can grow up to be anything they want and that being female does not mean you are not capable. By allowing the girls to make decisions and lead their own experience, this revelation will begin to occur. As a Girl Scout Brownie adult volunteer, you will use troop government (The Brownie Ring) and girl/adult planning as a way to have the girls take on leadership roles.

**Learning by Doing – Experimental Learning:**
This happens when a person engages in an activity, looks back on the activity critically, identifies useful insight from the evaluation and puts the results to work through a change of behavior in the future. As a Girl Scout Brownie adult volunteer, you will take time to ask girls questions about their experiences. Evaluating through open-ended questions helps the girls make meaning from their experience. Take time to ask questions in the beginning, middle, and end of an experience. You will be amazed at what you will learn, what the girls will learn, and how they will apply this learning in their Girl Scout troop and to their life outside of Girl Scouting.

**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 in 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
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daisy</td>
<td>Freely express their feelings, opinion &amp; choices, or report that they could even if they don’t act on it.</td>
<td>Choose a song for the group to sing.</td>
<td>Identify some activities and/or decisions that girls can take the lead on for each session</td>
<td>Make a list of activities choices for the next meeting &amp; have girls vote by show of hands.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownie</td>
<td>Express what activities they want to do, how they would like to do them and act on them.</td>
<td>Decide on a skill they would like to learn and come up with some ideas on how, who, and where they can learn it.</td>
<td>Provide options for girls to choose from only if they cannot think of options themselves.</td>
<td>Assist girls in designing a project or establishing a procedure for caring for materials, cleaning up, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Strategize about how to carry out an activity or action project, determining what their project goal is &amp; what resources they need to complete it.</td>
<td>Devise their own questions, pose own problems and think about how to answer/solve them.</td>
<td>Model and provide strategies for solving problems &amp; making decisions.</td>
<td>Pose open-ended and “W” questions (e.g., “Why did you choose this strategy over that one?”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cadette</td>
<td>Initiate discussions and activities, and take responsibility for organizing and implementing them and cleaning them up with little input from adults.</td>
<td>Give reports on their activities giving clear reasons for what they did, plan to do and on their thought process.</td>
<td>Observe girl planning and give input when asked.</td>
<td>Use statements like, “I trust your opinion...” or “you’re good at X... I think you’ll do well at that.”</td>
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<td>Senior</td>
<td>Articulate the reasons behind their decisions and reflect on their implications.</td>
<td>Make connections (e.g., write letters or make calls) with service-based organizations.</td>
<td>Encourage girls to volunteer for activities and responsibilities without being asked.</td>
<td>Encourage girls to participate in project related to community outreach and service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador</td>
<td>Girls participate in activities that challenge their assumptions in positive ways.</td>
<td>Travel and speak on behalf of their troop of Girl Scouts.</td>
<td>Model self-control, independence, a sense of humor, and a positive confident attitude.</td>
<td>Pose questions and ask girls to think critically about issues.</td>
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**Running a Safe Girl Scout Meeting**

Listed below are the essential building blocks for running a safe Girl Scout meeting. For more details on safety, reference the “Safety in Girl Scouting” section of Volunteer Essentials.

**Adult-to-girl ratios:** Adult-to-girl ratios in Girl Scouting show the minimum number of Council approved adults needed to supervise a specific number of girls. 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. The chart below is helpful to understand the safety ratios involved for both troop meetings and outings for all Girl Scout grade levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How many adults do you need?</th>
<th>TROOP/GROUP MEETINGS</th>
<th>EVENTS / TRAVEL / CAMPING</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Two unrelated adults (at least one of whom is female) are needed for up to this number of girls:</td>
<td>One additional adult is needed for each additional number of this many girls:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daisies (K-1st grade)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownies (2nd-3rd grade)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Juniors (4th-5th grade)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cadettes (6th-8th grade)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors (9th-10th grade)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassadors (11th-12th grade)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Follow the Girl Scout safety guidelines and safety activity checkpoints: Safety instructions are detailed in the Girl Scout safety guidelines and the safety activity checkpoints. Whether you’re going swimming or hiking, or headed to a theme park, please read and follow the safety activity checkpoints for your specific activity. Share them with other volunteers, parents, and girls before engaging in your activities.

**First aid:** Make sure a general first aid kit is available at your meeting place and accompanies girls on any activity (including transportation to and from the activity). Be aware that you may need to provide this kit if a fully stocked one is not available at your meeting site.

**Healthy history forms:** Every girl and adult in your troop should also complete a health history form provided by GSSSC. A medical emergency can happen at any time, so always be prepared. Carry the emergency procedures information with the health histories for quick access to emergency information. This information can be found in your Volunteer Essentials notebook.

**First-aider:** A first-aider is what Girl Scouts call an adult volunteer who has taken Girl Scout-approved first aid and CPR training which includes specific instructions for both adult and child CPR. Activities may take place in a variety of locations, which is why first-aid requirements are based on the remoteness of the activity location, as noted in the Safety Activity Checkpoints for that activity.
Section 2: Girl Scout Brownie Program

Troop Government

THE BROWNIE RING/CIRCLE

The Brownie Ring is the form of “troop government” for Brownies. When it is time for the Brownie Ring, the adult volunteer takes the hand of one girl and starts saying the following rhyme:

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

When the girls see and hear this, they join in saying the rhyme with you and grab the hand of the last person in line. The adult volunteer may choose to simply walk the perimeter of the circle that will become the Brownie Ring, or might make a game of it and have the line wind around all around the meeting room before ending up in a circle.

When the girls are assembled into the circle, or Brownie Ring, they are ready for announcements, troop discussions, decision-making, or any other business the troop has at hand. Generally, the business portion of the meeting should be kept pretty short. Conventional wisdom is that children have about one minute of attention span per one year of age. That means that for Brownies you have about 6-8 minutes to finish this “sitting still” time.

By now, you’re probably getting a pretty good idea that the role of a Girl Scout adult volunteer goes beyond just carrying out activities. However, it is also very rewarding. The relationship you’ll have with your girls is a unique one: you’ll be a mentor, a role model, a coach, a friend, and believe it or not, a partner. The relationship you’ll have with the girls in your troop will be profoundly important to them, and will be different for them than their relationship with any other adult in their lives—you aren’t their parent, teacher, or other “authority” figure. In a word, your relationship with the girls in your troop will be special for you and the girls!

Think: What are some responsibilities of a Brownie Girl Scout adult volunteer? (Circle all that apply)
A. Be fair and consistent
B. Be a positive role model
C. Include all girls equally
D. Build leadership skills
E. Protect girls’ privacy (don’t discuss a girl with others— including your daughter or other adults)
F. Consider each girl’s needs and abilities
G. Keep girls safe
H. Communicate with girls and families
**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.

Inside The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting binder, you will discover three tabs: Handbook, Awards, and My Girl Scouts. The Handbook section consists of the Girl Scout Promise and Law, the Brownie Story, Journey Map, Girl Scout history and traditions, Girl Scout Brownie uniform and special awards, and the requirements to Bridge to Girl Scout Juniors. Under the Awards section you will discover the Award Log, which lists all of the awards that can be earned by a Girl Scout Brownie. Also included are all of the requirement booklets for the Legacy Badges and Financial Literacy Badges. My Girl Scouts section has activity pages, paper dolls and stickers that can be used to track their awards, 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 adult guide includes sample meetings sessions, activity ideas, and tips for successfully providing a strong leadership experience for girls.

**It’s Your World – Change It! Brownie Quest** - What are the most important keys for a Girl Scout to own? This quest, which has second- and third-graders traveling along two colorful trails—one they can enjoy on their own and one they explore with their Girl Scout group—answers that question in a very special way. Along the Quest, Girl Scout Brownies will meet three new friends and a bright and shining elf—in a brand-new Brownie story meant to inspire their own Take Action Projects.

**It’s Your Planet – Love It! WOW! Wonders of Water** - The Brownie friends and Brownie ELF enjoy some wonder-filled adventures as they invite the real-life Brownies to explore the Wonders of Water. As they dive in, the Brownies realize they can create another big WOW as they try out new ways of working as a team. Brownies learn about the water cycle through a “Green Tea for the Blue Planet,” and enjoy making their own rainbows as they explore the precious resource of water. Brownies pledge to LOVE water by protecting it, then team up to advocate for other people to SAVE water, too. As they SHARE what they have learned, they find they can inspire even more people to protect Earth’s water.

**It’s Your Story – Tell It A World of Girls** - 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 or stories in a way that gets them looking for clues to help make the world a better place.
What Brownies Do

Choose a Journey and earn the awards

- Brownie Quest
- WOW! Wonders of Water
- A World of Girls

Want to earn more Badges? Add the Badge sets

- Brownie Quest
  - Computer Expert
  - My Best Self
  - Dancer
  - Home Scientist
  - My Family Story
  - WOW! Wonders of Water
  - Poll or
  - Heals like a Pro
  - My Great Gray
  - Brownie
  -lliber
  - A World of Girls
  - Letter Decoder
  - Investigate

Use them all with The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting

- Brownie Handbook
- Brownie Planner
- Brownie Girl Scout Way
- Financial Literacy
- Cookie Business
- Money Manager
- Make the Candy Work
- Give Back
- Brownie
-画
- Brownie Girl Scout Way
- Paint
- Financial Literacy
- Cookie Business
- Money Manager
- Make the Candy Work
- Give Back

* Elements include trips, outdoor adventures, new skills, and more fun ideas not thought of before.
Girl Scout badges, patches, awards, and other insignia should be presented, worn, or displayed only after Girl Scouts have completed the requirements outlined in the appropriate program materials.

The GSUSA National Board updated the Girl Scout uniform policy recently to reflect the changing needs of our members and transformation of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

Girl Scouts at each level have one required element (Tunic, Sash or Vest) for the display of official pins and awards which will be required when girls participate in ceremonies or officially represent the Girl Scout Movement.

For girls ages 5 to 14, the unifying look includes wearing a choice of a tunic, vest, sash for displaying official pins and awards, combined with their own solid white shirts and khaki pants or skirts. Girl Scouts in high school can also wear a scarf that unites their look with the sisterhood of Girl Scouts around the world. For adult members the unifying look of the uniform is a Girl Scout official scarf or tie for men, worn with the official membership pins, combined with their own navy blue business attire. Girl Scouts at the Daisy and Brownie levels will continue to have a full uniform ensemble available.
Girl Scout Brownie Insignia and Earned Recognitions

Girl Scout Brownie Membership Pin
This pin is only worn by Girl Scout Brownies and is presented during the Girl Scout Investiture Ceremony or at the Bridge to Brownies Ceremony. It is worn on the Girl Scout Brownie Insignia tab (on the bottom of the tab) on the left side of the uniform.

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 Daisy Membership Pin.

Proficiency Badges
In addition to the awards they are earning through the Journeys, the Girl's Guide gives girls the opportunity to earn National Proficiency Badges. There are four kinds of Girl Scout National Proficiency badges: Legacy badges, Financial Literacy badges, Cookie Business badges, and Skill-Building badges.

As Juliette Gordon Low said, "A badge is a symbol that girls have done the thing it stands for often enough, thoroughly enough, and well enough to be prepared to give service in it." When girls add badges to their sashes or vests, they're showing people which skills they've built.

Safety Award
The Safety Award is earned when Girl Scout Brownies learn how to stay safe during their Brownie adventures. There is one to earn for each year they are a Brownie.

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. There is one to earn for each year they are a Brownie.
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 for each she is a registered Girl Scout. 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. These pins can be given at the beginning of the year as part of a Rededication/Investiture Ceremony or at the completion of the year.

Troop Crest
The Troop Crest is chosen by a Girl Scout troop. The crests are worn by Girl Scout Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors. Center the troop crest directly under the council identification strip.

Bridging to Girl Scout Junior 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 Juniors 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 Juniors 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, or for special field trips. Participation patches are placed on the back of vest or tunic.
Section 3: 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 are included in this workbook demonstrate how to customize your troop meetings using the Leadership Journeys and The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting. 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 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. 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.

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: 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. (This can be done at anytime during the meeting structure).
Brownie Troop Meeting Year Plan Example

There are so many ways a Troop can plan out their time together. Please work with your girls to build a year that fits their interests. There are lots of activities for your Troop to participate in...

- Activities throughout the year for you and your Girls include (FUN WITH PURPOSE)
  - 10 Troop Meetings - Example Below
  - Field Trips - Use our Community Partner Resource Guide to help you find ones that may work with your year plan or just simply have outdoor adventures and fun activities
  - Incorporate activities for girls to earn Patches
  - Participate in Service Unit Events (for example, preparing for Thinking Day can take 2-3 meetings with your girls separate from the outline below)
  - Participate in Summer Activities
  - Participate in the Fall Product and Cookie Programs
  - Participate in Community Service/Take Action Projects

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<tr>
<th>MEETING</th>
<th>MEETING TOPIC</th>
<th>MEETING GOAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting #1</td>
<td>Parent Meeting</td>
<td>Set Expectations and Engage Parents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Meeting #2 | • Introductions  
              • Girl Scout Ways Legacy Badge Part 1 | Girls discover their special qualities of their sister Brownies. They will also find the values within the Girl Scout Law |
| Meeting #3 | • Promise and Law  
              • Girl Scout Way Legacy Badge Part 2 | Girls review the Girl Scout Promise and Law and practice and share the Girl Scout Way |
| Meeting #4 | • Girl Scout Way Legacy Badge Part 3              | Girls Know how to be prepared at home and away from home, and prepare for the Investiture Ceremony |
| Meeting #5 | • Investiture Ceremony                            | Girls participate in the Investiture Ceremony                                 |
| Meeting #6 | • Money Manager Badge                             | Girls learn to manage money through activities                               |
| Meeting #7 | • Meet My Customers Badge                        | Girls will learn how to find customers and be comfortable selling to them in preparation for Cookie Season |
| Meeting #8 | • First Aid Legacy Badge Part 1                   | Girls Learn about 911 and listen to a presenter from someone who treats injured people and discuss first aid Kits |
| Meeting #9 | • First Aid Legacy Badge Part 2                   | Girls learn how to treat injuries and how to prevent outdoor injuries.       |
| Meeting #10| • Year End Celebration                            | Girls celebrate what they have learned throughout the year. Bridging for those that move to Juniors |

*Remember that every troop is different and will set their year up to fit their troop needs the best. We hope this outline simply gives you an idea to help you build your year with your girls. Use your Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting to help you work with your girls to make it your own*
Materials for First Gathering

- **Name tags (if needed)** – Set out something unique for making nametags. Paper scissors, scrapbooking materials, fabric, magazines, cloth, markers, etc. Have the girls design the nametags and use as needed.

- **Refreshments** – Have something for them to eat and drink. After the first gathering, girls can decide if snacks are needed and how they should be provided.

- **Troop Box** – Have a sturdy cardboard or plastic box, preferably with handles, to carry the items you will regularly need at troop/group meetings. They may be obtained by purchasing them with funds donated by the parents, by having each family donate certain items, or by securing a sponsor willing to provide items. They will be kept in the troop box and taken to every meeting. File folders for each girl can serve as a “mailbox” for important information and forms needing completion.

- **First Aid Kit** – The First Aid kit should be on hand at every meeting and outing. Check with the Safety Activity Checkpoints for a list of suggested items for the First Aid kit.


- **Materials for on-the-spot activities** – This will depend on the grade level and maturity of the girls. Construction paper, markers, pencils, scissors, crayons, and glue are options, but so are teen magazines, news magazines, age appropriate novels, etc., that can encourage on the spot discussions during “down time.” Discuss with the girls what they would like to have available for them.

- **American and/or Troop flag** – These are optional items.
How to Start a Troop on a Shoestring Budget

Leader Supplies
- Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting
- Age level Journey Books
- Volunteer Essentials Notebook
- Storage box (some leaders use a wheeled luggage cart)
- Sharpies (multiple colors, if possible)
- Big scissors
- Tissues / Kleenex
- First Aid kit - see below on how to stock

Income
- Start up grant from Service unit or Council, if available
- Dues (decided by girls, often based on cost of badges and patches)
- Start up fee from parents: should cover the first batch of pins, patches, etc

Supplies
- Look in your own cupboard. If you buy new crayons or markers each year for personal use, you may have a lot of boxes sitting around! Same with craft supplies
- Make a list of items the troop needs and send home with the girls to see if parents can provide some of those items for the troop
- Watch garage sales and thrift stores for supplies. Don’t be afraid to mention that it is for a Girl Scout troop - some people will give discounts or donate.
- Suggest a “supply swap” at your next Service Unit meeting - each leader brings items and craft materials no longer used, and goes home with a supply of new things

Paper/Photo copies
- Ask parents for old office letterhead, and use the back. Great for drawing, paper airplanes, and such.
- Some companies will let employees use the printer/copier for the cost of paper, or for free as community service. See if one of your parents can do this.

Girl’s Supplies
- Have each girl bring in her own supplies in their own box, or buy a box of zippered bags and each girl gets her own bag. Have them contain:
  - scissors
  - crayons
  - markers
  - pencil
  - glue or glue sticks
  - paint set (optional)
- Ask parents for donations of excess craft materials, then base the crafts on what is available.
- If a badge calls for something special, have each girl bring that item in (i.e. Oatmeal container for Space Explorer, shoebox for Me & My Shadow)
- Ask parents to save things - ask parents to save certain items for future use (empty paper towel rolls, oatmeal canisters, yogurt cups, magazines, etc.)
- Divide the girls into smaller groups - one per supervising adult. If one group cuts while another glues, then you need half the number of scissors and glue sticks.
- Borrow what you can! Both parents and other leaders might help.

Inexpensive Girl Scout Activities
- Sing songs
- Practice a flag ceremony (some service units and the council have flags they can loan).
- Do service projects, like planting flowers at a fire or police station
- Volunteering time with an animal shelter, soup kitchen, meals on wheels, at a nursing home or community garden - great tie ins to badges
- Schedule one meeting to just go to the playground, eat a sack dinner and PLAY! Girls have a great time.
• Pretend you’re tourists and “visit” your town, hitting all the tourist destinations. Stop at the local ice cream parlor for a treat on the way home.
• When the weather gets nicer, get outside the meeting place and practice putting up, taking down, (not losing parts) and putting away tents so the girls are ready for tent camping during the summer.

**Juliette Low Birthday Party or Troop Shower**
Ask parents to donate items for a Juliette Low birthday party. Provide a list of suggested items that could be used for crafts, supplies or our First Aid kit. Each girl brings in an item, wrapped, and then girls take turns unwrapping them. They will enjoy opening the gifts for our troop.

A game can be made of the unwrapping:
Each girl holds her wrapped gift and plays the "Left/Right" story passing game. When the story is done, each girl should be holding a different gift and gets to open "her" present.

**Suggestive Supply List**

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<th>item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scotch tape</td>
<td>Beads</td>
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<td>Yarn</td>
<td>Markers</td>
<td>Crayons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buttons</td>
<td>Ribbon</td>
<td>Seeds</td>
<td>Baby Food Jars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potting Soil</td>
<td>Straws</td>
<td>Sponges</td>
<td>Tempura paint</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liquid starch</td>
<td>Pens</td>
<td>Face paint</td>
<td>Kids scissors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper bags</td>
<td>Thread</td>
<td>Tissue paper</td>
<td>Pencils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pencils/Colored</td>
<td>Pie tins</td>
<td>Stickers</td>
<td>Wiggle eyes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poster Board</td>
<td>Feathers</td>
<td>Scrapbook items: paper, albums, die cuts, etc.</td>
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</table>
Girl Scout Glossary for Brownie Leaders

Girl Scouting has its own jargon, and there may be times you feel like someone is speaking to you in a different language! Here are some common terms to help you along the way.

**Badge** - Embroidered official recognition awards for Girl Scouts, levels Brownie through Ambassador, to indicate increased knowledge and skill in a particular subject.

**Buddy system** - A safety practice in which girls are paired to keep track of each other.

**Ceremonies:**
- Bridging - The move from one program level of Girl Scouting to the next (e.g. from Girl Scout Daisy to Girl Scout Brownie). Bridging requirements are found in the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* handbook section.
- Court of Awards - A ceremony that can be held any time during the year at which petals, patches, pins, recognitions, and other awards are presented.
- Girl Scouts' Own - A quiet inspirational ceremony that has a theme and is planned by Girl Scouts and their leaders.
- Investiture - A special ceremony in which a new member makes her Girl Scout Promise and receives her membership pin.
- Rededication - A formal ceremony for girls or adults, previously invested, to renew the Girl Scout Promise (a good way to start a second year of a Girl Scout grade level).

**Friendship Circle** - A symbolic gesture in which Girl Scouts form a circle by clasping hands, crossing their right arm over the left. The circle represents the unbroken chain of friendship among Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world. It is often used at a closing ceremony.

**Fun patches** - Optional patches worn on the back of a uniform. These patches are for available for activities or outings (everything from a radio station visit to a pizza party) that are not part of earning an official badge award through the Journeys or the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*.

**Girl Guides** - The original name for Girl Scouts, a term still used in many countries. The name originated in England.

“Girl Scouts Always Leave a Place Better than They Found It” – Unwritten Girl Scout rule.

**Girl Scout's highest awards:**
- **Girl Scout Bronze Award** - The highest award a Girl Scout Junior may earn.
- **Girl Scout Silver Award** - The highest award a Girl Scout Cadette may earn.
- **Girl Scout Gold Award** - The highest award a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador may earn, the highest award in Girl Scouting.
- **Girl Scout handshake** - A formal greeting between Girl Scouts. The handshake is done by shaking left hands while giving the Girl Scout sign with the right.

**Girl Scout holidays:**
- **Founder's Day** - Juliette Gordon Low's birthday, October 31.
- **Girl Scout birthday** - March 12, 1912 marks the first Girl Scout meeting in Savannah, GA.
- **Girl Scout Week** - An annual celebration during the week of March 12, the Girl Scout birthday. It begins on Girl Scout Sunday and ends on Girl Scout Sabbath.
- **Girl Scout Leader's Day** - April 22, a special day to honor Girl Scout leaders.
- **World Thinking Day** - Celebrated by Girl Guides and Girl Scouts throughout the world, February 22 is the mutual birthday of Boy Scout founder Lord Baden-Powell and his wife Lady Olave Baden-Powell who was active in Girl Guides in England and served as World Chief Guide. This is the day for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides to think about their sisters around the world through special projects, international programs, activities, or pen pal correspondences. Girl Scouts at each level can earn an award that can be worn on the front of her uniform with their other badges and awards.
- **Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)** - The Girl Scout program model that engages girls by developing the skills, knowledge, and values needed to be leaders.
- **Girl Scout mission statement** - Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.
- **Girl Scout sign** - The official Girl Scout sign to be used as the Girl Scout Promise is being recited and may be used as the Girl Scout Law is recited (optional). It is also used during the Girl Scout handshake.
The right hand is raised shoulder high with the three middle fingers extended and the thumb crossing over the palm to hold down the little finger.

**Girl Scout slogan** - "Do a good turn daily."

**Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting** - Along with Journeys, **Girl's Guides** are part of the National Program Portfolio and is the heart of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Inside each guide is the handbook for that Girl Scout level, petals and leaves (Daisy) or badges (Brownie-Ambassador) requirements, Girl Scout award information, a scrapbook section, and stories/activities.

*Grade levels* - Current girl levels include: Daisies (K-1), Brownies (2-3), Juniors (4-5), Cadettes (6-8), Seniors (9-10), and Ambassadors (11-12). These have varied over the years and may be different from what you remember if you were a Girl Scout.

**GSUSA** - Girl Scouts of the United States of America, our national organization.

**Journeys** - Part of the National Program Portfolio and based on the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, Journeys incorporate the three keys to leadership: discover, connect, and take action, into a series of themed sessions for girls to follow. Each level of Girl Scouts has three Journey themes to choose from, It’s Your World – Change It!, It’s Your Planet – Love It!, and It’s Your Story – Tell It! Journeys Summit Award – A special award pin earned by girls who have completed all three Journeys at their grade level.

**Juliette Gordon Low** - Nicknamed Daisy, Juliette was the founder of Girl Scouting in the United States who formed the first troop meeting in Savannah, Georgia on March 12, 1912. Read the full story in your **Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting**!

**Kaper chart** - A chart that shows the delegation of tasks and rotation of responsibility day-by-day and/or meal-by-meal.

**Motto** - “Be Prepared.”

**My Promise My Faith** - Girls in grades K-12 can earn this pin each year by exploring the Girl Scout Law and teachings from their faith. Requirements are found in the handbook section of the **Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting**.

**National Program Portfolio** - This is the combined activity materials for the Girl Scout Leadership Experience including Journeys and the **Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting**.

**Quiet sign** - The Girl Scout signal for silence in a group situation. The person in charge raises her/his right hand and the Girl Scouts present fall silent and raise their right hands. This is an extremely helpful tool when working with groups of girls!

**Safety activity checkpoints** - GSUSA's safety program standards found on Volunteer Connect.

**Sit-upon** - A cushion made by Girl Scouts to use when the ground is hard or damp or to keep their clothes clean.

**Service Units** - A geographic subdivision within Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council (GSSSC).

**Service Unit Manager (SUM)** - A volunteer leadership position who leads a service area in partnership with service team volunteers and the Volunteer Support Team (VST) member assigned to the region.

**Service team** - A volunteer leadership team within a service area that works in partnership with the Volunteer Support Team.

**SWAPS** - Special Whatchamacallit Affectionately Pinned Somewhere, a keepsake exchanged as a way for Girl Scouts to meet each other and promote friendship.

**Tag-a-longs** - An informal name for a non-Girl Scout child attending a Girl Scout event.

**Trefoil** - The international symbol of Girl Scouting; the three leaves of the trefoil represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

**World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)** - An international educational association of more than eight million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

**World Trefoil Pin** - A pin worn by all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides that symbolizes our global sisterhood.
# Girl Scout Brownie Earned Recognitions

Name__________________________________

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<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>STEPS</th>
<th>DATE COMPLETED</th>
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