

# Brownie Grade Level Essentials

## (Grades 2-3) | Characteristics of a Brownie Girl Scout

At this level, Girl Scouts...	This means...
Have lots of energy and need to run, walk, and play outside	Take 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 or 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 focused on the here and now	Ask Brownies questions to gauge their understanding and allow them to role play.
Need clear directions and structure in order to know what to expect.	Provide a preview of what the meeting will look like and offer only one direction at a time.
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 money for a trip, and so on.
Know how to follow rules, listen well, and appreciate recognition	Acknowledge when Brownies have listened or followed direction well – this will increase their motivation to do so again!
Are just beginning to write and spell and they don't always have the words for what they're thinking or feeling	Having girls draw a picture of something they are trying to communicate is easier and more meaningful for them.

## Tips for working with Brownies

- 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; offer specific praise 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

## Brownie Ring

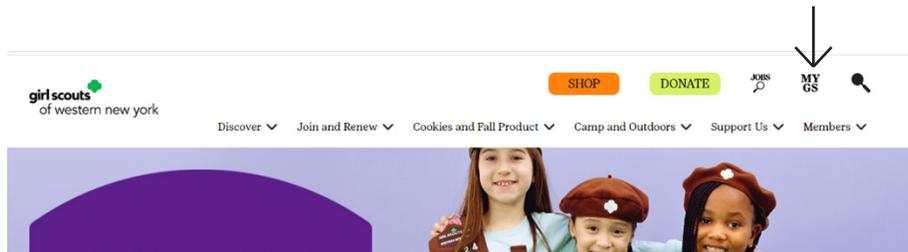
Our favorite way to help Brownies take the lead is with a Brownie Ring.

1. Use the quiet sign to quiet a noisy group by holding up one hand. Whenever anyone sees this quiet sign they put their own hand up in the air and become quiet.
2. Stand, holding hands, and spread out to form a circle.
3. Now that everyone is together and quiet, use this time to conduct the "business" of the meeting, such as voting on badge to work on next or where to take their next field trip.
4. Use a talking sign (a talking stick, or have Brownies touch the floor with two fingers when they want a turn) during discussions
5. Make sure Brownies speak much more than adults
6. Respect and follow decisions Brownies make – they are quick to catch if their decisions don't count

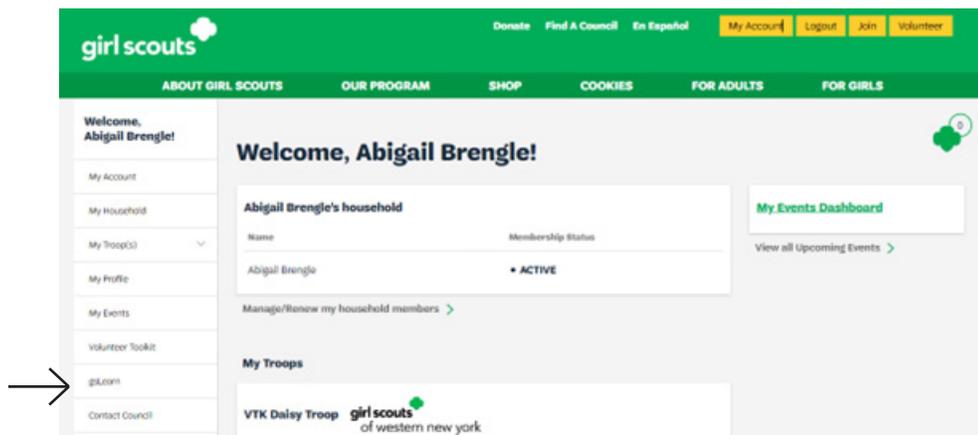
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