

Girl Scouts of Sycamore Council

Brownie Meeting Lesson Plans

Week 1

Materials needed

- ❑ Crayons or markers, enough for girls to share
- ❑ Scissors
- ❑ Colored paper
- ❑ Stickers for decoration
- ❑ Poster Board
- ❑ Sit-upon materials (see *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*, page 15.)

Start-Up (5 minutes) To be done as girls come in to the meeting so the leader can greet girls and parents as they arrive.

Have girls make name tents for themselves. Fold a sheet of colored paper in half. Have the girls write their names in big letters across the top of the paper (near the fold). They may decorate the name tent as they wish, with stickers or their own drawings.

Opening (10 minutes)

Start this first meeting with songs the girls already know. Then introduce the *Brownie Smile Song* and ask the girls to sing it twice.

- Girl Scout Promise
- Pledge of Allegiance

Business (10 minutes)

- Announcements and introductions. Introduce any new members, parent helpers.
- Make a Kaper chart. This is a simple way to rotate responsibilities. Make the chart on poster board and display it at each meeting.
- Discuss with girls some of the things they might want to do this year. Check our Web site, www.sycamorecouncil.org, for ideas.

Activities (20 minutes) Begin work on “Girl Scout Ways” Try-It (pages 14-15 of the Brownie Badge Book). Do two of the following activities

- The group may write a “big book” about two parts of the Girl Scout Law. Use large sheets of colored paper or poster board. Have the girls design front and back covers. If the group is large, assign different parts of the Girl Scout Law to smaller groups.
- Practice hand signs listed in “What Makes Brownie Girl Scouting Special” in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*. Plan for a friendship circle and friendship squeeze in your closing.
- Each girl may make a sit-upon. This may take more than one meeting, so you wish to adjust your plans accordingly.

Clean-Up (5 minutes)

Girls assigned to clean-up should have their names listed on the Kaper chart.

Closing (10 minutes)

Emphasize what the girls have accomplished and what activities they can look forward to in the future. Ask the girls to tell the group what they most enjoyed about the meeting. Sing favorite songs. Gather in a friendship circle and do the friendship squeeze.

After the closing, be sure that you know how each girl will get home and that each girl is met by a parent, guardian or authorized person who is listed on the Child Release Form.

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Week 2

Materials Needed

Children's books or magazines

Flags for flag ceremony

Start-Up (5 minutes)

Display a collection of children's magazines or books for girls to look at while the group is assembling.

Opening (10 minutes)

Start this meeting with a simple flag ceremony. Check out www.girlscouts.org, look under "adults" and "ceremonies" to find one that's right for your group. Flag kits and ceremonies are available for check-out at the Girl Scout Service Center.

- Girl Scout Promise
- Pledge of Allegiance (goes with the flag ceremony)

Business (10 minutes)

Announcements.

Have girls decide on ground rules for their troop, based on the Girl Scout Law. Discuss some of the ideas the girls brought up at the last meeting for activities and field trips. What would be the best ideas for fall?

Activities (20 minutes) - continue working on "Girl Scout Ways" Try-It.

- Learn two more parts of the Girl Scout Law. Have the girls put on a mini-play that explains what is meant by those two parts of the Law.
- (From *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*) "Be Prepared." Talk with other Girl Scouts about how you can help your troop or group, school, family, and friends prepare for two or three of the situations below
 - Bad weather.
 - A house fire

- The power going out.
- An injury like a cut or fall.
- A long trip.

Clean-Up (5 minutes)

Check Kaper chart to see who cleans up this time.

Closing (10 minutes)

Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Girls can take turns discussing the meaning of part of the Promise or Law, or describing something they have done that exemplifies them. Sing songs. Friendship circle and Squeeze.

Note Your girls have now earned the “Girl Scout Ways” Try-It! During the “Business” part of your next meeting, you may want to discuss with the girls how they want to receive their patches. Do they want to receive them at a ceremony after they have earned one or two other Try-Its? Do they want to wait until the end of the school year (probably not!)? Do they have other ideas?

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Week 3

Materials needed

Play clay

Newspaper (to put under clay)

Animal-shaped cookie cutters

Large flip chart or large sheet of paper

Markers

Start-Up (10 minutes)

Set up small balls of play clay in the room. Put out animal-shaped cookie cutters. Have the girls make animals out of clay.

Opening (5 minutes)

Time to share! Ask the girls what they did today. Give them some time to tell you what's going on in their world!

- Girl Scout Promise
- Pledge of Allegiance

Business (10 minutes)

Field trip! Tell the girls that you will be taking a field trip next week. They will need to have signed permission slips, which can be handed out at the end of the meeting (see *Leader Resource Manual*, page 70). This field trip may be a trip to the zoo, wildlife park, nature center, or a walk down the street. You'll be watching animals large and small to find out more about them.

Discuss the rules for field trips. Write them down on a large sheet of paper. Go over the rules again. Let the girls have input in those rules (have a buddy, wear an arm band, listen to the adults in charge, don't touch or feed animals, etc.). Show the girls your copy of *Safety-Wise* and explain that Girl Scouts use this book to help plan activities.

Activities (20 minutes) Work toward the *Animals* Try-It.

- Creature moves. Do this activity on page 86 of *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*. Do some animal moves, maybe to different types of music.
- Sounds charades. Do this activity on page 87 of *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*. An alternative activity to this one is to tape or pin an animal picture on each girl's back. Have the rest of the group make the sounds of that animal and see if each girl can guess which animal is on her back!

Cleanup (5 minutes)

Check the Kaper chart

Closing (10 minutes)

Sing songs

Friendship circle and friendship squeeze.

Ask each girl to name her favorite animal

Don't forget to hand out permission slips and tell parents about next week's field trip! Call parents the night before the field trip to make sure that they send a permission slip with their daughters on the day of the field trip. Check *Safety Wise* to verify the number of adults you will need to have along on the field trip, and call adults who can help you. Do you need drivers? Make sure you confirm who will be driving.

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Week 4

Start-Up

Make sure that all girls have permission forms for your field trip. If a girl does not have a form, you will need to call a parent to either bring a permission slip or pick up their daughter. Have adults and girls put on their arm bands. Give permission slip and health history card for each girl to her driver.

Field Trip

This trip may be to a zoo or nature center, or a walk in the area of your meeting to observe wild animals. As you progress on your trip, ask girls to note the following

- What kinds of animals are wild animals? (squirrels, songbirds, centipedes, butterflies, chipmunks, rabbits, snakes, etc.)
- What is the difference between a pet animal and a wild animal? (Pets need people to take care of them; wild animals can take care of themselves.)
- What is the best way to watch wildlife? (Look at them, learn about them, leave them alone.) Use binoculars to see them up close, but never touch a wild animal.

Use the scavenger hunt on the next page for a walk in the neighborhood, or modify it for a trip to a zoo or nature center.

Make sure you return the girls to the meeting site at the time you gave to the parents on the Activity Permission Form.

Note: your girls have now earned the *Animals* Try-It.

Check it Out!

Can you find these animals?

An insect that is this long _____

An animal with wings but no feathers

An animal with paws

An animal with 8 legs

An animal with no legs

An animal with feathers

An animal with 4 legs

An animal with scales



An animal with hooves

An animal with 2 legs

An animal that climbs trees

An animal that digs in the ground

An animal swims

An animal with 6 legs



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Brownie Lesson Plans

Week 5

Materials Needed

Index cards with magazine pictures of animals glued on them

Boxes – one shoebox for each girl

Magazines and cards for pictures

Scissors

White glue or decoupage glue

Start-Up (10 minutes)

Provide index cards with pictures of animals cut from magazines. Let girls do the actions or motions that these animals make.

Opening (5 minutes)

Ask girls to share what they learned about animals. What are their favorite animals?

- Girl Scout Promise
- Pledge of Allegiance

Business (10 minutes)

Discuss your field trip. What went well? What was the most fun? What didn't they like? What would they like to do in the future?

Talk about council programs that might be of interest to the troop. Have girls vote on one or two they would like to attend. Talk about what needs to be done in order to go (check with parents, get adult helpers, etc.)

Activities (20 minutes)

- Saving with style make a box to hold troop supplies or for each girl to keep her Girl Scouting needs.
 - Have girls cut out pictures from magazines.
 - Once they feel they have enough pictures, girls can begin to glue them onto the box or boxes. To create a collage, the pictures should overlap.
 - When the box or boxes are covered and the girls are satisfied with their work, they can protect it by brushing on a coat of white glue or by using decoupage glue. Follow directions on the container.
 - To make things fancier, girls can line the bottom and the inside of their box or boxes with felt.

(Adapted from *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, page 39)

Cleanup (5 minutes) - check Kapers chart

Closing (10minutes)

- Sing songs
- Friendship circle and squeeze
- Have each girl state one personal goal that she would like to accomplish before the next meeting.

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Brownie Lesson Plans

Week 6

Materials Needed

- Autumn leaves cut from white paper
- Crayons or markers
- Large sheets of colored paper or white paper
- Apples (1-2 apples for each girl)
- Tempera paints or water colors
- Newspapers to cover surfaces when girls paint
- If making applesauce, you'll need a stove, cutting surface and appropriate kitchen utensils.

Start-Up (10 minutes)

Place paper leaves around the room. Allow girls to decorate the leaves for autumn until the whole group arrives.

Opening (5-7 minutes)

- Open with a simple flag ceremony.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Girl Scout Promise

Business (5-7 minutes)

Continue with troop business that has taken place to date. Announce any field trip or council program plans and distribute permission slips if necessary.

Activities (20 minutes)

Make apple prints! Make sure surfaces are covered with newspaper to keep them from being painted! Cut apples in half (if you cut one cross-wise, girls will see a star; lengthwise, they will make a lovely apple-shaped print). Have girls paint the cut surface of the apple, and make a print on the paper. They may put as many prints on the paper as they like. You may use newsprint and make wrapping

paper, or they may make a frame-able picture for their parents. Use your imagination (and theirs)!

OR

Make applesauce. Use your favorite recipe. You'll need access to a stove, as well as appropriate kitchen utensils. What a great way to make a snack!

Clean-Up (5-7 minutes) - check Kaper chart

Closing

- Friendship circle and squeeze.
- Sing songs

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Brownie Lesson Plans

Week 7

Materials Needed

- Toy telephones
- Dress-up clothes representing peoples from around the world.
- OR signs with names of countries and yarn attached to hang around girls' necks.

Start-Up (10 minutes)

With toy telephones around the room, have girls take turns acting out telephone conversations. See "Phone Fun," page 69 of *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts* for sample conversations.

Opening (15 minutes)

Sing familiar songs with the girls. Then have girls practice introductions. See page 68, "Meeting People," in *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*.

- Girl Scout Promise
- Pledge of Allegiance

Business (5 minutes)

Discuss troop business as necessary

Activities (20 minutes)

Allow girls to dress in "costume" of another country (or you may simply make signs with the names of different countries on them and hang them around girls' necks). Teach the girls, or ask a volunteer to teach the girls, different greetings and titles. Then allow them to role-play greetings with each other. Then teach them how to say "please" and "thank you" in three different languages. (See "All Around the World," page 68-69 in *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*.)

Clean-Up (5 minutes) - check Kapers chart

Closing (5 minutes)

- Sing songs
- Friendship circle and friendship squeeze.

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Brownie Lesson Plans

Week 8

Materials needed

- Index cards with names of emotions on them (see start-up)
- Sample menus from restaurants
- Place settings set on a table (plates, cups silverware)
- Pictures of food cut from magazines
- Colored paper
- Glue sticks

Start-Up (5 minutes)

Have index cards available with different emotions written on them (happy, sad, angry, surprised, etc.). Working with a buddy, girls may make faces that indicate the emotions on the cards, with the buddy guessing what emotion it is.

Opening (10 minutes)

Review the greetings and other words you learned in other languages last time.

Ask the girls to greet each other in their new languages.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Girl Scout Promise

Business (5 minutes)

Troop business as needed.

Activities (20 minutes)

Do activity 4, "Table Manners," on page 69 of *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*.

If your group is large, divide into small groups with some of the girls doing activity 4, and some doing the following

Food collage. Girls may make a collage with the pictures of food. If they want to, they may make a restaurant menu using the pictures and writing the names of

food, or they may make a table setting using the food and drawing in forks, plates and cups. Glue pictures on colored paper with glue sticks.

Cleanup (10 minutes) - check Kapers chart

Closing (10 minutes)

Once again, have girls practice their greetings in other languages. Have a friendship circle. Instead of the friendship squeeze (or in addition to it), girls may say “good-bye” in the language of their choice.

Wow! Your troop has now earned the “Manners” Try-It, and has even started on the “People Are Talking” Try-It. Be sure to remind them and applaud them for all the things they’ve learned and accomplished in the two short months that they’ve been together!

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Brownie Lesson Plans

Week 9

Materials Needed

- 5"x8" index cards
- Crayons, pencils or markers
- Postage stamps
- Full-size paper plates (not Styrofoam)
- Dry beans, rice, sand or other small things that rattle.
- A stapler with staples
- A CD or tape of upbeat music

Start-Up (10 minutes)

Girls can make and send postcards from their Brownie Girl Scout meeting. In this way the whole family can keep up with the girls' activities and adventures. See page 44 in *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders* for instructions.

Opening (10 minutes)

- Simple flag ceremony.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Girl Scout Promise

Business (5 minutes)

Troop business as needed.

Activities (20 minutes)

Make a percussion instrument. (see "Make Your Own" on page 164 of *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*.)

When all girls are done with their instruments (after clean-up), play the cassette or CD and have girls mark the beat with their instruments. If they don't want to

use their instruments, they may clap their hands or stomp their feet. The goal is to have fun!

Clean-up (5 minutes) - check Kapers chart

Closing (10 minutes)

Girls may sing a song and accompany themselves with their instruments. Do a friendship circle and a friendship squeeze.

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Brownie Lesson Plans

Week 10

Materials needed

- Photos, magazine pictures or pictures from catalogs of girls doing fun things.
- Colored paper to make a book
- Stapler

Start-up (10 minutes)

Girls can work together to create a picture book of activities that they like to do with their troop. Each girl can make a page, or this can be a cooperative effort. When they are done, staple the book together to display during Girl Scout Week.

Opening (5 minutes)

Ask girls to greet each other in another language. Then, teach them a song from another country.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Girl Scout Promise

Business (5 minutes)

Discuss troop business as needed.

Activities (20 minutes)

Try one of the games in “Global Games” on page 9 of *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*.

To unwind and calm down, girls can do Activity 1, “What Do They Call . . .”

On page 8 of *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*.

Clean-Up (5 minutes) - check Kapers chart

Closing (10 minutes)

Ask girls to sing the song from another country that they learned at the beginning of the meeting. In the friendship circle, have them say “good-bye” in another language. Do the Friendship Squeeze.

Congratulations! Your troop just earned their “Brownie Girl Scouts Around the World” Try-It! So far this year, they have earned

- Girl Scout Ways
- Animals
- Manners
- Brownie Girl Scouts Around the World

They have also done activities toward their “People Are Talking,” “Making Music” and “Colors and Shapes” Try-Its. Now is a good time to get ready for the Girl Scout Cookie program and other terrific activities.