



BEHIND THE SCENES BROWNIE TRY-IT

Solving mysteries means learning how to find and understand information and clues. These activities will help you to see how you can be an investigator in many different ways.

1. ***TOOLS OF THE TRADE:** Police officers have to use information and clues to solve crimes. Use a fingerprint kit to learn how this clue can help police identify a suspect, or learn about police artists and mug shot books to see how, when a witness describes someone it can be used to solve a crime.
2. **ARE YOU TELLING THE TRUTH?** People look, act, and speak differently when they tell the truth versus when they don't. Get with a buddy or in a small group and in turns each of you share two true things about yourself and one lie. See if you can guess which is which. Did something the person said or did make it easier to figure out?
3. **READ ABOUT IT:** Read a mystery book and see if you can solve the mystery before the ending. What clues helped you out?
4. ***FOLLOW THAT SCENT:** Animals are often good at sniffing out clues. What are some ways investigators might use a dog or other animal to help them solve a mystery? Find out and share with your group or troop, or ask someone from your police department to come and bring a police dog for you to meet.
5. ***GO SEE IT:** Mysteries can be a lot of fun. Go see a play or watch a television show/movie about a mystery. What did you like about it?
6. ***PROTECT YOURSELF:** Mysteries can also be dangerous, such as when a stranger tells you to come with him because he has a wonderful surprise for you or when your friends dare you to go into the empty house down the street because there is a ghost in there. Learn from an adult how to recognize when you should walk away from a mystery.



BEHIND THE SCENES JUNIOR BADGE

Everyone solves mysteries; from the police investigator who solves a crime to you trying to figure out why you can't find your favorite book you know you left in your room. Becoming a good investigator means learning how to use information and clues to find answers. See how well you can do.

1. ***WHAT'S THAT CRIME?** Interview or talk to a police officer or a lawyer about what a crime is, the different types and levels of crimes/charges, and what happens when you get caught.
2. ***TOOLS OF THE TRADE:** Local, state and federal police use different tools to help them solve crimes. Learn how fingerprinting is used to identify a suspect and as evidence in a trial. Also learn about police artists and how they can get an eyewitness to describe what they saw and how, with mug shot books, this can lead to identifying a suspect in a crime.
3. ***ARE YOU TELLING THE TRUTH?** People look, act, and speak differently when they tell the truth versus when they don't. Get with a buddy or in a small group and in turns each of you share two true things about yourself and one lie. See if you can guess which is which. Did the person give themselves away? Also learn about lie detectors and how they work. How do the police use them in solving crimes?
4. ***THE SCENE OF THE CRIME:** Investigators can learn a lot from a crime scene. With the help of a law enforcement officer, learn to look for and identify clues at a crime scene.
5. **THE SCIENCE OF DNA:** What is DNA and how is it now being used in investigations?
6. **MYSTERIOUS CAREERS:** Many careers involve solving mysteries or investigating. For example, an investigative reporter for a newspaper uses information and clues to get a story. How many others can you list? Learn more about three different careers that involve solving mysteries.
7. **READ A GOOD BOOK:** Many of the books you like to read are mysteries. Choose one you have not read before, and see if you can use the clues to solve the mystery before the end.
8. ***MYSTERY THEATER:** Mystery can be found in drama, too. Attend a mystery play and see if you can figure it out, or put on a mystery play yourself for an audience and see if you can stump them.
9. ***DON'T BE A VICTIM:** While everyone likes to solve mysteries, it isn't always good to be in the middle of one or be the victim of a crime. How can you protect yourself? With the help of an adult, learn about the different ways you can keep from being a victim.



BEHIND THE SCENES GIRLS 11-17 INTEREST PROJECT PATCH SKILL BUILDERS

1. *Interview a law enforcement official or attorney. Learn about different types and levels of crimes. Who are the players involved in an investigation and what role do they play? What are standard procedures used in solving crimes? Discuss a case that has received a lot of media attention. How can the media help or hinder an investigation?
2. *Investigators can learn a lot from a crime scene. With the help of a law enforcement officer, set up or explore a mock crime scene and look for and identify the clues that can solve the crime. Discuss how crime scenes can be destroyed or preserved.
3. *Attend a mystery play and try to solve the mystery before the end or with your troop or group, participate in a “host a murder” party where you have to solve the mystery.
4. *Self defense; learn about the different things you can do to prevent from becoming a victim.
5. Start your own mystery book club. Take turns having members choose a book and get together after reading to discuss what you liked or did not like about it.
6. *Play a game that requires you to use investigative skills. At the end, share your strategy for playing. Did it work? What would you do differently?

TECHNOLOGY

1. *Learn about fingerprinting and the changes in technology that have made this science more exact and easier to use.
2. *How do you know if someone is telling the truth? Learn about lie detectors and how they are used by law enforcement. What are other clues that you can utilize to determine whether someone is telling the truth? Practice these with different members of your troop or group.
3. *DNA has become increasingly useful in investigations. Learn what it is, how investigators collect it, and how it is used to solve crimes.
4. *Learn what an Amber Alert is. Discover where it originated and why. How does law enforcement use it today? Learn about one case where an Amber Alert was issued and what was the result.
5. *When crime scene investigators remove evidence or trace from the scene or from a person, it is sent to a lab to be analyzed. What do they look for? What tests are run and information found that could help tell what happened at a scene.

SERVICE PROJECTS

1. Write your own mystery play and perform it for a group of younger girls.
2. Collect new stuffed animals for your local or state police department to give to children who are victims in crimes.
3. Make a poster for younger girls about stranger danger. Talk with them about how they can protect themselves.
4. Organize an event for girls to learn about different careers in investigative fields.

CAREER EXPLORATION

1. *Research careers that use investigative skills and interview at least two people in different fields. (Police, Federal agents, Private Investigators, Social Workers, Journalists, etc.) Which skills do they commonly use? What education and training do they need? What are the benefits and challenges to their jobs?
2. Learn about volunteer or mentoring programs in your area that would use investigative skills. Participate in one or have someone come and talk to your troop about them.
3. Choose an author who writes mysteries. Become familiar with their books, learn how they find their stories, do their research, and why they chose this path.
4. What are forensic scientists? Explore the different types and career opportunities they have. What education do they have?