



First Four Meetings: Brownies

**A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE
FOR THE FIRST FOUR
MEETINGS OF YOUR
BROWNIE TROOP**

Week One



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Troop Business

1. Have girls sit in a Brownie Girl Scout Ring (circle).
2. Take attendance.
3. Girls should establish rules for their troop meetings with guidance from leaders. Explain and demonstrate the Quiet Sign.
4. Discuss the purpose of the registration fee, the purpose of Girl Scout uniforms, and what it means to be a Brownie Girl Scout.
5. Introduce the Kaper chart, and have the girls sign up to complete various tasks like helping set up crafts, passing out snack, or clearing the tables after the meeting.

1 Pre-Meeting Activity: Giant Name Tags

As the girls arrive, have them write their name in the center of a very large piece of construction paper. Have them write or draw pictures of the following around their name: where they were born, places they have visited, favorite foods, favorite activities, favorite movies, and so on. Encourage the girls to talk amongst themselves and find commonalities as they make their name tags. When the girls are done (or the time is up) hole-punch each side of the paper and tie a string in each hole, so the girls can wear their name tags for the rest of the meeting.

2 Opening Activities

Play a get-acquainted game, such as "Going on a Trip," where the girls sit in a circle and pick items to take on a trip that start with the first letter of their first name (such as, "I'm Sabrina, and I'm going to bring a suitcase," or "I'm Claire, and I'm going to bring a CD.")

Then, have the girls play "Human Knot." Have the girls form a close circle, with one girl standing out of the circle. This girl is the "doctor." Have the girls grab hands with Scouts on the other side of the circle, and twist and turn so they form a human knot. Then the "doctor" comes back and guides them to untangle the circle without breaking hands. This game can be played over and over again if the girls like it!

4 Optional Snack Time

Tell "The Brownie Story" while the girls eat snack. Because the story is long and the girls' attention spans are short, try reading the story before the meeting and paraphrasing the story in your own words.

5 Major Activities

- Have the girls act out the Brownie Story.
- Teach the Girl Scout slogan, "Do a good turn daily." Relate this to the Brownie Story
- Learn the traditional "Brownie Smile Song."

6 Closing

Try the Friendship Circle (Brownie Handbook, p. 19).

Week Two



1 Pre-Meeting Activity: Giggling Gertie

Have the girls form a circle, with one girl standing in the center. The girl in the center laughs and tosses a handkerchief or rag in the air. The group starts to laugh and all the players continue to laugh as long as the handkerchief is in the air. The instant the handkerchief touches the floor, all faces become expressionless. The first person caught smiling or laughing is “it,” and replaces the girl in the center.

2 Opening Activity

Play another get-acquainted game, such as the Bean Bag Name Game. Have the girls form a circle, sitting or standing. The leader will toss the bean bag to a girl. The girl says her name and tosses the bag to another girl, who will say her name.

After all the girls have said their names, the game can be varied. Have the girls toss the bean bag in reverse order, starting with the last girl to catch the bag, or have the girl with the bean bag say her own name and the name of the girl to whom she is tossing the bean bag.

3 Troop Business

1. Take attendance and have the girls sign up on the Kaper chart. Collect any forms the girls have brought in.
2. Have the girls volunteer to share good turns that they have done since the last meeting, such as holding a door open or being nice to a sibling. Relate this to the Brownie Story from the last meeting.

4 Optional Snack Time

While the girls eat snack, explain the concept of Try-Its and ask the girls which ones interest them. If possible, prepare a list of five to ten Try-Its that are diverse yet feasible for your troop to complete. Aim to finish one or two Try-Its in the next two months, based on their input.

5 Major Activities

Read the Girl Scout Promise together and discuss what each part of it means. Then, play the Promise Game. Have the girls stand in a circle, and pass a ball or bean bag to the first girl. She should hold the ball and say “on,” the first word of the Promise, and pass the ball to the next girl, who should say “my.” The next girl will say “honor,” and so on until the girls complete the Promise. Go slowly at first, and faster on the next round. Pass the ball in a random order to make the game more challenging.

Then, make Promise Bookmarks. Have the girls decorate strips of construction paper with pictures and words that represent the meaning of the Girl Scout Promise.

6 Closing

Learn “Make New Friends,” a traditional Girl Scout song. Consider singing it in a round if the girls master it.

Week Three



1 Pre-Meeting Activity: Silly Name Game

Have all the girls and leaders sit in a circle. The Leader starts the game, saying her first name and choosing something she likes to do for her last name (like Julie Swimming or Sally Reading, and so on). Then the girls continue around the circle, saying their names until the circle is complete. At the end, challenge the girls to remember the special names of others in the circle. If you wish, you can substitute favorite colors (Julie Purple or Sally Red, etc) or favorite foods (Julie Pizza or Sally Ice Cream, etc) for the last name. The objective of this game is for the girls to learn more about their fellow Scouts.

2 Opening Activity

Explain the structure and the purpose of flag ceremonies to the girls, and how they are a traditional part of all Girl Scout meetings and events. Then, put on a simple flag ceremony. Choose two girls to be color guards, one girl to be the color bearer, and one or two girls to read the directions. Refer to the "Extra Resources" section on the last page of this guide for more information about flag ceremonies.

3 Troop Business

1. Take attendance and have the girls sign up on the Kaper chart, giving preference to the girls who didn't participate in the flag ceremony. Collect any forms the girls have brought in.
2. Have the girls volunteer to share more good turns that they have done since the last meeting.

4 Optional Snack Time

While the girls eat snack, introduce them to the Girl Scout Law. Ask them what they think each part of the law means and how they can apply it to their lives.

5 Major Activities

Tell the girls that you will be having an Investiture and Rededication Ceremony next week where new girls will receive their Brownie pin and other girls will rededicate themselves to the Promise and Law. Discuss the ceremony, which will include a flag ceremony, reciting the Promise and Law, and one or two songs. Teach the Girl Scout handshake. Plan a Kaper chart for the ceremony. Then, split the girls into two groups. One group will make personal invitations for their families while the other group decorates posters of the Promise, and Law. Then the groups swap.

6 Closing

Tunnel closing: girls form two lines facing each other and make a bridge with their hands. The first pair walks under the bridge holding hands, and the rest follow suit.

Week Four



1 Pre-Meeting Activity: Brownie Crowns

Help the girls write “I do a good turn daily” on long strips of construction paper. Then have them decorate the paper with pictures that show how they help people and use the Girl Scout motto in their everyday life. They could also draw pictures of role models who use the Girl Scout motto. When they are done, carefully staple the crown in a circle so it fits their head. The girls can wear their crowns for the rest of the meeting.

2 Troop Business

1. Take attendance. Collect any forms that the girls have brought in.
2. Have the girls volunteer to share more good turns that they have done since the last meeting.
3. Review the girls’ special jobs on the Kaper chart put together at the last meeting.
4. Walk through the structure of the Investiture Ceremony. Make sure that the girls now where to stand at all times. Review the songs that the group will sing in the ceremony.

3 Opening Activities

Play the Promise Game from the second meeting to review the Girl Scout Promise with the girls. Think up variations to make the game more exciting, such as saying it super fast or tossing the ball in a pattern. Review the Girl Scout Law as well.

4 Major Activity: Investiture Ceremony

Have girls escort their family and friends to their seats at the beginning of the ceremony. Then, call the girls to the stage for the ceremony, which could include a flag ceremony, one or two songs,, recitations of the Promise and Law, and individual recognition of each Brownie. This is a memorable and special day for all Girl Scouts and their families.

5 Closing & Optional Snack

After the end of the ceremony, have the girls’ families and friends form a big tunnel in the style of the tunnel closing from your third meeting. If you wish, you could have snacks and drinks set out for the girls and their families to enjoy, and encourage parents to get to know each other.



Supplies

Week One

- Construction paper, markers or crayons, hole puncher, yarn or string, scissors (1)
- Poster for rules, Kaper chart (3)
- Snacks, “The Brownie Story,” and optional props (4)
- Poster with lyrics to “The Brownie Smile Song” (5)

Week Two

- Handkerchief or rag (1)
- Bean bag and/or ball (2, 5)
- Kaper chart (3)
- Snacks, Try-It book (4)
- Poster of Girl Scout Promise (5)
- Construction paper, markers, magazine cutouts, glue, stickers (5)
- Poster with lyrics to “Make New Friends” (6)

Week Three

- Flag and instructions for flag ceremony (2)
- Kaper chart (3)
- Snacks, poster of Girl Scout Law (4)
- Kaper chart for next week, markers, construction paper, poster boards, ribbons and glitter for invitations and posters (5)

Week Four

- Construction paper or poster board, markers or crayons, scissors, stapler (1)
- Kaper chart from week three (2)
- Posters with Promise, Law, and song lyrics (2, 3, 4)
- Pins, flag, and materials for Investiture (4)
- Snacks (5)



Extra Resources

@ www.gscnc.org

- Girl Scout Flag Ceremony: www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/ceremonies/flag.asp
- Program Kits: www.gscnc.org/kits.html
- Activity Guides: www.gscnc.org/activities.html
- Meeting and Events Guides: www.gscnc.org/meeting_event_guides.html
- Patch Programs: www.gscnc.org/patches.html
- Service Project Planning Guides: www.gscnc.org/files/pdf/program/serviceprojectplanningguide.pdf