

**GIRL SCOUTS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COUNCIL, INC.**  
**Getting started with BROWNIE Girl Scouts**  
**Meeting Guidelines (Form 210-PM)**

Please keep the following points in mind as you make plans to begin meeting with your new Brownie Girl Scouts:

- The goals of the first four to six meetings are to allow everyone to become acquainted and begin to consider themselves a group; to understand that they are part of a larger group of Girl Scouts (council and national organization); and to begin to understand the foundation of Girl Scouting, the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- The suggested meeting outlines are provided to assist you in getting started. You may change the activities to suit your needs.
- Some groups meet each week while others meet every other week. Length of the meetings will vary by groups but average between one hour and one and one-half hours.
- Have a parent meeting to register the girls and share your plans for the group. Invite the parents to assist you.
- Every geographic area has a volunteer support team for leaders called a Service Team. Most meet monthly with the leaders. Your contact person with Girl Scouts can give you the information. The meetings are a great benefit to you.
- “The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders” has detailed information on planning for group meetings.

Brownie Girl Scout meetings can be broken into sections to help with planning. **Use this chart to help plan weekly.**

| <b>Pre-meeting/<br/>gathering</b>  | <b>Opening</b>  | <b>Brownie Ring</b><br>(Getting to know your girls)   | <b>Activities</b><br>(The major part of the meeting)           | <b>Snack Time</b><br>(optional)                        | <b>Clean-up</b>   | <b>Closing</b>  |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| An activity girls can do as they arrive: coloring, puzzles, or storybooks. | A calling together of all girls to begin the meeting. Saying the promise is a good start. | Begin with girls sharing time then conduct business. Gather input for activities share future plans and introduce today’s activity. | Crafts, singing, games, ceremonies, doing plays, programs etc. | If meeting directly after school you may need a snack. | A set time for ALL girls to help with the clean-up if needed. | A song, game or Friendship Circle that officially ends the meeting. |

## THE FIRST MEETING

Objective: To become acquainted with each other and learn about special Girl Scout Ways.

| <b>Pre-meeting/<br/>gathering</b>   | <b>Opening</b>   | <b>Brownie Ring</b><br>Getting to know the girls/business   | <b>Activities</b><br>(The major part of the meeting)   | <b>Snack Time</b><br>(optional)   | <b>Clean-up</b>  | <b>Closing</b>   |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Have girls draw a picture of what they did on their last birthday.</p> | <p>Until the girls and adults know each other, have each introduce herself.<br/>Teach the Girl Scout Promise. Some girls may know it if they were a Daisy or have a sister in Girl Scouts.</p> | <p>Have girls share their pictures and tell about them.<br/>Read “Let’s Get Started” from the Brownie Handbook (page 5 un-numbered)</p> | <p>Share the “Juliette Low Album”(pages 7-11 in handbook) with your girls. Have girls interact by telling about their siblings, pets, etc. as they come up in the story.<br/>Have girls decide what game they already know that Juliette would have liked and play it .(The game should get the girls up and moving around.)<br/>Skip to pages 16/19. Uniforms are NOT mandatory. Talk about special Girl Scout ways and practice them.<br/>Save the Friendship for Closing.</p> | <p>Do snack if girls have not had a meal for several hours. May want to do at least a drink if a full snack isn’t needed.</p> | <p><b>Always give girls a three minute warning that it is time to clean up</b><br/>Each girl is responsible for cleaning her area and putting away the items she used.</p> | <p>Teach girls the Friendship circle and squeeze. Leader reminds them of the next meeting and they say goodbye. (Remember to send their artwork home with them!)</p> |

## THE SECOND MEETING

Objective: To learn about the Promise and Law.

| <b>Pre-meeting/<br/>gathering</b>  | <b>Opening</b>   | <b>Brownie Ring</b><br>Getting to know your girls/<br>business   | <b>Activities</b><br>(The major part of the meeting)   | <b>Snack Time</b><br>(optional) | <b>Clean-up</b>                                  | <b>Closing</b>  |
|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Greet girls and have them decorate a paper bracelet (2"X6"). When finished, have an adult tape it to their <b>RIGHT</b> wrist. | Make the Girl Scout sign and repeat the Girl Scout Promise. (Use "bracelet" to identify Right hand. You may also recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Have everyone greet each other using the Girl Scout handshake. | Have everyone sit in a circle. Allow girls the opportunity to share events from the previous week. Explain to girls that at the fourth week, they will hold an investiture ceremony where they will get their Brownie Pin. The activities they will be doing for the next weeks will prepare for that. | Choose and read one Brownie story on page 29 or 33. Girls might like to act it out for their investiture ceremony. Adult can read and girls play parts. Make sure everyone has a part. Let girls pretend to be different parts. Get their input to include everyone. (Save the "Twist me" part for the ceremony where every girl will see herself and get her Brownie pin). Briefly Review the Promise and Law on pages 12-15. Have girls look for examples to tell about next week. | As above                        | Clean up the activity from making the bracelets. | Form a Friendship Circle once again-- <b>RIGHT</b> over left arm. Sing or teach a simple song like "Brownie Smile Song". Close with the Friendship squeeze and remind them of the next meeting. |

## THE THIRD MEETING

Objective: To continue to learn the Girl Scout Promise and to form a basis of understanding the Girl Scout Law.

| <b>Pre-meeting/<br/>gathering</b>  | <b>Opening</b>   | <b>Brownie Ring</b><br>(Getting to know your girls)   | <b>Activities</b><br>(The major part of the meeting)  | <b>Snack Time</b><br>(optional) | <b>Clean-up</b>  | <b>Closing</b>  |
|--|--|---|---|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Have girls make a picture of what they want to be when they grow up. It can be the person or the tools they would need to use. | Make the Girl Scout sign and repeat the Girl Scout Promise. You may also recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Have everyone greet each other using the Girl Scout handshake. | Welcome each girl. Ask if anyone has something to share. Discuss the investiture ceremony which will take place at the fifth meeting. What refreshments do they want? Keep it simple! (Request items from parents) Make plans to practice the story and a song. | Review the Promise and Law on pages 12-15. Using old magazines, have the girls find pictures that show parts of the law. Cut them out and glue to paper . Write the part of the law that it represents. Girls can also draw instead. Save to display for ceremony. Sing an action song or play a simple game. On page 45 in the handbook is a fingerprint activity to do with the girls if time allows. | As above                        | Have girls put away the items they used in the pre-meeting activity. | Do a Friendship Circle and squeeze. Have girls give a goodbye Girl Scout handshake to girls near her. Remind girls of the next meeting. |

## THE FOURTH MEETING

Objective: To finalize planning an Investiture Ceremony and complete activities to earn the first Try-It, “Girl Scout Ways”.

| <b>Pre-meeting/<br/>gathering</b>  | <b>Opening</b>   | <b>Brownie<br/>Ring</b>   | <b>Activities</b><br>(The major part of the meeting)   | <b>Snack<br/>Time</b><br>optional | <b>Clean-up</b>   | <b>Closing</b>  |
|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Pre-make an invitation to the investiture for next week that girls can color or decorate as they arrive. | Make the Girl Scout sign and repeat the Girl Scout Promise. You may also recite the Pledge of Allegiance . Have everyone greet each other using the Girl Scout handshake . | Share with the girls the plans for the Investiture ceremony. Do you still need to practice? | <p>Review page 22 “Celebrating with a Ceremony.<br/>Practice the “Twist me” so they know you will twist them and when they look in the “pond” they will say ”myself” then receive their Brownie Pin.<br/>If you are acting out the story you might want to review it today.</p> <p>Activity: Make sit-upons. See page 15 in the Try-Its book. Recycle an old vinyl tablecloth or shower curtain. Cut into squares large enough to sit upon. Place folded newspaper sheets between for a cushion. Sew together with yarn or string. Punch holes for younger children to lace together.</p> <p>Game: “Mirror”-2 girls face each other and one repeats what the other does. Change roles then have girls change partners.</p> | See previous week                 | Give girls 3 minute warning to begin cleanup. Have girls put away materials used for invitations and sit upons. | Do Friendship Circle and squeeze. Do handshake. Remind girls of the ceremony at the next meeting. Remember to send home invitations and any requests for food items. Say goodbye. |

## THE FIFTH MEETING

Objective: Investiture Ceremony and Celebration. This will take some pre-planning on leader's part. Keep it simple. Tell parents some of the things the girls have been doing and some of their requests for activities. It's a good time to invite parents to participate by sharing their work or hobby experiences at a later meeting. Make sure you invite the family, including siblings. Your Brownies need the exposure to the greater community. **Make sure you have purchased the Brownie Pin** (from either Bay Shop) **which she will receive at the Investiture. If you had time to make Sit-Upons, she can also receive her first Try-It, "Girl Scout Ways".**

| Pre-meeting/<br>gathering  | Opening   | Sharing Time<br>(Getting to know your girls)   | Activities<br>(The major part of the meeting)  | Snack Time<br>(optional)  | Clean-up   | Closing  |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Parents will be arriving with their daughters. Have girls share their artwork. | Have girls recite the Girl Scout Promise. Leader can read the Girl Scout Law to the group. May do the Pledge of Allegiance. | At this meeting, the leader gets to share with the parents. Tell them of your activities and future plans. | The Event this meeting is the Investiture Ceremony. It is the first formal ceremony for Brownies. Girls perform a skit, song or some activity, as a group, for the parents<br>They will be presented with their Brownie Girl Scout Pin in the "Twist Me" activity. It is pinned on the Left side of her uniform vest or shirt upside down. She must do a good deed to turn it right side up. | Ceremonies are a great excuse to have refreshments! It also allows the leader time to meet the parents and solicit parents to share their skills and hobbies with the girls at future meetings. | Remind everyone that a Girl Scout always leave her meeting place cleaner than she found it. Make sure the floor is also clean. | Invite the parents and family to join the Friendship Circle. Explain the squeeze and send it around the circle. Thank everyone for coming and say goodnight. |

**SIXTH MEETING FORWARD**

Objective: Begin/continue working on Brownie Try-Its. Structure each meeting around a Try-It or event using the Leader’s Guide and the Addendum to help incorporate other celebrations into their world. Remember to celebrate their learning and present Try-Its whenever you have occasion to celebrate (holidays, Thinking Day, Girl Scout Birthday, etc.) Don’t forget to build in some community service such as planting flowers, making cards, tray favors or entertaining at a nursing home. Attend Leader Meetings for support and networking. Use this chart to write in your meeting plan for each future meeting. Ask for assistance from your Brownie Consultant if needed.

| <b>Pre-meeting/<br/>gathering</b> | <b>Opening</b> | <b>Sharing Time</b><br>(Getting to know your girls) | <b>Activities</b><br>(The major part of the meeting) | <b>Snack Time</b><br>(optional) | <b>Clean-up</b> | <b>Closing</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                                   |                |   |  |                                 |                 |                |