

Brownie

(Grades 2-3)

Grade Level Essentials



Characteristics of a Brownie Girl Scout

At the Girl Scout Brownie level girls...	This means...
Have loads of energy and need to run, walk, and play outside	Taking your troop meetings and activities outside whenever you can
Are social and enjoy working in groups	Allow Brownies to team up in small or large groups for art projects and performances
Want to help others and appreciate being given individual responsibilities for a task	Let Brownies lead, direct, and help out in activities whenever possible. Allow Brownies as a group to make decisions about individual roles and responsibilities
Are concrete thinkers and are focused on the here and now	Ask Brownies questions to gauge their understanding and allow them to role play
Need clear directions and structure and like knowing what to expect	Offer only one direction at a time and have Brownies create a schedule of your get-togethers and share it at the start
Are becoming comfortable with basic number concepts, time, money, and distance	Offer support only when needed. Allow Brownies to set schedules for meetings or performances, count out money for a trip, and so on.
Love to act in plays, create music, and dance	Brownies might like to create a play about welcoming a new student in school or tell a story through dance or movement.
Know how to follow rules, listen well, and appreciation recognition	Acknowledge when Brownies have listened or followed directions well, which will increase their motivation to listen and follow again!

Tips for working with Brownie Girl Scouts

- Let the talents and skills of Brownies shine
- Encourage Brownies to solve their own problems and go to one another for support (where safe)
- Encourage Brownies to try new things, but do not expect everyone to participate in every activity
- Accept each Brownie where they are; praise often and never criticize
- Show support for Brownies' ideas and interests
- Keep directions simple, direct, and positive
- Start projects Brownies can finish and give plenty of warning when transitioning between activities

Troop Meeting Essentials

Troop meetings are when Brownies gather to earn badges and journey awards, complete service projects, go on field trips, participate in programs and events, or sell cookies. Throughout, they have fun, enjoy sisterhood, and build courage, confidence, and character while they make the world a better place.

Parts of a Brownie Troop Meeting

- Pre-meeting: a planned activity to engage Brownies while waiting for others to arrive
- Opening: a fun, quick activity to focus Brownies' attention
- Brownie Girl Scout Ring: a time for Brownies to make decisions, solve problems, plan, and evaluate
- Program or activity: a main activity (badge work, game, program, etc.) designed to help Brownies develop a skill or interest while having fun
- Sharing time: an opportunity for Brownies to share what's on their minds
- Closing: a ceremony or routine that includes all of the Brownies and brings closure to the meeting



Brownie Girl Scout Ring

This is a model for Girl Scout government. Begin by standing, holding hands, and spreading out to form a circle. Use a quiet sign to quiet a noisy group. Hold up one hand. Whenever anyone sees this quiet sign, they put their own hand up in the air and become quiet. Soon, the whole group is holding their hands up and have quieted. Use a talking sign when Brownies want a turn to speak, like a talking stick or touch the floor in front of them with two fingers. Other Tips for using a Brownie Girl Scout Ring:

- Make sure Brownies speak as much or more than adults
- Record comments on a flip chart or dry erase board
- Respect and follow decisions Brownies make – they are quick to catch on if their decisions don't count
- Keep time in the Brownie Girl Scout Ring brief and interesting

The Brownie/Adult Partnership

As the troop leader, your goal is to act increasingly as a facilitator, enabling Brownies to experience planning, decision-making, leadership, and yes, even failure! The Brownie/adult partnership ensures Brownies grow and take charge as much as is appropriate for their age and development. Initially, everything might take longer to plan and be less perfect than you would like.

Here are some tips:

- Start small and gradually turn over more and more responsibility to the Brownies
- Girl Scouts provides a safe environment for girls to try new skills. Sometimes they will succeed with flying colors. At other times, they will fail, and that's OK! We learn from our mistakes.
- Share the importance of the Brownie/adult partnership with the parents and caregivers in your troop and ask them to try not to "save" their Brownies from making mistakes
- Make sure everyone has a chance to share their opinion
- Encourage your Brownies to actively brainstorm, direct an event, make plans and decisions
- Ensure adults are close enough to answer questions, but far enough away to not to interfere
- To keep Brownies in the driver's seat, adults should ask "What can I do?"

Resources for Brownie Troop Leaders

Badges and journey awards

On the [Award and Badge Finder](#), find a list of the badges and Journey awards Brownies can earn

Service projects and activities

Explore ideas for your troop's next adventure on the [Girl Scout Activity Zone](#) full of Girl Scout tested and approved activities and service projects.

Fieldtrips and the Outdoors

Check out our GSWNY website for more information on [getting outdoors](#) or attending [Council Programs and Events](#).

Girl Scout Ceremonies and Traditions

Learn all about [Girl Scout traditions](#) like friendship circles, flag ceremonies, bridging, the [Girl Scout uniform](#) and more!

Check your inbox!

Be sure to read our monthly Volunteer Resources email, full of timely information for Troop Leaders.

Cookies and Money Earning

[Cookies+](#) is your go-to page on our website to learn about funding your troop (and having fun doing it!)

Safety, Guidelines, and Procedures

You'll find Volunteer Essentials, Safety Activity Checkpoints, info on First Aid training, and more on the [Volunteer Resources](#) page on our website.

Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)

The VTK is a digital planning tool that includes year plans and detailed troop meeting plans as you work on petals, badges, and more. Access the VTK through your [myGS account](#) on our website, [gswny.org](#).

gsLearn

Ready to learn even more about Girl Scouts? Take short, fun, and informative online courses through gsLearn. To access, log on to your [myGS account](#) on our website, [gswny.org](#)

