Brownie Making Friends Badge Activity Plan 2

Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they’ll know how to be good friends.

Planning Guides Link: Global Citizenship and Girl Scout Sisterhood

Fun Patch Link: Friendship

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Resources

- This activity plan has been adapted from the Brownie Skill-Building Badge set for the It’s Your Story—Tell It! Making Friends badge, which can be used for additional information and activities.

Activity #1: Name Tag Extension

Badge Connection: Step 1—Make friendly introductions

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Markers
- Tape

Steps:

1. Ask badge buddies to assist you with passing out one paper and one marker to each girl.
2. Instruct the girls to write their first name vertically (one letter under the other) on the far left hand side of their paper. Instruct them to write their name large enough to fill the length of the paper.
3. After each girl has written her name vertically on the paper, hand each girl a strip of tape. Instruct girls to pair up to help tape each other’s name paper to each other’s backs. Each girl should have her own name taped to her back.
4. Next, instruct the girls to mingle through each other, looking at other girls’ names on their backs. The goal is for each girl to find a letter in another girl’s name that is also in her name. When a girl finds a letter, she must go up to that girl and introduce herself. After introducing herself, she will write her name within the letter on the other girl’s name paper.
5. After writing in her name, the girls must make up a new, fun handshake with that person only.
6. Continue mingling until the girls have introduced themselves to everyone. If time allows, gather as a large group and have girls introduce a partner they met and show their handshake they created (see if they can remember!).

Activity #2: Care Cards

Badge Connection: Step 2—Show friends you care

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Cards or construction paper that can be folded into a card (1 per girl)
• Coloring utensils
• Optional: Other decorative supplies (i.e. stickers, foam shapes, glue, etc)
Steps:
1. Pair girls up into partners. Instruct girls to create a 'care card' for her partner, illustrating something that she likes about her or makes her special.

**Activity #3: Show-n-play!**
Badge Connection: Step 3—Share favorite activities
Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Steps:
1. Sit girls down and allow each girl to stand before the group and give a one-minute presentation on an activity she likes to do and how to do it. This may be a game, cat’s cradle, jump rope, etc.
2. Record each activity as each girl presents. Use this as a running list of possible activities you could incorporate to weekly meetings (such as warm-up activities or ice breaker games).
3. After each girl presents, vote as a group the top three activities they would like to try at another Girl Scout meeting. Designate a time for those girls to do their activity with the group at a future troop meeting.

**Activity #4: Snack Chat: Mix it up!**
Badge Connection: Step 5—Practice friendship!
Time Allotment: 15 minutes

While enjoying snack, put girls into a seating arrangement where they are sitting next to a girl they may not know as well. Instruct the girls to pair up with the girl next to her and come up with three things that they have in common. Have each pair share what they discovered with the group.

Review with the girls some of the things they learned about friendship today:
- Was it easy or hard to introduce yourself to new people? Why or why not?
- Today we did an activity where we made a special ‘care card’ for a friend. What are some other ways that you can show your friends you care about them?
- Why is it important to be a good friend?
- What were some of your favorite activities that other girl scouts shared with the group today?

**More to Explore**
- Field Trip Ideas:
  - Coordinate with another Girl Scout troop to visit and attend their next troop meeting.
  - Attend a Girl Scout gathering, such as a council-sponsored program event or camp.
- Speaker Ideas:
  - Invite another Brownie troop or an older girl troop to your troop meeting.
  - Invite a camp counselor, teacher or an after-school program specialist to your troop meeting.

**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 Skill-Building Badge set for *It’s Your Story—Tell It!* 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 can introduce themselves to new people and make new friends.
- They know how to show friends they care about them.
- They are able to demonstrate how to be good friends to others.

**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
Hello Girl Scout Families:

We had a wonderful time today learning about how to be a good friend and we earned the Making Friends Badge.

We had fun:

- Making friendly introductions and getting to know someone new.
- Making a special ‘care card’ for a friend.
- Sharing our favorite activities with the group.

Continue the fun at home:

- Help your Girl Scout make something special for a friend of hers, such as a card, poem or a small gift.
- Talk with your Girl Scout about her friends in real life, and how she can be a good friend.
- Encourage your Girl Scout to invite a friend over and have them teach each other their favorite activities.
- 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.*