

A Step by Step Guide For Your First 6 Meetings!

Dear Brownie Leader,

Congratulations and welcome to "Jump Start". You have just taken the first step into the magnificent world of Girl Scouting. This adventure will be as exciting for you as it will be for the girls. Being a Brownie Leader is fun and educational. You must have a ton of questions - right? Well, believe it or not, every one of them has an answer. Many of these answers will come from you, your girls and their parents.

Let's get started, OK? Get out the Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders (GBGSL) and read Pages 1-6. Feel better? A little? OK, keep reading 7-10. Getting better? Well, keep reading up through page 30. Read the rest of the book, for hints and suggestions. Now you are ready for your first meeting. Maybe? Don't peek, but the first six meetings follow some answers on the next page to questions you might have.

Your Neighborhood Training Team

A Little Q & A!

Where do I get help?

Your Neighborhood Service Team and other Leaders are just a few of the people available to you. At the end of each meeting, meet with your co/assistant leaders; evaluate what worked and how it might be done next time. In addition, review the plans for the next meeting; decide who will be responsible for what and who will bring what.

What form of troop/group government is recommended?

Read in the BGSLG and the BGS HB, and discuss with the girls the suggested “government” options.

Who will help me with cookies?

One of the parents will help. Many of the troop/group needs will be met at the parents meeting following the Investiture Ceremony (or earlier). Let parents know what help is needed, that a good troop is a partnership between girls, leaders and parents and then ask for help.

When do the girls get uniforms?

Wait until after the girls have had a chance to talk about the kind of uniform they would like to wear for the next 3 years. This is scheduled in meeting 3.

What books do the girls need?

The *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook* (BGSH). The *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts* is optional but it would be nice for each girl to have one.

What books do I need?

The *Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, The *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*, The *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts* and *SafetyWise*.

Who provides refreshments, if we decide to have them?

To have or not have refreshments is usually determined by the time of the meeting by you and the girls. Many troops/groups develop a schedule for girls to bring refreshments .

We suggest that you start a resource list of people who can help you through the year. Include moms, dads, grandparents, neighbors, friends, teachers, other leaders, co-workers - the list goes on and on.

The best advice for any new leader is to enjoy yourself and the girls. Have fun, play games with the girls, sing songs with the girls and along the way you will learn, too. Remember, it is not what girls earn (try-its, badges, patches) it is what girls learn that is important.

The following 6 Brownie meetings and Investiture Ceremony are a suggested starting point. Feel free to add or take away from the suggestions - make it yours and the girls'. It will be a meaningful start to a great year!

Now, go make new friends but keep the old and have FUN!

Good Luck!

First Meetings Objectives:

- Become acquainted with “The Story of Girl Scouting”
- Explain the purpose of a Kaper Chart
- Make name tags
- Get to know each other
- Teach the girls about a friendship circle



Pre-Meeting Activity:

- As girls arrive, have them make large name tags and attach them to pieces of yarn to hang around to hang around their necks. Include a thumb-buddy on the name tag for a little extra fun (Each girl presses her thumb onto an ink stamp pad and then prints her thumb on to her name tag adding arms, legs, head and so on.

Opening:

It is important for the girls to know that the meeting has begun and order has been called. This can be done at the first meeting by asking the girls to sit in a circle.

- Introduce yourself and the other leaders.
- Briefly tell the girls why you want to be a Girl Scout Leader.
- Tell something funny or amusing about yourself. Have your Co-Leaders do the same
- Now it is the girls turn to introduce themselves and state what they like to do or maybe their favorite game or food.

This would be a good time to introduce the quite sign, (which is found on page 39 in the BGSB).

Business:

Discuss the routine troop responsibilities and help the girls form a “kaper chart” (found on page 29 of the GBGSL). Suggestions for the “kaper chart” could be:

- Attendance taking
- Assist in collecting dues
- Clean up
- Serving refreshments
- Opening and closing ceremonies
- Miscellaneous tasks.



The “kaper chart” can be changed at the end of every meeting or at every other meeting. Let the girls decide.



Refreshment Break: (if applicable)

Main Activity:

- Read "The Story of Juliette Low", found on pages 8-10 in the BGSB.
- Have the girls draw pictures about one part of the story they liked best.
These pictures can be displayed at their Investiture.
- Remind the girls that Juliette Low's birthday is October 31
- Have them think of ways to celebrate her birthday.
(Suggestions can be found on page 20 of the BGSB).



Clean-up time:

Use "Kaper Chart".

Closing:

- Teach the girls the friendship circle and squeeze.
- Explain that the friendship circle stands for the unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world. (These things can be found in the BGSB pages 19-19).
- If time allows teach the song "Make New Friends."

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

You Did It!!!

Congratulations on your first meeting!!

2nd Meeting

Let's Do It Again!

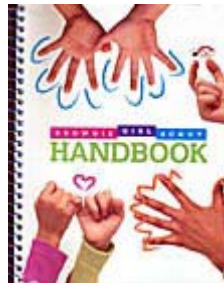
Second Meetings Objectives:

- To learn the principles of the Promise and Law
- To learn the Girl Scout Sign
- To learn the handshake
- To learn how to form a Brownie Girl Scout Ring
- To plan an Investiture Ceremony



Pre-Meeting Activity:

- If possible invite an older Brownie or Brownies to display their Brownie Books, try-its, uniforms, and sashes/vests.
 - Check with your Neighborhood for some possible assistance.
 - Allow about 10 minutes for the older Brownies to relate activities that they have done as Brownie Girl Scouts.
 - Let the "Brownies to be" ask questions, it may give them some ideas of what they might want to do throughout the year.
 - If an older Brownie is not available you might want to borrow a uniform, sash and books.
- Pass out name tags.



Opening:

- Introduce the girls to the Girl Scout Promise, which is found on page 12 of the BGSB.
- Discuss the meaning of the three parts of the Promise, letting the girls express their views.
- Teach the Handshake and sign found on page 18 of the BGSB.

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.

Business:

- Form the Brownie Ring. (See page 38 in the BGSB for the purpose and use of the Brownie Ring).
- Talk about the "talking stick". Another way to take turns talking is for the girl who wants to speak to make the Girl Scout Sign with her right hand and place her hand in front of her on the floor.
- The main business will be to discuss the Investiture Ceremony. (See page 22 in the BGSB).
Tell the girls:
 - what an Investiture is
 - who attends
 - that they could have refreshments
 - what the girls might be doing
 - how much fun it will be
 - they need to help with the planning of the Investiture, such as refreshments, songs and where it will be held. (They will need some suggestion and choices to help them come to a conclusion.)

Refreshment Break: (if applicable)

Main Activity:

- Cut out or draw pictures that depict the three parts of the Promise.
These pictures can be put on a poster board or a large piece of butcher paper surrounding the Girl Scout Promise for display at the Investiture Ceremony.

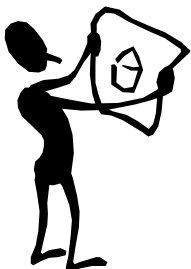
Clean-up time:

Use "Kaper Chart".

Closing:

- Sing "Make New Friends" again
- Teach "When Ere You Make a Promise".
- Close the meeting with the friendship circle and squeeze. (While in the friendship circle everyone should be quiet.)
- If any announcements or reminders are to be made, do it as the girls are in the circle before any songs or closing activity.

Evaluation:



It is very important for you and your Co-Leader to evaluate after each meeting. Get any questions answered through a Service Team member.

- Did everyone have a good time?
- Did everyone participate?
- Discuss plans for the next meeting.
- Discuss how the girls are progressing.
- Be sure that you have all supplies needed for the next meeting.

You are doing great!!!

Third Meetings Objectives:

- To continue planning for the Investiture Ceremony.
- Read the Brownie Story.
- If you have older Brownies, practice a flag ceremony. (Ask an experienced Leader or member of the your Neighborhood to help you with a flag ceremony.)
- Learn the first part of the Girl Scout Law (page 13 and 14 in the BGSB).
- Discuss dues and uniforms.



Pre-meeting activity:

Have the girls do an activity from their BGSB. Using butcher paper, do the activity on page 44 in the BGSB.

By this time, all the girls should know each other by name and you might want to discontinue using nametags.

Opening:

- Repeat the Promise several times.
- Teach the first part of the Law and discuss the meaning.
- Let the girls express how they can be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong and responsible for what they say and do.
- Have them put these ideas in their BGSB page 14.
- Practice the handshake and sign.
- Sing the songs you will use at the Investiture.

Business:

- Form the Brownie Ring.
- Discuss uniforms. Take a look at the uniforms on pages 16 and 17 of the BGSB. The girls might want to have the same uniform or everyone choose the uniform they want to wear.
- Talk about dues and how dues are used (See page 39 in the BGSB and page 16 in the GBGSL). Explain that dues need to be earned by doing something extra for your family or community.
- Talk about selling cookies, referencing page 39 of the BGSB.



Refreshment Break: (if applicable)

Main Activity:

- Make Investiture invitations for parents, family and friends.* Ask all those who are invited to RSVP.
- Read the Brownie story.* In the BGSB, starting on page 29 there are two Brownie stories. One was adapted from a tale told at the beginning of Brownie Girl Scouting in 1926, the other is the modern Brownie story. It would be nice to read both of them to the girls, one this week and one next week. These stories might inspire a way for the girls to earn their dues.

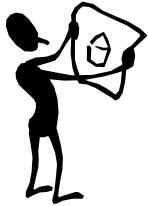
Clean-up time:

Use "Kaper Chart".

Closing:

- Sing the songs that they have learned.
- Friendship circle.

Evaluation:



- How are the girls responding to each other?
- Are they learning about the Girl Scout ways and traditions?

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.

Congratulations on another successful meeting!!

Fourth Meetings Objectives:

- To review the Promise and all songs
- To format the Investiture Ceremony
- Make a bird feeder
- Learn the Motto and Slogan

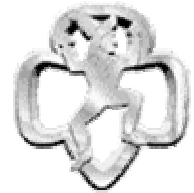


Pre-Meeting Activity:

Make a bird feeder found on page 101 in the BGSB.

Opening:

- Say the Promise and the first part of the Law.
- Sing any songs that will be used in the Investiture Ceremony.
- Learn the Girl Scout Motto and Slogan, which is found on page 19 in the BGSB.
- Explain that when they receive the Brownie Pin it will be placed upside down until they do a good deed.
- Talk about what a good deed might be.



Business:

- Form the Brownie Ring.
- Discuss why the girls want to be Brownie Girl Scouts.
- Write each response down so that the girls can use their answers at the Investiture Ceremony.
- Then discuss what they would like to do during the coming year. You will need to help them with choices and ideas.
- Explain about Try-its or Brownie Girl Scout Awards on page 28 of their Handbook and show them the Try-it book.
- Print their ideas on a posterboard to show the parents at the Investiture Ceremony. You will need help from the parents throughout the year. Listing these activities will help the parents decide how they can help the troop achieve these goals



Refreshment Break: (if applicable)

Main Activity:

- Do activity 5 on page 15 of the Try-its for Brownie Girl Scouts book.
- Practice the Investiture.
- Read the second Brownie Story.



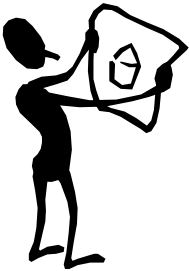
Clean up:

Use “kaper chart”

Closing:

Friendship Circle

Evaluate:



- How are the girls progressing?
- Do they know the Promise?
- Do they know the first part of the Law?
- Do they know the songs?
- Maybe you will need an extra 15 minutes after meetings 5 and 6 to practice the Investiture Ceremony.

Girl Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Girl Scout Slogan

Where Girls Grow Strong

Great Job!!

Fifth Meetings Objectives:

- Continue working on chapter 1 (Let's Get Started) in the BGSB.
- Make a sit-upon.
- Rehearse the Investiture program.
- Teach the girls the last part of the Law.



Pre-Meeting Activity:

Make a sit-upon, following the directions on page 15 in *Try-its for Brownie Girl Scouts*. The sit-upon can be completed next week.

Opening:

- Say the Promise, the first part of the Law
- Teach the girls the “Brownie Smile Song”.



Business:

Talk about Special Days in Girl Scouting found on pages 20 and 21 in the BGSB.

- Are we completing any loose ends of the badge and sign requirements?
- Do the girls understand the concept of the Promise and Law?
- Are they showing signs of trying to live their lives by these values?
- How are they getting along with each other?
- Are they starting to take an interest in making their own decisions in the business of the troop?

Refreshment Break: (if applicable)

Main Activity:

- Teach the girls the second part of the Law.
- Discuss with the girls how they can respect themselves and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place and be a Sister to every Girl Scout.
- Have them write their answers in their Brownie Girl Scout Handbook pages 14 and 15.
- Do an activity from the Try-its for Brownie Girl Scout book page 69. 4 or 6 might be fun!
- Practice for the Investiture Ceremony

Clean up

Closing:

Girls decide

Evaluate:



Start to gather all equipment needed for the Investiture Ceremony

Sixth Meetings Objectives:

- Final rehearsal for Investiture Ceremony.
- Finish sit-upons
- Finish Chapter 1 in the Brownie Girl Scout Handbook.



Pre-Meeting Activity:

Finish sit-upons.

Opening:

- Say the Promise and Law.
- Sing all songs for the Investiture Ceremony.

Business:

Talk about a *Special Place*, *Girl Scouting All Over the World*, *World Centers* and *Brownie Girl Scout Insignias* found on pages 24 - 27 in the BSGH. You have now completed chapter 1 in the Brownie Girl Scout Handbook.

Refreshment Break: (if applicable)

Main Activity:

- Play a game from page 130 -131 from the BSGH or, do an activity for chapter 5, People Near and Far.
- Final rehearsal for the Investiture Ceremony.



Clean-up

Closing:

Girls' choice

Evaluation:

The girls have been working very hard for the last six weeks and so have you. After the Investiture Ceremony, plan a meeting of fun, playing games, a fun craft or just sing songs.

By this point the girls have completed:

1. The first chapter in the Brownie Girl Scout Handbook
2. An activity from each of the chapters in the Brownie Girl Scout Handbook
3. *Girl Scout Ways* Try-it.

WOW!!! You and the girls are off to a great start.

Congratulations!!

A BROWNIE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Setting:

The Investiture Ceremony is to welcome girls into Girl Scouting for the first time. As part of this Ceremony girls make the Girl Scout Promise and receive the Girl Scout Membership Pin. This Ceremony may be held at the troop meeting place, at a park or at someone's home.



Format:

1. If you *have older girls*, the Ceremony should start with a Flag Ceremony and the Pledge of Allegiance by everyone. If you *do not have older girls*, start with a Patriotic Song followed by the Investiture Ceremony.
2. The girls stand in a semi-circle at one end of a pond with Co-Leader. (The pond can be a mirror with greenery round it to look like a pond). Leader is at the other end of the pond with the girls who are already Brownie Girl Scouts.
3. The Leader might say "Guests, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to an Investiture Ceremony. This Ceremony is to welcome the girls to the exciting world of Girl Scouting. In Girl Scouting they will learn to develop their individual potential, to relate to others, to develop values and to improve the society in which they live. As a Brownie Leader, my goal is to help the girls develop these attributes. Throughout the year I will be asking you to help me with this goals. Now it is time for the girls to start their journey."
 - *Leader:* "Who comes to be Brownie Girl Scouts?"
 - *Brownies to be say:* "We do".
 - *Leader:* (States the name of the first girl) Beth, why do you want to be a Brownie Girl Scout"?"
 - *Girl:* Beth answers with her comments from the fourth meeting. (This statement should be written on an index card to help her if she forgets).
 - *Leader:* "Beth will you please say the Girl Scout Promise". (Help Beth along if she needs some assistance) Or, all the girls can say the Promise with her.
 - *Leader:* Twist and turns Beth saying, "Twist me, turn me and show me the elf, I looked in the pond and saw _____" Beth replies "myself".
 - *Leader:* Places the Brownie Girl Scout Pin on girls left side, upside down, gives the Girl Scout hand shake and sign, and welcomes her to Girl Scouts. (The pin may be turned right side up when Beth has done a good deed). A good deed can be doing something that she has not been asked to do. Beth now stands with leader.
4. When all the girls have been pinned everyone says the Promise and Law and sings "Make New Friends".
5. At this time you may use a candle board. (See page22 in the BGSB).

Be sure to consult with Safety-Wise about the use of candles. You may substitute flashlights, electric candles or use regular candles and have each girl tape a paper flame on the candle.

 - The first girl approaches the candle board and says "On my honor I will try: To serve God and my country" and then lights the candle in the middle."

A BROWNIE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

- The second girl approaches the candle board and says “To help people at all times” and lights the candle on the right side of the middle candle.
- The third girl approaches the candle board and says and to live by the Girl Scout Law” and lights the candle on the left side of the middle candle.
- The fourth girl approaches the candle board and says “The Girl Scout Law (pause) I will do my best to be: honest and fair” and lights a candle, starting on the right side next to the center candles.
- The fifth girl approaches the candle board and says “I will do my best to be: (pause) friendly and helpful” and lights the candle on the left side next to the center candles.

If you have only a few girls, (5-6) who are becoming Brownie Girls Scouts, the older girls in the troop can take part in the Candle Ceremony. If you do not have any older girls, each of “Brownies to Be” can do two or three of the laws. After all the candles are lit, the troop may sing “When Ere You Make a Promise.”

6. You might want to surprise the girls by announcing to the parents and guests that during the past month and a half the girls have earn their first Try-it. At this time you may present the girls with the “Girl Scout Ways” Try-it”.
7. If you have done a Flag Ceremony and posted the colors, the Flag may be retired at this time.
8. Refreshments may be served. You and the girls may choose to have everybody bring refreshments, take money from the treasury to buy simple refreshments or have no refreshments at all.
9. At this time, the Leader can relate to the parents some of the things the girls would like to do this year and how you can use their help to achieve these goals. Everyone can do something .
10. Make sure you have the Promise poster, the Juliette Low pictures and the “I want to do list” displayed so the guests can see what the girls have been doing and things they want to do.
11. In closing, have the girls form the friendship circle and
 - Sing “The Brownie Smile Song”.
 - Do the Squeeze.
 - Say Good Night Scouts.

