

## GIRL SCOUT BROWNIES

### WHAT DO YOU DO AT A GIRL SCOUT TROOP/GROUP MEETING?

Most Girl Scout Meetings have the same general format and are usually one to two hours in length. The basic parts of a meeting are:

- Start-Up Activity** An informal activity for the girls to enjoy while waiting for everyone to arrive. Some examples of a start-up activity are: singing songs, playing a game, making nametags, or planning an opening or closing.
- Opening** An activity that starts the meeting. Examples of typical openings are: learning or saying the Girl Scout Promise or GS Law, learning about each other, reading a story.
- Business** The business of the troop/group is conducted during the business portion of the meeting and may include basic elements such as dues collection and attendance, record keeping, short planning for upcoming events. The girls should be encouraged to handle as much as their age and experience allows.
- Program Activity** The highlight of the meeting: a girl's answer when her parent asks her, "What did you do at your Girl Scout meeting today?"
- Clean-up** Girl Scouts always leave a place better than they found it. Work is easier while singing a song or when it's made into a game. Everyone helps!
- Closing** Meetings end with simple closing ceremonies. After a few examples and a little encouragement, the girls will come up with suitable openings and closings.
- Optional** Girls may choose to have a nutritious snack at any scheduled time during the meeting. The group decides on who brings the snack.

#### **Where do we start?**

Before you plan your first meeting, look over the *Journey* Facilitator How-to Set and the leader's guide for your troop/group level. Your first few meetings will include registration for all girls and adults; getting to know the girls and helping them get to know you; learning the Girl Scout Promise and Law and sharing the special stories of Girl Scouting with the girls. You will want to find out what the girls are interested in; help them to plan an investiture and rededication, assemble a first-aid kit and participate in lively, fun activities such as songs and games.

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# STARTING A TROOP ON A SHOESTRING

### LEADER'S SUPPLIES

- Girl handbooks
- Age level award book, *Journey* books
- *Safety-Wise*
- *The Source*
- Storage box (some leaders use a wheeled luggage cart if they have them)
- Sharpies, multiple colors
- Big scissors
- Tissue
- First aid kit

### INCOME

Start-up grant from community, if available.

Start-up fee from parents: should cover the first batch of pins, patches, etc.

Dues: decided with or by girls depending on age-level.

### SUPPLIES

Look in your own cupboard.

Watch garage sales and shop thrift stores. Don't be afraid to mention that it is for a Girl Scout troop – some people will give discounts.

### PAPER/PHOTOCOPIES

Ask parents for old office letterhead, and use the back - great for drawing, paper airplanes, etc.

Some companies will let employees use the printer/copier for the cost of paper, or for free, as a community service.

### GIRL SUPPLIES

1. Have each girl bring in her own supplies in a box labeled with her name or use zip lock bags
2. Ask parents for donations of excess craft materials they might have.
3. If a craft project calls for something special, have each girl bring that item.
4. Plan ahead for projects and ask parents to start saving items that will be needed in the future.
5. Juliette Low Birthday Party or troop shower - ask each girl to bring in a wrapped item that could be used for crafts or the first aid kit. Provide a list of suggested items like a "registry." Use a game to let the girls unwrap a present: musical chairs, hot potato, left-right, etc.
6. Have a troop scavenger hunt (prizes can be simple things like stickers, balloons, etc).

### SUPPLY LIST (SUGGESTIONS)

scotch tape	beads	fabric paint	shoe boxes
rubber bands	yarns	markers	crayons
buttons	ribbon	seeds	baby food jars
potting soil	straws	sponges	tempura paint
liquid starch	pens	face paint	kids scissors
paper bags	thread	tissue paper	pencils/colored
pie tins	stickers	poster board	wiggle eyes
feathers	scrapbook items: paper, albums, die cuts,		
band aids	antiseptic cream	gauze pads	hand sanitizer

### INEXPENSIVE GIRL SCOUT ACTIVITIES

Sing songs, practice the flag ceremony, visit fire station, animal shelter, nursing home, day hike at the council camp or your meeting place, visit a playground to eat a sack dinner and "just play!"

Adapted from Lisa Smith Beasley and [scoutingweb.com](http://scoutingweb.com)

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**USE THIS FORM TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR MEETING**

Meeting # \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparation: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Opening: \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing Time: \_\_\_\_\_

GS Circle: \_\_\_\_\_

Snack: \_\_\_\_\_

Program  
Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Clean-up: \_\_\_\_\_

Closing: \_\_\_\_\_

Leaders should bring:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Girls should bring:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Suggested supplies for every meeting:***

These should be purchased with troop funds, parents may donate an amount for start-up expenses or you may ask your Service Team Coordinator for other funding ideas.

- Resource Books: *Safety-Wise, The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders, Brownie Girl Scout Handbook* and *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts, How to Guide Girl Scout Brownies on Brownie Quest and Brownie Quest*
- First aid kit
- American Flag
- Troop box (sturdy cardboard or purchased filing box)
- Three-ring binder with divider inserts for keeping troop records and/or pocket folders for each girl
- Craft supplies, writing implements
- Agenda
- Attendance record sheet

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### Meeting #1: Girl Scout Brownie Meeting

- Purpose:** Girls get to know one another, learn basic Girl Scouting Values, and hear the Brownie Story.
- Preparation:** Review *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, *The Journey Facilitator Set for Brownies* and this resource page before attending this meeting.
- Pre-meeting:** Name tags  
Attendance
- Opening:** Welcome girls. (Introduce yourself)  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Girl Scout Promise
- GS Circle:** Find out girls interests. Brainstorm ideas for future meetings.  
Create a Group Agreement  
Introduce 'It Can' and 'Other Can'
- Snack:** For the first meeting, you might furnish the snacks.
- Program** Read or tell the Girl Scout Brownie Story, *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*, page 29, or *Brownie Quest*, page 10
- Activity:** Make individual folders. Play Camping Trip, *Brownie Quest*, page 6
- Clean up:** Girl Scouts always leave a place better than they found it. Work is easier while singing a song or when it's made into a game. Everyone helps!
- Closing:** Friendship Circle, *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, page 23, or *How to Guide Brownie Girl Scouts* (adult *Journey* book), page 29.  
Wait with girls until all are *picked* up by a parent or pre-arranged adult.

#### **Leaders need to bring:**

- Snack
- Crayons, markers, name tags, pens, pencils

#### **Resources for Meeting #1**

Newsprint or notebook paper to record Group Agreement:  
Previously known as Troop Rules. **Make sure girls have input.**

#### 'It' Can & 'Other' Can

To be sure that each girl gets a turn to do something special, to help, or to be 'it' for a game, write each girl's name on a popsicle stick, place all in the 'It' Can. Draw from the 'It' Can when you need something done, then place that stick in the 'Other' Can.

#### Camping Trip Game

The person starting the game says, "I'm going on a camping trip. My name is Maria and I'm taking melons."  
The girl next to her says, "I'm going on a camping trip. Her name is Maria and she's taking melons. My name is Sara and I'm taking a sandwich." Each following girl repeats all names and items and adds her own name and then her item which begins with the first letter of her own name.

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### Refreshments/Snacks

For the first meeting, you might furnish the snacks. After this, the girls can take turns. One way to do this is to use the 'It' Can or a kaper chart. Be sure the girls have a note with information on how many snacks to bring and whether to bring drinks, cups and napkins. If anyone has a dietary restriction, include that information also.

### First aid kit

See *Safety-Wise*, pages 20-21

### Clean-up

The clean up is the girls' responsibility. Introduce the idea of "leave no trace," that Girl Scouts always leave a place better than the way they found it.

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### Meeting #2: Girl Scout Brownie Meeting

- Purpose:** Plan rededication/investiture ceremony with girls
- Preparation:** Look over *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, *The Journey Facilitator Set for Brownies* and this guide before attending this meeting.
- Pre-meeting:** Nametags for everyone if you have new girls  
Attendance
- Opening:** Welcome girls  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Girl Scout Promise
- GS Circle:** Review 'Group Agreement'  
Review ideas for future meetings, start working on Troop Calendar.
- Snack:** Use 'It' Can to determine next girl to provide.
- Program Activity:** Discuss investiture/rededication ceremony. Sample investiture in *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, pages 27 –28. Let the girls make suggestions about how involved a ceremony they want: who to invite, where should it be, something special to do.  
Good Turn Mouse or Cards  
Make invitations
- Clean up:** Girl Scouts always leave a place better than they found it. Work is easier while singing a song or when it's made into a game. Everyone helps!
- Closing:** Friendship Circle, *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, page 23, or *How to Guide Brownie Girl Scouts* (adult *Journey* book), page 29.  
Wait with girls until all are *picked* up by a parent or pre-arranged adult.

#### **Leaders need to bring:**

Suggested supplies for every meeting  
Craft supplies for mouse, index cards  
and invitations

#### **Girls need to bring:**

*Brownie Quest*  
*Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*

#### **Resources for Meeting #2**

##### Do a Good Turn (cards)

Have an example of a 3 X 5 index card with the words "A Good Turn" printed on it. Give each girl four cards (one to practice on). Each girl prints and decorates three cards she will take home *but will not tell anyone she has them!* Each time during the week that she sees a chore to be done (or some other help that she can give), she silently leaves one of her "Good Turn" cards after completing the good turn without telling anyone that a Girl Scout Brownie was there.

##### Friendship Circle

Stand in a circle; cross arms right over left and hold each other's hands. Everyone remains silent while one person makes a silent wish and gently squeezes the hand of the girl on her right. To keep track, each girl can put a foot in the center when they have been squeezed. Proceed around circle until you reach the person who

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started. As the girls get older, you can sing while squeezing.

### Investiture Ceremony

Check in your *Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders* or *Let's Celebrate: Girl Scouts Ceremonies* or the attached suggested GS Brownie Investiture Ceremony page. The event can be as elaborate or simple as you and the girls want.

### ***Suggested Girl Scout Investiture Ceremony***

Ceremony:

- Girls stand in a circle or semi-circle depending on the placement of the American Flag or “Brownie Pond.”
- Invite guests to be seated.
- Leader: “An investiture ceremony is a formal ceremony where registered girls actually become Girl Scouts. We would like to begin by saying the Pledge of Allegiance.”
- Co-Leader: “Today is a very special day for us. It is the day we receive our membership pins and become Girl Scouts. To do this, we each make a Promise...the same promise made by our sister Girl Scouts all over the country.” Ask the girls to say the Girl Scout Promise together.
- The Brownie Elf skit portion can be inserted here.
- After the twisting and turning, ask each girl to remain in the area. After the last child has participated as an “elf,” invite parents to join girls in front of audience. Pin each girl individually or ask parents to pin their child. The girls should face their leader/co-leader/parent and be given her Girl Scout Brownie Pin and the Girl Scout Handshake (make the Girl Scout Sign with the right hand and shake with the left). Parent(s) and child may return to a semi-circle. Any registered adult who has not been invested may be at this time.
- Leader: “Welcome to Girl Scouting. Wear your pins with pride and always remember the Promise you have made.”
- Invite parents to be seated and girls can perform a song or poem.
- Invite participants and guests to refreshments if planned.

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### Meeting #3: Girl Scout Brownie Meeting

- Purpose:** Rededication/investiture
- Preparation:** Review *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, *The Journey Facilitator Set for Brownies* and this guide before attending this meeting.
- Pre-meeting:** Attendance
- Opening:** Welcome girls  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Girl Scout Promise
- GS Circle:** Post 'Group Agreement'  
Decide on parts of the ceremony. Have each girl do something.
- Snack:** Use 'It' Can to determine next girl to provide snack.
- Program Activity:** Practice ceremony: welcoming parents, opening, read Girl Scout Promise and Law, songs, closing, and serving refreshments.
- Clean up:** Girl Scouts always leave a place better than they found it. Work is easier while singing a song or when it's made into a game. Everyone helps!
- Closing:** Friendship Circle, *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, page 23, or *How to Guide Brownie Girl Scouts* (adult *Journey* book), page 29.  
Wait with girls until all are *picked* up by a parent or pre-arranged adult.

**Leaders Should Bring:**  
Supplies for every meeting

**Girls Should Bring:**  
*Brownie Quest*, *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*

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### Meeting #4: Girl Scout Brownie Meeting

- Purpose:** Rededication/Investiture
- Preparation:** Check to make sure you have everything you need, including an agenda, program for parents, refreshments, certificates, pins, display board.
- Pre-meeting:** Nametags for everyone. Set up meeting space for ceremony.
- Opening:** Welcome everyone.  
Ceremony as planned with girls  
(At the ceremony, Girl Scouts, both adults and Brownies wear their uniform)
- Refreshments:** If there is an older girl troop in your area that would be willing to serve for this ceremony, enlist their help.
- Clean up:** Girl Scouts always leave a place better than they found it. Work is easier while singing a song or when it's made into a game. Everyone helps!
- Closing:** If the girls want: Friendship Circle, *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, page 23, or *How to Guide Brownie Girl Scouts* (adult *Journey* book), page 29. Wait with girls until all are *picked* up by a parent or pre-arranged adult.

#### Leaders Should Bring:

“Supplies for Every Meeting”  
Brownie Pins for new Scouts  
Mirror or other props for ceremony  
Table, plates, napkins, cups, refreshments

#### Girls Should Bring:

Their guests  
Wear uniform