Brownie Computer Expert Badge Activity Plan 1

**Badge Purpose:** When girls have earned this badge, they’ll know how to do many useful things on a computer.

**Planning Guides Link:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

**Fun Patch Link:** Computer Knowledge

**Activity Plan Length:** 1.5 hours

**Resources**

- This activity plan has been adapted from the *Brownie Skill-Building Badge set for It’s Your World- Change It!* Computer Expert Badge, which can be used for additional information and activities.
- You will need computers with Internet access to complete this activity plan. One computer for every 2–3 girls is best. Check with a local school, library, or community center. Be sure to ask about rules for computer use at their location and respect others who need to use the computers. If you are planning a snack, check with the employees on where an acceptable location to eat the snack would be.
- Parents will need to sign the Internet safety pledge as well as the girls. Parents can do this as girls come in, you can send the pledge home with the girls at an earlier meeting, or you can email the sheet to parents prior to the meeting. The pledge is included at the end of this activity plan. It can also be found in the Brownie Girls’ Guide to Girl Scouting or on GSCO’s website.

**Activity #1: Internet Safety Pledge**

**Badge Connection:** Connects to multiple badge steps. **Time Allotment:** 10 minutes

**Materials Needed:**

- Internet Safety Pledge
- Pens/pencils

**Steps:**

1. Have the girls take turns reading the steps of the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge out loud.
2. Discuss what they think the pledge means and why it is important to follow it.
3. Have each girl sign the pledge before she is allowed to use a computer.

**Activity #2: Computer Pictionary**

**Badge Connection:** Step 1—Paint or draw with an art program **Time Allotment:** 15 minutes

**Materials Needed:**

- Computers with an art or drawing program loaded on them.
- Notecards
• Writing utensil

Steps:
1. Write items on the notecards for girls to draw. These can be any items depending on the interests and abilities of your girls, for example: basketball, flower, cat, house. You should have at least one note card per girl.
2. In small groups, have the girls open the paint or drawing program on their computer. Give them about three minutes to figure out how to use the controls and practice drawing.
3. Split the girls into two teams. For larger groups, play multiple games with two teams each.
4. Have girls take turns drawing a notecard and drawing the item listed. As she is drawing, her team will guess what she is drawing. Have teams take turns until everyone has had a chance to draw.

Activity #3: Snack Chat
Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps
Time Allotment: 15 minutes

While enjoying a snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
• Has anyone used the Internet to do research for school? What did you learn?
• Does anyone play games on the computer? What do you like to play?
• Has anyone used the computer to talk to friends or family? Did you send an email, use a chat program, or video chat?
• Do you have a computer in your house? What does your family use it for?
• Of all these things you and your family do on a computer, what do you think people did before computers were invented? What do you think life was like before computers?

Activity #4: Girl Scout Search
Badge Connection: Step 2—Find some cool facts
Time Allotment: 35 minutes
Materials Needed:
• Computer with Internet access and Internet browser
• Coloring utensils
• Paper
• Writing utensils
• Optional: Printer, scissors, glue

Steps:
1. Tell the girls you will be making fact/picture pages about Girl Scouts. Have each group choose a Girl Scout topic to look up online. Some possible options are:
   • Girl Scout games, songs, and traditions
   • Juliette Gordon Low
   • Historical uniforms, badges, and awards
   • Current uniforms, badges, and awards
2. In their groups, have the girls find information about their topic online. Each girl will then choose one “item” in this category to make a fact page, using the craft supplies available.
3. Optional: Girls can also print pictures and facts, if printers are available.
4. Combine the sheets into a collage or a “scrapbook”.
More to Explore

• Field Trip Ideas
  o Visit a store where you can purchase computers. Ask the sales associate questions about choosing the right computer for you.
  o Visit a Daisy troop in your area and share the Girl Scout information pages you made with them.

• Speaker Ideas
  o Invite a game designer or someone who builds computers to your meeting.
  o Invite a teacher to your meeting to talk about how to use computers to learn and have fun.

Customize It!: If your group wants to expand work on this badge or simply try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to earn this award, including: Completing the activities as listed in the Brownie Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting, completing two of these activity plans, attending a council-sponsored event or customizing activities. Pick the one(s) that work best for your group. Girls will know they have earned the award if:
  • They have made or drawn something with a computer art program
  • They can find facts and use other resources online
  • They can connect with others online
  • They know one way to have fun on a computer

Family Follow-Up Email
Use the email below as a template to let families know what girls did at the meeting today. Feel free to add additional information, including:
  • When and where you will be meeting next
  • What activities you will do at the next meeting
  • Family help or assistance that is needed
  • Supplies or materials that girls will need to bring to the next meeting
  • Reminders about important dates and upcoming activities

Hello Girl Scout Families:
We had a wonderful time today learning about ways we can use computers and are on our way to earning the Computer Expert Badge.

We had fun:
  • Learning to stay safe on the Internet.
  • Playing Pictionary using a computer drawing program.
  • Learning more about Girl Scouts on the Internet.

Continue the fun at home:
  • Make a card with your Girl Scout for a friend or family member on a computer.
  • Search the Internet with your Girl Scout to learn more about her favorite topics.
  • Look through the Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting with your Brownie to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your Brownie to Girl Scouts!

This activity plan was adapted from Girl Scouts River Valleys.
**Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge** for all Girl Scouts

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number(s), parent's or guardian’s work address/telephone number(s), and the name and location of my school without the permission of my parent or guardian.

- I will tell an adult right away if I come across or receive any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.

- I will always follow the rules of websites, including those rules that are based on age of use, parental approval and knowledge, and public laws.

- I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents or guardians. If my parents or guardian agree to a meeting, I will arrange it in a public place and bring a parent or guardian along.

- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parent or guardian.

- I will talk with my parent or guardian so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide on the time of day that I can be online, the length of time that I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.

- I will follow all of the Girl Scout Terms and Conditions related to Digital Cookie, as well as all Internet safety guidelines related to all other Girl Scout product sales.

- I will practice online etiquette (good manners) at all times when online by:
  - Not spamming others.
  - Not bullying or tolerating bullying (and always telling a trusted adult if I witness bullying).
  - Not using bad language.

- I will be guided by the Girl Scout Promise and Law in all that I do online.

Signed,

Girl Name ___________________________________________ Date ________

Parent or Guardian ______________________________________ Date ________

*The GSUSA Online Safety Pledge is based upon the Online Safety Pledge developed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. (Revised August 2014)*