
Welcome Brownie Girl Scout Leader!






Many meetings full of excitement, discovery and fun lie ahead. Brownie Girl Scouts are at a wonderful stage of development. They are full of curiosity and energy. They are eager to learn and please. Brownie Girl Scouts are willing to try new things and will freely express their delight, hesitancy and disappointment. As you begin working with them you may expect:

1. **ACTION!** Six and seven year old Girl Scouts are just learning how to sit still and even third graders can get restless. Plan plenty of time to “get the wiggles out” as well as time for girls to work quietly at their own pace. Games are important with this age level as they allow girls to develop leadership and teamwork skills while burning off excess energy before beginning quieter activities.
2. **INVOLVEMENT!** Brownie Girl Scouts will need to be reminded what to bring to the next meeting or Try-It requirements they are to complete at home. Post a large colorful agenda containing pictures and words of the activities scheduled for a current meeting. Girls at this age level want some control of troop planning. Use the Brownie Girl Scout Ring to gather ideas and make decisions. Include girls in planning all parts of a meeting. Adults should work hand in hand with the girls to complete tasks—girl involvement means girls will take ownership for their meetings. Give older members of the troop more responsibility for planning and implementing troop activities.
3. **DIVERSITY!** There is a great deal of difference between six year olds and eight year olds. The six year old is learning how to share but is still egocentric while the eight year old is concerned about looking after others. All want to be part of the group, but they have very different needs. Some girls are just beginning to read while others have been reading to a baby brother or sister for the past year!
4. **ENERGY STRETCH!** Include a mixture of high and low energy activities during each meeting.
5. **FLEXIBILITY!** The girls will let you know how they are feeling and what they are thinking. Listen to what they say and stay flexible. The sample meetings included in this packet are only suggestions. Your troop may want you to do things differently. That’s okay.

The Adult-Girl Partnership



The Girl Scout organization promises girls that they will determine their activities. Further, Girl Scouting promises that girls will be intricately involved in the planning and conducting of the selected activities. For Brownie Girl Scouts, this can range from:

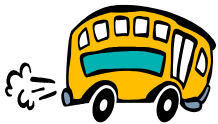
-  give suggestions of activities they like to do;
-  listen eagerly to suggestions from adults of possible activities (hint - provide a visual representation of anything that may not be familiar to the girls);
-  select from a limited set of options;
-  help prepare materials to be used for future activities;
-  evaluate whether the activity was good and offer suggestions on how it could be improved.

The adult role is to provide suggestions, assist girls in narrowing the choices, redirect girls’ energies if the activity is beyond the capabilities or resources of the troop, and to make the final decisions and arrangements for an activity to take place. More on girl/adult planning is included in Basic Leadership Training.

Family Involvement

Families want to be involved . . . so encourage them! During the “Parent/Guardian Meeting”, give specific suggestions of ways they can be part of Girl Scouting. For example, almost every meeting requires one more set of adult hands beyond the two leaders. Anytime the troop leaves the meeting place, more adult supervision is needed. Check *Safety-Wise*, Program Standard 13 (pp. 69-70) for adult ratios required for troops. Suggested ways to involve families include:

TOPIC EXPERT - TEACHES GIRLS ABOUT A PARTICULAR SUBJECT...



DRIVER - ALWAYS NEEDED WHEN THE TROOP GOES ON A TRIP TOO FAR AWAY TO WALK.

TRIP ORGANIZER - HANDLES THE LOGISTICS (COST, TRAVEL AND LODGING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.) OF ANY TROOP TRIP.



FIRST AIDER - A MUST WHEN LEAVING THE MEETING LOCATION!

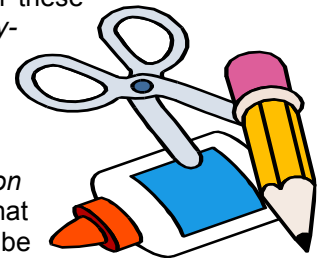
CAMPERS - GIRLS LOVE TO CAMP! IF YOU AREN'T A CAMPER, ASK ONE OR TWO ADULTS WHO ASSIST WITH THE TROOP TO ATTEND OUTDOOR TRAINING.



Program Planning

Resources and Supplies

The troop leaders require certain Girl Scout resources. These include *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, *Games for Girl Scouts*, *Safety-Wise* and *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook* and *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*. If you are inheriting a troop, hopefully the troop library contains copies of these publications. The Overseas Committee is responsible for providing a copy of *Safety-Wise*, the other four books have to be purchased. You will want to obtain them before beginning to meet with the girls. The attached meeting plans rely on you having them at your fingertips!



There are other publications such as *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting*, *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting*, *Issues for Girl Scouts* series or the *Brownie Girl Scout Songbook* that will be needed as the year progresses. Frequently there are copies which can be borrowed from the Overseas Committee Library, another troop leader or perhaps even the public library in your American community.

General troop supplies and equipment are limited. The basics to have-on-hand probably include:

Crayons, pencils & fine-line markers	Scissors (blunted-ended)	Construction paper
Glue sticks	Unlined paper	Yarn or string
Poster board	Masking and scotch tape	Paper towels
Empty butter tubs	Safety pins	Clothespins

Seek donations! There may be troops with surplus supplies, stores willing to provide and families who have extra supplies at home. Other activities may require special supplies, equipment and/or entry fees.

Trips for Brownie Girl Scouts



Brownie Girl Scouts are also going beyond their troop setting to take advantage of community activities, to conduct service projects and to go on trips. Activities outside the meeting place for Brownie Girl Scouts take place during regular troop meetings, for half or whole days during the weekend or school breaks. Brownie Girl Scout troops usually have one or two overnight activities during the membership year. Possible activities include:

Regular Meeting Time

Visit to the Library
Tour the local Pet Clinic
Tour someone's work place
Hike to a nearby ice cream parlor
(or the playground close to the meeting site)

Half Days

Visit to a Nature Center
Attend a Neighborhood day event
Explore the Children's Museum
Adopt a Grandparent at a Retirement Home
Pizza making party at a local restaurant

All Day Activities

Neighborhood Outdoor Skills day
Trip to a local amusement park
Working on a float for a holiday parade
Activity day with a sister Junior Girl Scout troop

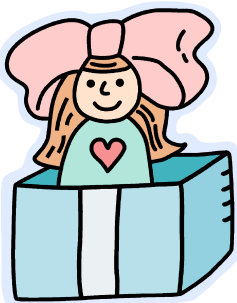
Overnights







Sleepover at the Girl Scout Hut
Backyard camping
Neighborhood Encampment
Lock-in at a local elementary school

Sometimes, it is best to have girls meet at the field trip location. If girls meet at their regular location for trips taking place during regular meeting time, it is advisable to lengthen the meeting time so girls have plenty of time at the place they are visiting to complete the planned activities. Arrange for families to pick them up at that location instead of at the usual meeting location. When a field trip is scheduled, the pre-activity, opening and business parts of the meeting won't take place. However, girls should complete an evaluation and closing of the meeting before concluding the field trip. A snack is still advisable if meeting directly after school.

Service Projects

All Girl Scouts give service to their community as part of the Girl Scout program. There are many projects Brownie Girl Scouts can do with minimum assistance and lots of encouragement. Some possibilities are:



-  Conducting plush animal drive for a local orphanage or refugee camp;
-  Planting trees at a local park;
-  Adopting a grandparent at the local Retirement Home;
-  Being part of a community holiday celebration;
-  Sending greeting cards to deployed military personnel; and
-  Being part of a youth sponsorship project.

Youth sponsorship is usually organized by Youth Services on a military facility or may be available in a civilian community through the school. As a youth sponsor, the child overseas communicates with a child preparing to move overseas. Information is shared about the community, the school and the type of activities in the overseas setting. It is a great way for girls to have pen-pals and for the child coming overseas to make a friend before arriving in a new place.

However, some projects will require money for supplies, postage, or the donation of supplies. Don't forget to consider service projects when calculating the troop expenses or add them in when the decision to do a project is made.

Funding Troop Activities

Discuss troop dues during the Parent/Guardian Meeting. Girls at the Brownie-Senior Girl Scout levels should be able to pay their troop dues from monies they earn (allowance, odd-jobs, baby-sitting etc). This is important as the girls will feel proud they are contributing to their Girl Scout activities. The rest of the funds required for Brownie Girl Scout troop activities should be the result of money-earning activities conducted by the girls such as the Girl Scout Cookie and Calendar sales, bagging (in military communities), bake sales and yard sales.



Please note:

- ① Money earning projects must be age appropriate and incorporate the girl-adult partnership.
- ① Refer to Safety-Wise before beginning any money-earning project.
- ① Money-earning activities **must** be approved by the Overseas Committee Chair (OCC) before you start.

When developing the budget with the girls, include the following

<u>Troop Income</u>		<u>Troop</u>	
Troop dues	\$ _____	Supplies (see notes on supplies . . .)	\$ _____
Cookie Sale	\$ _____	Insignia, pins, etc. . . .	\$ _____
Calendar Sale	\$ _____	Sleepovers & Camping	\$ _____
Troop Dues	\$ _____	Service Projects	\$ _____
Other money-earning activities	\$ _____	Special supplies & equipment	\$ _____
		Field trips (entry fees, public transportation, etc.)	\$ _____
Total Troop Income	\$ _____	Total Troop Expenses for year	\$ _____

Family expenses would include:

GSUSA membership dues . . .	\$10.00
Handbook . . .	\$ _____
Uniform (optional) . . .	\$ _____
Troop Dues	\$ _____
Total Expenses	\$ _____

Meeting with the Girls

You've attended your new volunteer orientation, *Welcome to Girl Scouting*; you've purchased or obtained a set of Brownie Girl Scout program resources for your use during the year; you've registered to attend **Basic Leadership Training**, and you've contacted the girls and conducted the Parent/Guardian Meeting. Now it is time for that first troop meeting!



The following meetings were designed to introduce the girls as well as yourself to Girl Scouting. Adjust the plans as you learn more about the girls in your troop and become more comfortable with the Girl Scout format or use them as they are written. Have a great time and lots of fun this membership year.

The girls are waiting, so . . . let's get started!

