

PLAN FOR THE FIRST FOUR BROWNIE MEETINGS

Brownie Girl Scout meetings should last long enough to meet the needs of the girls, typically once a week for about an hour. Each meeting will be different and plans should be flexible. Feel free to follow the Brownie two-year guide from Grade-Level training. The girl/adult partnership in planning is vital to Girl Scouting. A suggested meeting flow is as follows:

- Start-up activity: An activity that girls can do as they wait for others to arrive. For example: Coloring sheets or game girls can do independently or practice a song.
- Opening: A calling together of all girls to begin the meeting should take place. It should only take a small amount of time. Suggested openings are reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law together and/or singing a song such as Make New Friends.
- Business: Girls conduct the business of the meeting such as attendance, dues, assigning Kapers.
- Activity: The major part of the meeting should be spent doing activities related to badge work, ceremonies, songs, games, or field trips.
- Snack: Typically a small, healthy snack is served such as crackers and carrots.
- Closing: A song, game, or friendship circle that officially ends the meeting.

The Goals for the First Four Meetings are:

1. To have everyone become acquainted and feel comfortable working together as a troop/group.
2. To feel a part of the Girl Scout family and learn the ways of Girl Scouting.
3. To become familiar with the Brownie Handbook, songs, and games.

THE FIRST MEETING

Objective: To learn some Girl Scout traditions (ways); meeting openings and closings (Girl Scout Promise and Law and the friendship circle); assign girl responsibilities through Kapers, and learn about “How Brownies Got Their Name” plus “The Brownie Story” (*Brownie Girl Guide Handbook*, pages 17-21).

Start-up Activity: Coloring sheets with the Brownie Girl Scout Elf.

Opening: Gather the girls together in a circle. Explain the importance of an Opening to each meeting. Say the Girl Scout Promise and Law by having the girls repeat each line after you if they are unfamiliar (Creating a poster for reference is helpful). Show them the Girl Scout Sign (page 2) to be used when reciting the Girl Scout Promise.

Business: Explain the Kaper Chart and responsibilities girls will take at each meeting. Assign roles and show them how each is done and how duties will rotate. For example, Helper (Troop Leader assistant), Secretary (takes attendance), Treasurer (collects dues and tells all money in and out), Hostess (snack preparation), Opening (starts the Promise and Law), Clean-up (makes sure everyone has cleaned up), Song Leader and Squeeze Starter (ending Friendship Circle).

Activity: Teach girls the special Girl Scout Ways:

Safety Tour, explain how to get out in an emergency and the Buddy System.

Brownie Ring, quiet sign (page 22).

Girl Scout handshake (page 2).

Girl Scout slogan and motto (page 10).

Read the stories “How Brownies Got Their Name” and “The Brownie Story” to the girls. Have them share their favorite part of the story and how they help out others.

Clean-up as necessary.

Snack: Have girls pass out a small snack such as crackers and string cheese. (wash hands)

Closing: Teach the *Brownie Smile Song* (*google this on YouTube*) and the Friendship Circle (page 23).

SECOND MEETING

Objective: To practice the Girl Scout Ways and learn about the Girl Scout uniform and how to earn badges.

Start-up Activity: Play Paper Kick Ball (using a toilet paper roll taped well).

Opening: Sing the Brownie Smile Song that girls learned at the first meeting and recite the Promise and Law.

Business: Assign jobs for the meeting on the Kaper chart: Attendance, dues, helpers, song leader, closing, etc.

Activity: Show the girls the Brownie uniform (pages 26-27) and explain the badges (some show membership and some earned) and talk about how they display each. Have troop review Troop Crests (page 29) and pick a crest that symbolizes the troop. Start the Girl Scout Ways Legacy Badge, “leave a place better than you found it” (Step 4) and teach the girls the Brownie Tidying Up Song that can be used each time the troop is cleaning up from an activity/snack/etc. If time permits, chose an activity from the Girl Scout Ways badge for the next meeting.

Snack: Have girls pass out a small snack such as mini carrots and granola bar. (wash hands)

Closing: Close with the friendship circle and pass the friendship squeeze.

THIRD MEETING

Objective: To practice the routine of the meeting, to learn a Girl Scout tradition by making Sit-Upons and to start learning to put the Promise and Law into practice.

Start-up Activity: Beanbag Toss: set up boxes, bins, bags, or whatever containers you have, for girls to toss bean bags (Nerf balls, crumpled paper balls) into. Girls stand beside a chair or behind a “line” (jump rope, ruler, other marker) and toss for accuracy. A girl gets three tries then passes the beanbags to the next girl.

Opening: Sing the Brownie Smile Song that girls learned at the first meeting and recite the Promise and Law.

Business: Assign jobs for the meeting on the Kaper chart: Attendance, dues, helpers, song leader, closing, etc.

Activity: Make sit-upons with the girls from the Girl Scout Ways badge, Step 5. Girl Scouts use sit-upons when the ground is damp or cold or to keep their clothes clean. Waterproof material (an old vinyl or plastic tablecloth or shower curtain works fine) is cut into two squares large enough to sit on. Place newspapers between the two squares to form a cushion. Hole punch the edges to make sewing easier. Sew the squares together with yarn or string. Talk about traditions

and why they are important to Girl Scouts, families, etc. Also, talk about the Girl Scout Law, line by line and how to practice those behaviors at each meeting.

Snack: Have girls pass out a small snack such as apple slices and peanut butter. (wash hands) Be sure to look at your Blue Cards (health history forms) for nut allergies.

Closing: Have a friendship circle and squeeze.

FOURTH MEETING

Objective: To discuss and begin planning an investiture/rededication ceremony.

Start-up Activity: Play “The Name Game”. Stand or sit in a circle. One person begins by throwing a ball (or ball of paper) to a person and calling out that person’s name. If the thrower calls the wrong name, the ball is returned. Add additional balls as the game gets going.

Opening: Sing the Brownie Smile Song that girls learned at the first meeting and recite the Promise and Law.

Business: Assign jobs for the meeting on the Kaper chart: Attendance, dues, helpers, song leader, closing, etc.

Activity: Plan the Investiture/Rededication Ceremony. The Investiture is a simple ceremony to welcome new girls who are now making a formal commitment to be a Girl Scout. Girls who have already been in Girl Scouts rededicate themselves at this ceremony. In a Brownie Ring discuss inviting family members, refreshments, etc. Assign small groups to accomplish the tasks such as writing the program, making the invitations, planning the menu, creating decorations and assigning roles/responsibilities for the ceremony.

Snack: Have girls pass out a small snack such as fruit cups and Cheez-Its. (wash hands)

Closing: Have a friendship circle and squeeze.

We hope this planning document is helpful for you. Feel free to adapt it to your group and add your ideas. If you have any questions, please reach out to the staff at the Girl Scout office, 907-456-4782.