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Girl Scout Brownies

First Four Meeting Examples

To help you get started with your Girl Scout Brownie troop, you'll find examples of how you and the girls can structure your first four meetings. Each example follows a typical troop-meeting format, and each incorporates the *Brownie Quest* journey book. If you're using *Wow! Wonders of Water*, you may be able, with a bit of creativity, to adapt these meetings to include that series of journey books.

Prior to your meetings with girls, be sure to let each girl's parent or guardian know where to get a copy of her own journey book. It is important that each girl have her own book, so she can write in and decorate it.

In the adult guide that accompanies *Brownie Quest*, you'll find six flexible, customizable sample journey mini-sessions. You and the girls may decide to do all six of these sample mini-sessions during one or two troop meetings (and that's perfectly okay), or you may decide to extend the sample mini-sessions over several troop meetings, which is what the enclosed example meetings reflect. Given that all your meetings will be girl-led, however, your meetings will probably go in a different direction than these examples, but these are a great place to start.

One final note: In the third meeting, girls plan for and prepare their Investiture Ceremony. New girls will receive their Girl Scout Brownie pins and returning girls will use it as a rededication ceremony.

Ready to get started? Grab the girl books and adult guide for *Brownie Quest*, and get ready to have fun with your group of Girl Scout Brownies!

Girl Scout Brownies: Sample Meeting 1 (60 to 90 minutes)

Goal: The girls will discover their special qualities and the qualities of their sister Brownies. They will also find the values within the Girl Scout Law.

Supplies needed:

- *Brownie Quest*, girls' books and adult guide
- Slim markers (small decorative stickers are optional)
- Light ball or koosh ball
- Poster board with a star on it and the names of the girls written on the star
- Clues for the Girl Scout Law search—ten strips of paper with one part of the Law on each strip
- "It" and "Other" cans and wide craft sticks
- Snack or treat

Pre-meeting: Set up a table with arrival activity material; display the Quest Master Map.

Arrival Activity: Finding the First Key: Discovering Me (page 49 in the girls' book). Each girl uses slim markers and decorative stickers to make her own unique stars. Have an adult or an older Girl Scout help the girls, if necessary.

Snack/treat: You and the girls may opt to have treat time here or toward the end of the meeting.

Opening: Sit in a Brownie Ring (which is simply a group of Brownies sitting in a circle). Welcome the girls and introduce yourself and any co-volunteers. Do the Ball Toss (page 46 of the adult guide).

Business: Take attendance and collect the dues, explaining to the girls what you are doing, since they will do this task in the future. (You and the girls may opt to collect dues at the beginning of your meetings.) After the first meeting, assign taking attendance as one of the kapers for one of the girls.

You will create "It" and "Other" cans: Give each girl a wide craft stick to decorate and help her put her name on. Also provide two cans (such as coffee cans) that girls can help decorate. When the cans and sticks are complete, you have an easy way to get girls to help. When a helper is needed in a meeting, a stick is drawn from the "It" can, and the name drawn is the helper. After the task is finished, the stick goes in the "Other" can, until all sticks have been drawn from the "It" can.

Activity 1: Decorate the "It" sticks. Each girl decorates her "It" stick and writes her name on it. Sit in circle and have girls place their sticks in the container. Ask the girls how they help at home, and talk about how they might help in their troop.

Activity 2: Play Going ELF (pages 47–49 in the adult guide; see page 44 in the adult guide for suggestions on ways to set up the search). Then have girls, with assistance (if necessary), complete Discovering Values (page 50 in the girls' book). For tips on winding down from the search, see page 50 in the adult guide.

Clean-up: Draw a stick from the "It" can and ask this girl to lead the clean-up effort. Encourage all the girls as a team to be part of this effort.

Closing: Give each girl a stapled copy of the take-home letter and family start (pages 53–55 in the adult guide). Encourage her to share and do the star with her family and bring the star back to the next meeting. Close with teaching them the Friendship Circle (page 27 in the adult guide).

Girl Scout Brownies: Sample Meeting 2 (60 to 90 minutes)

Goals: The girls play and reflect on a team-building game. Then they create Brownie Team Agreement, the first step in discovering the second key on their Brownie Quest. They also celebrate earning the Discover Key.

Supplies needed:

- *Brownie Quest*, girls' books and adult guide
- Discovering Us poster (page 51 of the adult guide)
- Markers, stickers, and any other glitzy decorative stuff

- Poster board/easel paper titled “Brownie Team Agreement.”
- Extra photocopies of Family Stars and Discover Chant (pages 55 and 91 of the adult guide)
- Discover Key award patch for each girl
- A soccer-size ball
- Snack or treat

Pre-meeting: Set up the arrival activity; display the Quest Master Map.

Arrival activity: Each girl finishes decorating her family star; those who are done may decorate the Brownie Team Agreement poster.

Snack/treat: Encourage healthy treats.

Opening: Stand in a circle. Review/teach the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Sign (page 26 of the adult guide).

Business: Assign a girl to take attendance and another to collect dues. Begin to discuss plans for an Investiture Ceremony where they will receive their Brownie pin if they are new, and rededicate themselves if they are returning. Determine when, where, and who to invite. Next week, they will work out additional details.

Activity 1: Do the Brownie Star Circle and Discovery Key Ceremony (pages 58 and 59 of the adult guide).

Activity 2: Play Connecting as a Team (page 60 of the adult guide). Play Pass the Ball, Please (bottom of page 61 of the adult guide).

Activity 3: Creating Brownie Team Agreement (page 61 of the adult guide).

Clean-Up: Draw a stick from the “It” can and ask this girl to lead the clean-up effort. Encourage all the girls as a team to be part of this effort.

Closing: Sit in a Brownie Ring. Ask the girls with a family member to look at and think about pages 52 and 53 in the girls’ book. Close with a Friendship Circle.

Girl Scout Brownies: Sample Meeting 3 (60 to 90 minutes)

Goal: Girls jump into the ELF Adventure using their own sit-upons.

Supplies needed:

- *Brownie Quest*, girls’ books and adult guide
- Small flag
- Sit-upon materials
- Food items for the healthy snack; small baggies

Pre-meeting: Lay out everything they need to make a healthy snack.

Arrival activity: Create a healthy snack. Let the girls mix their own combo of dried banana chips, raisins, granola, sunflower seeds, and popcorn. Be sure to check allergies first, though!

Snack/treat: The girls have prepared their own treat—yum, yum, and it’s healthy!

Opening: Introduce a basic Flag Ceremony. Choose a girl to hold the flag from the “It” can. Stand in a horseshoe facing the girl holding the flag. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance with hands over heart, and then say the Girl Scout Promise with the Girl Scout Sign.

Business: In the Brownie Ring, a girl takes attendance and dues is collected (unless your girls decided to do this as they arrive).

Talk about the ceremony they had at their last meeting, during which each girl received her Discover Key. Discuss their upcoming ceremony, their Investiture Ceremony, and help them make decisions regarding what their ceremony will look like. (For ideas, see pages 27–29 of the adult guide.)

Review with the girls their Brownie Team Agreement. Introduce another tool that will help them manage their meetings—a Kaper Chart—that will help them keep track of various jobs and whose turn it is to do each. Brainstorm with the girls what types of jobs should be included, for example, serving treats, planning and leading the opening, planning and leading the arrival activity, and planning and leading the closing ceremony or activity.

Activity 1: Make sit-upons. Girls will use these any time they want to sit on the ground during a meeting, so, if possible, keep them with the troop supplies. A sit-upon is made by inserting newspaper (or some other soft material) between vinyl material. Take a folded section of a standard newspaper. Cut two sections of vinyl cloth, large enough to cover each side. Punch holes about one-half-inch all the way around both pieces of vinyl. Help the girls thread yarn through the holes, connecting both pieces of the vinyl. Then tie off the ends securely.

Activity 2: Have the girls try out their sit-upons as they read Chapter 1 (pages 7 and 10–15) in the girls’ book. Read and talk about this story with the girls. Also, have the girls try out the Twist Me and Turn Me in pairs (page 17 of the girls’ book).

Clean-up: Draw a stick from the “It” can and ask this girl to lead the clean-up effort. Encourage all the girls as a team to be part of this effort.

Closing: Planning and leading the closing can be a kaper, and each week a group of girls can direct this. This time, ask the girls how they would like to close their meetings.

Girl Scout Brownies: Sample Meeting 4 (60 to 90 minutes)

Goal: Girls make final preparations for their Investiture Ceremony and take the second step toward the Connect Key.

Supplies needed:

- *Brownie Quest*, girls’ books and adult guide
- Photocopies for each girl of page 63 of the adult guide
- Small flag

- The printed part of an invitation with the date, time, and additional information to go into their decorated invitations; material to make their invitations
- CD or digital file of the Brownie Smile song (check your council's resource center) and CD player/iPod player
- The Quest Master Map to display

Arrival activity: Ask the first few girls to arrive to lead the others in a game, or have a Cadette Girl Scout teach them the "Brownie Smile Song," with actions.

Opening: Do a basic flag ceremony, followed by the Girl Scout Promise. Teach them the "Brownie Smile Song."

Snack/treat: If a girl provided the treat, have her act as hostess.

Business: The girls take care of attendance and dues, with your help. Finalize plans and practice for the Investiture Ceremony, which might take place at your next meeting. Will the girls have a flag ceremony? Who will be in it? Will they sing or act or Twist Me and Turn Me, from their ELF Adventure story?

Activity 1: Create individualized invitations. Give each girl the material she needs to make the invitation for her family. Encourage each girl to decorate and individualize it.

Activity 2: Prepare to Connect at Home (page 62–63 of the adult guide). This activity revisits their Brownie Team Agreement, and then takes the second step for the Connect Key. Tell the girls they are going to look at how they can care for their families.

Then do Send it Home (page 62 of the adult guide, which references page 55 of the girls' book). See if the girls would like together to try to fill in the blanks on page 54 of their book. These are based on the pictures, except for the question about Campbell's dog's name (see page 7 of the girls' book for the dog's name!). Then give them a copy of page 63 of the adult guide to take home and do with their families.

Clean-up: Draw a stick from the "It" can and ask this girl to lead the clean-up effort. Encourage all the girls as a team to be part of this effort. If you have the CD player/iPod player with Girl Scout songs, you might want to play this while the girls are cleaning up.

Closing: Do Friendship Circle, led by the girls. Consider singing "Good Night Brownies," to the tune of "Good night Ladies."

Good night, Brownies.

Good night, Brownies.

Goodnight, Brownies.

We're sad to see you go.