

Speaking in Sign

Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Badge



Complete a total of eight activities including three Discover, two Connect, one Take Action and two other activities chosen from any category.

Discover:

1. Learn the American Manual Alphabet. Practice signing your name. Sing the ABC song as you sign the letters. Learn to count to 20 in sign language. Be able to sign at least 20 words.
2. Learn to sign the Girls Scout Promise and the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Learn to sing a song or poem in sign language. Sign it for your troop or family.
4. Learn about the history of American Sign Language.
5. Learn about deaf culture. Learn about different styles of Sign Language such as ASL, Signed English and Signing Exact English. Learn about other ways that people who are deaf can communicate with each other and with people who can hear. If possible, invite someone who has a hearing impairment to come to your troop meeting and answer questions.
6. Research different types of assistive technology and augmentative communication to find out how deaf people watch TV and communicate. How long have these techniques and devices been around? What was life like for deaf people before the invention of these outlets?

Connect:

1. Try to have a conversation with a friend, without using your voice. Try to understand each other by reading lips. Then try again using signs and gestures.
2. Watch a video featuring performers who are deaf and use sign language to communicate. Try watching a regular program on TV, but turn off the sound. See how much you can understand without the sound on.
3. Interview an interpreter. What schooling did their job require and what schooling is recommended? What do they like and dislike about their job? What are the easy and hard aspects of their job? What is the best way for you to get started in this job field?
4. Talk to a teacher of the deaf or hearing impaired. Did they have to complete special schooling to get their job? What are the challenges and rewards of their job? How are their teaching methods different than those of a teacher in a regular classroom?
5. Make a list of devices that deaf students use to learn at school. How do these devices help them and how are these methods different from what you use at school?
6. Visit a store that sells hearing aids. Ask the technicians how they work and ask for a demonstration. Ask about the different types of hearing aids that are available.
7. Use earplugs or cotton balls during a meeting. Write how it felt to be deaf. How did you communicate with others? How did they communicate with you. What could you do to make it easier for a deaf person to join your troop?

Take Action:

1. Plan and perform a signing concert at a school or program for the deaf.
2. Teach younger Girl Scouts about deaf and hearing-impaired people, including challenges that are faced and adaptations that are made on a daily basis and the different services and technologies that are available to them. Teach the girls the American Manual Alphabet. Help them learn their name and have the girls spell at least 10 words to each other. If able, invite a deaf person or an interpreter to the meeting and encourage the girls to have a conversation with him or her.

3. Take younger Girl Scouts to visit a classroom of deaf or hearing-impaired students. Play with them and help the girls with their signing by having conversations. Help the teacher with anything that they might need.
4. Design a library display that shows the American Manual Alphabet. Include examples and pictures of the technology that deaf people use in their everyday lives. Make a list of famous deaf people and the contributions they have made to society.