Brownie A World of Girls Activity Plan 2:
Change a Story Award

Purpose: When girls have earned this award, they will realize they have the power to change things for the better.

Planning Guides Link: Leadership

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Resources
- This activity plan has been adapted from It’s Your Story—Tell It! A World of Girls, which can be used for additional information and activities.
- Girl Scout Cadettes who are working on the It’s Your Story—Tell It! MEdia Journey can earn their Leadership in Action (LiA) Award by assisting with these activities. Contact your Service Unit Manager to find girls in your area who may be interested in assisting your group. Requirements for the A World of Girls LiA award can be found in the It’s Your Story—Tell It! A World of Girls and It’s Your Story—Tell It! MEdia adult guides.
- Book Suggestions for Activity #4: We Can Make a Change!
  - Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White
  - Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss
  - Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
  - The Story of Johnny Appleseed by Aliki
  - My Freedom Trip by Ginger Park and Frances Park

Activity #1: Everyday Heroes
Journey Connection: Session 3—From Story Clues to Story Change
Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Steps:
1. To get each girl thinking about her ability to make change in her world, have her think about stories from home or school where someone faced, solved or made a problem better. This can be done individually or in small groups.
2. Have each girl or group act out the situation. Ask the girls in the audience to pay careful attention to what the acting group’s story tells them, find the clues and discover how they made positive changes.
3. At the end of all the scenes, ask the girls how it makes them feel to make positive changes.

Activity #2: Rescue Mission
Journey Connection: Session 4—Planning for Change a Story
Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:
- Small stuffed animals or toys
- Tarp, blanket, or flat sheet large enough for all the girls to stand on (note: If you have a large group, split the girls into two groups)
Paper plates or other item to be used as “stepping stones”

Steps:
1. Lay the tarp out on the floor and randomly place the stuffed animals in the area outside of the tarp. Instruct all of the girls to stand completely on the tarp (all hands and feet inside). Tell them that they were all on a ship that was headed to Madagascar with several animals aboard when all of a sudden a huge wave came along! The boat was hit by the large wave and tipped over. Now, they are stranded on the bottom of the capsized ship and the animals need to be rescued.
2. Instruct the girls that they must work together to turn the ship over in order to save all of the animals. The only problem is they cannot step off of the ship (touch the ground) at any time. If a girl “falls in” the water, the group must start over from the beginning.

   Hint: Most solutions typically involve lifting and twisting one end of the tarp and moving people from one side to the other.
3. After they turn the ship over, they must rescue all of the stranded animals. Give each of the girls one “stepping stone”. Again, no one can step into the “ocean”, but they may use their stepping stones to travel and reach the animals. Every stepping stone must remain in contact with the girls at all times. If the stepping stone is untouched for even a second, it will sink into the ocean and the girls will have to return to the ship. If someone falls and the stepping stone is untouched by anyone, that stone will be removed as well.

   Hint: Most solutions typically involve setting the stepping stone down as someone steps onto it, so it does not “sink.”
4. Watch the girls as they work together as a team to solve the problem and rescue all the animals.
5. After the game, ask the girls how it made them feel to be part of a team to solve a problem and save the animals.

Activity #3: Bento Box Snack
Journey Connection: Session 4—Planning for Change a Story
Time Allotment: 15 minutes
Materials Needed:
- Bread
- Cheese
- Mayo, mustard other condiments
- Deli meat
- Fresh cut fruit and vegetables
- Different shapes of large cookie cutters
- Paper plates
- Napkins

Steps:
1. Tell the girls that since they are on this journey exploring a world of girls just like them, they should know that those girls have parents like theirs, too. Adults in Japan often create characters and shapes made out of food in their children's lunchboxes. Today, the girls will be making their own bento box for snack.
2. Help the girls create their sandwiches and choose what they want to eat. The girls can then use the cookie cutters to make slices of cheese and/or their sandwiches into different shapes.
3. Have the girls use the fruit and vegetables to create a scene or story of their own.

Activity #4: We Can Make a Change!
Journey Connection: Session 4—Planning for a Change Story
Time Allotment: 15 minutes
Materials Needed:
- Poster board (4)
- Writing/coloring utensils
- Optional: One to two books or other stories about making a difference (see the Resources section above for details)

Steps:
1. If you would like, read a story about making a difference to the Brownies. Write one of the following words on the top of each of the poster boards: Home, school, community and world. Underneath the word, make two columns, one side for “issues” and the other for “changes.”
2. Ask the girls to think about some things within their worlds they think might need a positive change and write their answers on the sheets of poster board.
3. Next, instruct the girls to write or draw a picture on the sheets of poster board of things they can do in each of the places indicated to make their world a better place. Below are a few basic ideas:
   - Home: Clean up room, wash dishes, take out the dog, help make dinner, put toys away
   - School: Help the teacher clean up, assist a classmate with homework, clean up the whiteboard, hand out worksheets
   - Community: Rake leaves, pick up trash, help a neighbor with their garden, gather school supplies for kids, donate winter clothing at a shelter
   - World: Recycle, bike or walk instead of using the car, turn off lights when not in a room
4. Keep the girls’ ideas for a future meeting and encourage girls to think about what type of project they might want to do to make a difference.

More to Explore
- Field Trip Ideas:
  - Go to a historical society or history museum to explore how girls and women have changed the world.
  - Attend a local cultural or World Thinking Day event to explore different cultures around the world.
- Speaker Ideas:
  - Invite a member of a local service organization to learn more about giving back and taking action in the community.
  - Invite a high school service club to talk about what they do in their school and how the Brownies can make a positive change at their schools.

Customize It: If your group wants to expand work on this award or simply try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to complete this award, including: Completing the activities as listed in the A World of Girls Journey, completing this activity plan, 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 Change a Story Award if:
  - They are aware they can make the world a better place
  - They can identify issues in the world and think of ways to change them for the better
  - They can share their confidence with others to make the world a better place
Girls can continue their A World of Girls Journey by earning the Tell a Story Award and Better World for Girls! Award.

Moving to Take Action: To complete the World of Girls journey, girls plan and carry out a Take Action project that addresses the root cause of a community issue in a sustainable way. During the process, here are some things to think about.
- Girls should play an active part in determining the “what, where, when, how and why” of their
project, but Girl Scout Brownies will need your support and guidance throughout the process.

- Help girls scale the project to a manageable size, so they can have a successful experience.
- Take Action projects are different than community service projects. Take Action projects pick up where short-term community service projects leave off and are a long-term solution, rather than a short-term solution.
- Consider contacting Girl Scout Cadettes in your area to help with the Take Action project. This will help the Cadettes earn the Leader in Action (LiA) Award. See the World of Girls adult guide for more information.
- It’s up to the girls to find a Take Action project that they are passionate about, but to get started, here are a few ideas:
  - Family project: Girls work with their families to develop an energy saving or household chore plan. Girls and their families spend one month living their plans and talk about the impact.
  - School project: Girls share the importance of helping others and encourage classmates to bring hold the door for one another, help someone with a hard question in class, or assist a teacher with handing out worksheets before being asked.
  - Community project: Girls plan a friendly neighbor program and encourage residents to do something helpful for a neighbor like raking leaves or shoveling snow.

**Family Follow-Up Email**

Use the email below as a template to let families know what you 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 discovering the world of girls we live in and are we earned the *A World of Girls* Change a Story Award.

We had fun:

- Practicing how to be everyday heroes to make a change
- Working as a team to solve a problem
- Exploring ways to make a positive change in our world

Continue the fun at home:

- Have your Brownie investigate for clues at home and encourage her to think of a plan to make a change for the better.
- Make a Bento Box Lunch with your Brownie so she can share what she learned about other cultures.
- Look at the *A World of Girls Journey Book* and read about the adventures of Campbell, Jamila and Alejandra as they travel around the world.

Thank you for bringing your Brownie to Girl Scouts!

*This activity plan was adapted from Girl Scouts River Valleys.*