

TIPS

for getting started with

brownies



You are not alone! If you haven't worked with girls at this grade level, talk to your Service Unit Manager . She can connect you to another leader who has been a Brownie Leader recently or to a Teen Mentor who really likes working with Brownies.

We Are Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts was founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low. We are the largest girl-serving organization in the United States and the largest member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, a sisterhood of close to 10 million girls and adults in 145 countries.



Girl Scout Promise	La Promesa de las Niñas Guías
<p>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.</p>	<p>Por mi honor, yo trataré: De servir a Dios, a mi patria, Ayudar a las personas en todo momento, Y de vivir conforme a la Ley de las Girl Scouts.</p>
Girl Scout Law	La Ley de las Niñas Guías
<p>I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and 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.</p>	<p>Yo me esforzaré a: ser honrada y justa, cordial y servicial considerada y compasiva valiente y fuerte, y responsable de lo que digo y hago, y a respetarme a mi misma y a los demás respetar la autoridad, usar los recursos de manera prudente, hacer del mundo un lugar mejor, y ser hermana a cada una de las Girl Scouts.</p>
Mission	
<p>Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.</p>	



Most troops have a planned meeting opening. Make the Girl Scout sign and say the Promise at each meeting. Say the Promise as part of a flag ceremony. Make it girl-led. She can say, “We will now say the Girl Scout Promise. On my honor . . .”

Brownie Pins and Insignia

Brownies have a special membership pin. If girls did not receive this pin as part of bridging from Daisies, plan a ceremony to present the pin.



An old tradition is to pin the Brownie membership pin on *upside down*. When the girl has done her first good deed as a Brownie, she can turn it right side up!



Plan a Brownie Investiture Ceremony – a sample ceremony is included later in this booklet.

Troop Crests: Consult page 29 in the Handbook section of the Brownie Girl's Guide. There you will see graphics of various troop crests and the meaning of each. The girls decide together on the one crest that represents their troop. Often the same crest follows the girls throughout the older grade levels of Girl Scouting, so choose with care!

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience engages girls in the 3 keys to leadership: **discovering** themselves, **connecting** with others, and **taking action** to make the world a better place.

- In the *Brownie Quest* journey, girls earn awards named after these three keys.
- When you attend a Brownie Grade Level training, you can review the materials for this journey and discuss how it works with a skilled trainer.
- You can purchase an adult companion guide for the *Brownie Quest*. It provides step-by-step meeting plans and gives you many suggestions to help girls accomplish these award.

Girl Scout program is built on three processes that make Girl Scouting unique from school and other extracurricular activities.

- **Girl Led** means girls play an active role deciding their activities
- **Learn By Doing** means girls explore their own questions, discover answers, gain new skills, and share ideas and observations
- **Cooperative Learning** has girls work together toward goals

Tips For Working With Young Girls



- Talk to the girls at eye level.
- Speak softly and calmly.
- Offer clear choices. "Would you like to sing or play a game?"
- Build on the girl's strengths and skills.
- Enforce rules fairly. Girls need and want clear and fair limits.
- Let girls find out things for themselves. Offer help in small doses, asking girls the best way to do something.
- Encourage girls to solve their own problems. Intervene only if you are needed or if a girl's safety is at risk.
- Show you are interested in the girls' ideas.
- Divide your time equally among girls.
- Encourage respect for differing religious, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.
- Use a girl's first name when addressing her.
- Praise often. Use positive comments instead of criticizing.
- Keep directions clear and simple.
- Keep activities short and vary the pace. A sitting activity followed by an active one.
- Give girls time to adjust from one activity to the next, by giving advanced warning.
- Allow a girl to sit out of an activity.
- Rejoice with a girl when she achieves something, no matter how small.
- Don't compare girls. Remember differences and abilities.



Brownies have lots of energy and need to run and play!

Try taking your activities outdoors whenever you can.

Find more about Brownie characteristics in ***Volunteer Essentials*** – located on your thumb drive.



From the council website, click on MYGS. On the drop-down menu, find **Volunteer Toolkit**.

You can select a variety of Year Plans that provide guidance for your Brownie Troop. Each plan can be edited to suit what your girls want to do.



Listen, Be honest, Be open to real issues . . .

Show respect, Offer options, Tolerate

Consult ***Volunteer Essentials*** to learn more about Communicating Effectively with Girls.

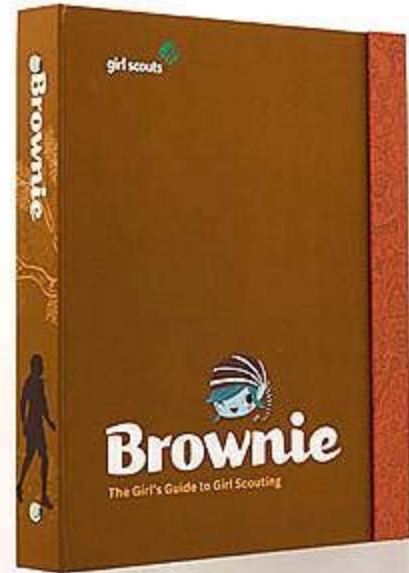


Need a question answered? Try your Service Unit Manager first. Next, reach out to the Volunteer Care Team. You can email them by visiting the GSK website, www.gskentuckiana.org, selecting CONTACT, and submitting a form. They will return a call or an email to you. Or you can CALL them 888-771-5170 or 502 636-0900.

Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting

Everyone knows that Girl Scouts have badges. But The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting has more than just exciting, new badges for every grade level. Each guide contains:

- ◆ **A colorful, easy-to-use binder** specially designed for girls at each level. The binder comes chock full of essential information and award activities.
- ◆ **Legacy, Financial Literacy, and Cookie Business** badge activities.
- ◆ **A detailed diagram** showing where girls place the badges, pins, or awards with pride on their vests or sashes.
- ◆ **Ideas to help** girls tie their badges right into their Journeys.
- ◆ **Vintage illustrations and quotes from Girl Scout history** to help girls feel connected to the proud traditions of the past.
- ◆ **An awards log** showing girls every award and badge available at their level, as well as the entire badge program at every level, so girls can see how their skills will grow in Girl Scouting.



Each girl in your troop may want her own Girl's Guide. There is a Girl Scout Starter Kit available through the Girl Scout shop that you can customize to fit your troop. It includes their uniform and the Journey of your choice or Girl's Guide, and comes with a free cinch bag to keep it all together!

Traditions - Friendship Circle & Squeeze

The friendship circle stands for an unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Everyone stands in a circle, crosses their right arms over their left, and clasps hands with their friends on both sides. Everyone makes a silent wish as a friendship squeeze is passed from hand to hand. Some troops sing *Make New Friends* as the squeeze is passed around the circle.



Six Elements of a Meeting

Meetings usually include the six following components.

Start-up	<p>Activities girls can do on their own or with non-leader supervision until the meeting starts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• coloring pages• scavenger hunts• making nametags• puzzles• simple crafts• attendance (if girls can mark on their own)• dues payment (if girls can turn in on their own) <p>Purpose: The start-up activities are designed to give the girls an activity to do between arrival and the formal beginning of the meeting. This will give the leader free-time to answer questions, coordinate with coleaders, etc.</p> <p>♣ Tip: This could be an activity that is rotated between the adults of the troop/group. They could be assigned a meeting to have a startup activity for. You could also ask for donations for supplies – coloring books, puzzles, and other items are typically readily available at girl’s homes. These activities can also be seasonal or themed with the meeting’s activity.</p>
Opening	<p>The opening allows girls to start the meeting—most begin with the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and then add a simple flag ceremony, song, game, story, or ceremony.</p> <p>Purpose: The opening activity is designed to let the girls know that the meeting is officially starting. It focuses there attention and brings the group together.</p> <p>♣ Tip: Girls can share the responsibilities of the opening – a kaper chart could be used to tell who will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, Girl Scout Promise, and Girl Scout Law.</p>
Business	<p>Business may include taking attendance, collecting dues, making announcements, and planning an upcoming event or trip.</p> <p>Purpose: The business portion of the meeting is the time to share in the troop’s decision making. The girls can enter into discussions on what they would like to do and vote on those decisions.</p> <p>♣ Tip: Attendance and dues collection are great support roles for older girls or adults that want to assist with the troop, but not be a leader. A simple chart can be made for attendance and the girls can do this on their own. A file box or folder system is also a great way to distribute materials to girls – newsletters, permission forms, etc. Establishing a routine with the girls for this type of information can save you a lot of time and headache!</p>

Activities	<p>Meeting activities should be the longest portion of the meeting. This could be Journey activities, leaves, and other program activities.</p> <p>Purpose: This is the time for the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to shine! Girls can do activities toward a Journey, badge, plan a trip or event, and other tasks that they need to accomplish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tip: Remember that Girl Scouts should be girl-led as much as possible. The best way to do this with Girl Scout Brownies is to allow them to pick the item that they would like to do at the next meeting. Also, only allow them 2-3 choices or you may be there all day! They need a lot of guidance at this grade level, but are still very capable of having a girl-led environment.
Clean-up	<p>Girls should clean-up their meeting space back to the way it was when they arrived—maybe even cleaner!</p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of clean-up is that it builds in responsibility and accountability. Girls are more than capable of leaving a place cleaner than when they found it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tip: Do cleanup in small tasks – pick up the papers, put the crayons in the box, etc. instead of just announcing it is time to clean up. They need clear directions. Do not take on this responsibility alone – begin your year with the way you want it to end.
Closing	<p>The closing lets the girls know that the meeting is ending. The friendship circle and squeeze is one way to end it. While the squeeze is making its way around the circle, it is fun to sing Make New Friends.</p> <p>Purpose: The closing, much like the opening, signals to girls that the meeting is over and it is time to go home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tip: While girls are gathered in the friendship circle, remind them of upcoming activities, praise them on their accomplished tasks, and tell them how much fun the meeting was. You want to leave the girls on a positive note.

Meeting Plan Worksheet – Example Meeting

Date	
Start-up	An activity for girls who arrive early to do:
Opening	Often a simple flag ceremony including saying the Pledge of Allegiance and Girl Scout Promise. Choose girls to lead.
Business	Attendance – Girl helper: _____. Dues – Girl helper: _____. Up coming Events: Decide on Going. Announce. Etc. Reminder –
Activities	What badge or journey will you work on? Will you play a game? Sing a song?
Clean-up	Identify routine clean up needs. Make a girl assignment plan (a kaper chart): Clean tables: Sweep: Arrange chairs: Carry supplies to leaders' cars:
Closing	Often a Friendship Circle where there is a song and the “Squeeze” is passed. Which girl will start the squeeze?

Activity Ideas for Meetings

With the girls, discuss the rules that should be in place in the troop. Some examples are:

- No running, unless given permission.
- Only one girl may speak at a time.
- Girls will clean up after themselves.

Get to know your girls by doing the “My Favorite Things” worksheet together

Play Introduction Bingo

STEP 1: Make the Bingo Card.



Each girl is given a sheet of paper and folds it four times so that there are 16 squares. This is the bingo card. Girls walk around the room with the cards and collect signatures from the other troop/group members until all sixteen spaces are filled. If you have less than sixteen girls in the troop, include the leaders or allow the girls to fill in "free spaces" (not in a row) or get duplicate signatures on their cards.

STEP 2: Play the Bingo Game.

Each girl writes her name on a small slip of paper and drops it into a paper bag or container. Girls take turns pulling out names. When a name is called, the girl stands up, introduces herself and shares something about herself with the group (age, family, teacher, favorite color, book, Girl Scout activity). Then all the girls cross off her name on their bingo cards. The first person to get four squares crossed off in a row is the winner. Continue playing until all the girls have introduced themselves.

Cut Apart Promise Game:

Print the Girl Scout Promise on a large sheet of poster board. Cut the words apart so that each girl will get a word or phrase. Distribute the pieces and tell the girls to arrange themselves in the correct order. Then repeat the Girl Scout Promise

Girl Scout Promise Relay

Materials

- Large index cards with one part of the Girl Scout Promise written on each card (10 cards total) – make a couple sets
- Space to move around
- Space to assemble the cards – a table top or a wall (use masking tape) or a bulletin board (with push pins) team. She places the card there, and runs back to her team.

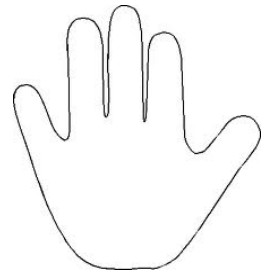
- Next player takes a card, runs up, places it in the proper place (in relation to the first card), runs back.
- Each girl in turns adds another card until all the cards have made it to the assembly area. If a girl feels a card is in the incorrect spot, she can change it during her turn.
- The first team to construct the Girl Scout Promise in the correct sequence wins the game.
- Designate a starting line

Instructions

- Mix the cards up within each set ; place them face down at the starting line
- Divide the troop up into two or three teams
- The first girl picks up a card and runs it to the assembly area for her team. She places the card there, and runs back to her team.
- Next player takes a card, runs up, places it in the proper place (in relation to the first card), runs back.
- Each girl in turns adds another card until all the cards have made it to the assembly area. If a girl feels a card is in the incorrect spot, she can change it during her turn.
- The first team to construct the Girl Scout Promise in the correct sequence wins the game.

Girl Scout Promise and Sign Poster

1. Have girls select a piece of construction paper for the background.
2. Have girls select a piece of paper to trace their hand on.
3. Give each girl a printed copy of the Girl Scout Promise.
4. Have girls trace their hands. They need to have their three middle fingers close together and their pinky and thumb spread out. This will allow them to fold them properly to make the sign.
5. Cut out the traced hand and the Girl Scout Promise.
6. Fold in the thumb and pinky to make the sign and glue them in place.
7. Glue the hand and Girl Scout Promise onto the construction paper.



My Favorite Things

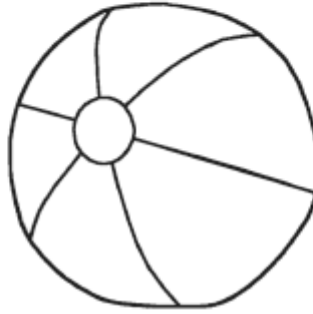
Favorite Season

Winter, Spring,

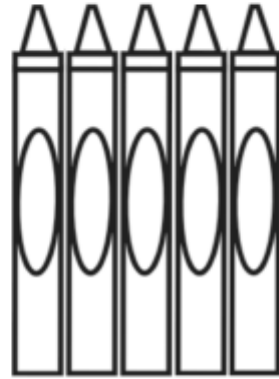


Summer, or Fall

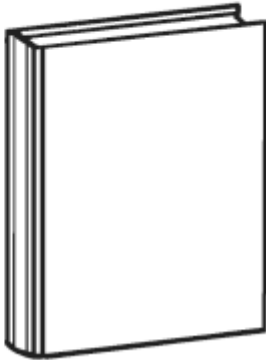
Favorite Game



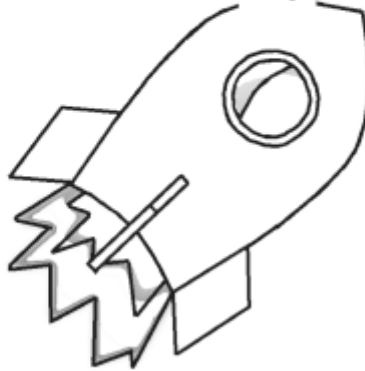
Favorite Color



Favorite Book



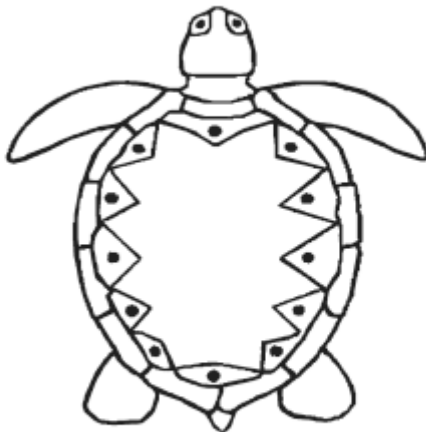
Favorite Toy



Favorite Food



Favorite Animal



Favorite Song



Supplies for the Troop

First Aid Supplies	Number Needed	Donated By
Backpack for First Aid Kit		
Ace bandage		
Alcohol wipes		
Bandages 3x3 (Non-Latex)		
Band-Aids (Non-Latex)		
CPR Mask		
Cotton balls		
Cough drops		
Disposable cold pack		
Gloves (Non-Latex)		
Insurance Forms		
Matches		
Nail clippers		
Notebook		
Pen		
Qtips		
Safety pins		
Sanitary pads		
Scissors		
Tampons		
Tape		
Thermometer		
Tissues		
Tongue depressors		
Triangular bandage		
Tweezers		
Vaseline		
Other Supplies		
Crayons (24 Pack)		
Glue Sticks		
Scissors		
Construction Paper		
Copy Paper		
Stickers		
Totes		
Folders		
Binder		
Pencils		

Brownie Investiture Ceremony

An investiture ceremony symbolizes the beginning of Girl Scouting. At this ceremony, families are invited to observe girls pledge the Girl Scout Promise and receive their Brownie Girl Scout Pin. A Girl Scout Brownie often wears her uniform for the first time at the investiture ceremony. The Girl Scout tradition is that the Brownie Pin is pinned **UPSIDE DOWN** during the ceremony. **BEFORE** the girl can wear the pin **RIGHT SIDE UP**, she has to do a good deed. Here is a sample investiture ceremony but remember you and the girls can plan your ceremony any way you want! You can go on the internet and find lots of ideas to make your ceremony special.

Brownies are 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?" The audience answers YES!

The girls come in and form a semi-circle around a mirror on the floor (which could be encircled in something green to give the appearance of a pool of water.)

Everyone Says:

"Cross your little fingers, stand up on your toes.
That's a bit of magic, every Brownie knows.
Now we all are standing in a forest glade.
Listen very carefully, see the magic made!"

Leader takes each girl and turns her by the shoulders, saying:

"Twist me and turn me and show me the elf. I look in the water and saw . . ."

The Brownie looks into the mirror and says "Myself".

The leader pins on her pin. When all the Brownies have received their pins, say the 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.

Then the group says:

"Uncross your little fingers!
Down from up on your toes!
Then the magic goes away.
Everybody knows."

You may also want to sing some appropriate song such as "Brownie Smile Song."