It's Your World—Change It!: Brownie Quest

**Audience:** This series is for Brownie Girl Scouts and is suitable for troops and groups.

**Purpose:** Girls will complete the Brownie Quest journey and can earn four awards at the completion of the series: Discover Key, Connect Key, Take Action Key and the Brownie Quest Award. This series emphasizes teamwork and cooperation as the girls take action to improve their community!

**Duration:** This series is comprised of 10 sessions that are each approximately 45 minutes long.

**Required Materials:** For the success of the journey, the facilitator(s) will need a copy of the adult guide for the journey and one copy per girl of the Brownie Quest journey book. Additional materials for each session are listed just below the session title and it would be helpful to prepare these materials well in advance of facilitating that session.

**Prior to the Series:** It would be helpful for the facilitator to read the Brownie Quest journey and each session’s activities in advance to understand the “big picture” of what will be covered. All sessions in the series need to be completed in order for the girls to earn the awards, and all can be expanded to add to the girls’ experience.
Session 1: Discovering ELF
Additional Materials Required: a soft ball

**Brownie Circle Introduction:** 20 minutes
Have the girls begin the session in a circle. Welcome them all to Girl Scouts (if it is the first meeting) and let them know that every session will begin in this Brownie Circle to complete the Brownie Quest! Begin by reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Then tell them: *When we join in a Girl Scout Brownie Circle, we’re making connections with millions of girls all over the world that are in Brownie Circles just like this one. Imagine 500,000 girls doing the same thing—you are part of an amazing sisterhood! Every time we create our Brownie Circle, we can imagine that it is like a giant tree house—where Girl Scout Brownies around the world belong together. Today, we are using our Brownie Circle as the start to our special quest to find three keys. There are three steps we have to take to find each key, and the first step is to discover the skills and talents and qualities each of us brings with us on our quest.*

Have the girls stand up, take out the soft ball, and have the girls pass it across the circle. When a girl receives the ball, she should say her name and a special skill, talent or quality that she can bring to the Brownie Circle. Once everyone has had a turn, wind down by summarizing the qualities and talents the girls bring to the Brownie Circle.

**Brownie Quest Story, Chapter One:** 15-20 minutes
Have the girls sit in their Brownie Circle and open their journey books to page 6. Have each girl read a paragraph or small section of the story, making sure to take turns. Continue to read to page 16, “Friendship Game.” Discuss the questions on that page, and read “Twist Me and Turn Me” on the following page.

**Closing Ceremony-- Friendship Squeeze:** 5 minutes
Have the girls stand in a circle, cross their right arm over their left, and link their hand with the girl’s hand next to them. Once all of the girls have linked hands, send a pulse around the circle. One person (usually an adult) will start by gently squeezing the girl’s hand beside her, and each girl will continue the squeeze around the circle. As they gently squeeze the next girl’s hand, have them think of something good about the girl beside her. After every girl has received the pulse, have them hold hands and spin around to face the outside of the circle. If time allows, you may use this at the closing of every session to give a consistent beginning and end to your troop’s Girl Scout experience.
Session 2: ELF Clues

Additional Materials Required: Brownie Quest Map and pencils (1 per girl)

Preparation Required: Write each of the 10 values of the Girl Scout Law on paper and cut them into strips. Number them 1-10 according to their place in the Girl Scout Law. Paste them on cards or roll them up like scrolls and tie with a ribbon. Then hide the clues in your meeting place.

Brownie Circle: 5 minutes
Gather the girls in a Brownie Circle and have the girls say the Promise and the Law. Then show them the Brownie Quest Map. Tell them that they have already completed the first step to the first key by discovering each other’s special talents and qualities, and now it is time for the second step!

Discover the Girl Scout Values: 15-20 minutes
Follow the directions for this fun scavenger hunt on pages 47-49 in the adult guide. Your girls do not have to do the “Discovering Values” activity on page 50 of their Quest book unless they want to; it may be more fun for you to just discuss as a group some of the questions included on that sheet.

Brownie Quest Story, Chapters Two and Three: 10 minutes
Ask the girls to open their journey books to page 18, and have them take turns reading a small section or paragraph of chapters two and three. To make sure girls are paying attention, ask a couple questions after each chapter about what had just happened in that part of the story.

Puzzling over Keys: 10-15 minutes
Have the girls turn to page 48 in their journey book, “Puzzling over Keys”. Allow them to complete this as best they can by working individually or in small groups. Leave time to go over the answers and/or close with a friendship squeeze.
Session 3: Family Values
Additional Materials Required: Brownie Quest Map, photocopies of page 55 of the adult guide (1 per girl) and colored pencils

Brownie Circle: 5 minutes
Continue starting your sessions in a Brownie Circle and having the girls recite the Promise and the Law. Show them the Brownie Quest Map, and say that step 3 of the 1st key is to discover some of the special talents and qualities in their families!

My Family Star: 20 minutes
Pass out the copies of the star from page 55 of the adult guide. Follow the instructions on page 54 of the adult guide to help your girls create their own family star!

What’s Happening at Campbell’s House?: 10-15 minutes
Have the girls come back to their Brownie Circle and open to page 54 in the girl journey book. Discuss what is happening in the picture and some healthy ways to improve Campbell’s family’s situation. Then brainstorm as a group some ways for girls to encourage their families and get healthy!

Earning the Discover Key: 5 minutes
Tell the girls that they have earned their Discover Key! They discovered themselves and their values as a Girl Scout and a member of their family. Then have them repeat the Discover Key chant after you one line at a time, and then all together!

   The Discover Key
   It’s all about me:
   What I believe
   And my family!

Session 4: Connecting as a Team
Additional Materials Required: hula hoop, playground ball, chart paper and a marker

Brownie Circle: 5 minutes
Have the girls gather in a Brownie Circle and say the Promise and the Law. Then ask the girls if they are ready to earn their second key! Tell them that the first step is to practice being a team! Get the girls thinking about teamwork by first asking, “Why is teamwork important?”

Teambuilding Games: 25 minutes
Play the two games at the bottom of pages 60 and 61 of the adult guide. When the girls have completed both activities, have them get back in the Brownie Circle and ask them the follow-up discussion questions on page 60.

Creating the Brownie Team Agreement: 15 minutes
Use page 61 of the adult guide to help create a Brownie Team Agreement with your girls. If any time allows, your girls may decorate and sign their agreement.
Brownie Circle and Brownie Quest Story: 10-15 minutes
Gather the girls in a Brownie Circle and have the girls say the Promise and the Law. Pass out the girls’ journey books and have them open to page 30. Choose a few girls to read page 30 out loud to the group, skip ahead to page 34, and then discuss the thunderstorm scenario on page 35. Have the girls turn to page 36 to read the end of the “Trail of the Elf Adventure” story together.

Girl Scout Handshake: 5 minutes
Show the girls how to do the Girl Scout Handshake! Pair off the girls, and have the partners shake their left hands and make the Girl Scout sign with their right hands. Explain to the girls that the left-handed handshake—in contrast to the right-handed handshake that most people use—represents friendship because the left hand is closer to the heart than the right hand. Have the girls practice their handshake with a few new partners.

Case of the Broken Sidewalk: 10 minutes
Have the girls sit back in the Brownie Circle and take turns reading page 64 out loud as a group. Call on a few of the girls to answer the questions on the left-hand side.

Big Wind Blows for Our Community: 15-20 minutes
Play the game “Big Wind Blows” with a twist: have the girls say something they think would be fun to do to make their community a better place! It could be as simple as picking up trash at a park or as complex as hosting a fundraiser for a local animal shelter!

Original Rules: Everyone stands in a circle with one person in the middle. The person in the middle says “The Big Wind Blows for anyone ______.” They fill in the blank with something like “wearing socks”, “who has a birthday in September”... etc. Everyone who fits that description has to go into the middle of the circle and find a new place to stand; the one rule is that they cannot stay in their own spot and they cannot go to the spot immediately beside them. The person in the middle tries to get a spot on the edge of the circle and this leaves someone in the middle, who makes the big wind blow again!
Session 6: Caring for Community
Additional Materials Required: chart paper and marker

Brownie Circle: 5 minutes
Have the girls make a Brownie Circle and say the Promise and the Law. See if the girls remember the Girl Scout Handshake!

Big Ideas: 15 minutes
Give the girls their journey books, and have them turn to page 40. Have the girls take turns reading the stories of ways girls have taken action in their communities. Ask probing questions to see what ideas the group really likes. This will help with the next activity!

Address a Community: 25 minutes
Ask the girls, “If you could change one thing about your school or town, what would it be?” Let each girl give an answer and see if some are similar. If girls are not sure, tell them to think about encouraging people to be healthy or to save the environment, like the Brownies did in the ELF story. Choose two or three ideas and have the group take a vote on which issue they think is the most important in their community. Then tell them that as a group, they will be writing a letter that addresses these issues to someone who can make a difference, like the principal in their school or the mayor of their town. The letter may be simple and direct, and it may be easiest to follow the template on page 70 of the adult guide. Write a “rough copy” on the chart paper. When the letter is complete, take it home and type it up, and have the girls sign the final copy at the beginning of the next session.
Session 7: Brownie Brainstorm

Additional Materials Required: typed up letter from previous session, chart paper, 2 or 3 pens and a marker

Preparation Required: Type and print the “Address a Community” letter for the girls to sign, read pages 72-73 in the adult guide for tips and ideas for your Brownies’ Take Action Project and create the Brownie Brainstorm Chart on chart paper (see below).

Brownie Circle: 5-10 minutes
Gather the girls in a Brownie Circle to say the Promise and the Law. Have the group sign the “Address a Community” letter from last week so it can get mailed to the addressee. Then tell the girls that they have earned their second key, the Connect Key! Feel free to have the girls repeat the chant found on page 69 of the adult guide.

Linked Together Game: 5-10 minutes
Choose one girl to get up from the Brownie Circle and stand on the outside; she will start the game. Ask her to share something she would like to do for her community to make it a better place. Have the other girls raise their hands if they have done something similar in the past or would really like to do what the first girl shared in the near future. Choose one of those girls to link arms with the first girl. Repeat the process until all of the girls are linked together in one chain. Then discuss some of the ideas the girls shared. Why is it important to work together as a team to make a difference in the community?

Brownie Brainstorm: 25 minutes or more
Create the following chart on your chart paper, and have the girls share ideas for their Take Action Project. Follow the directions on page 76 of the adult guide and use the ideas on pages 72-73 to help guide your girls’ plan. If your group cannot travel, it will be easiest to have them plan their Take Action Project around their current meeting place.

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<th>Location (ex: Meeting Place)</th>
<th>Who might need you?</th>
<th>What could your Brownie ELF Team do?</th>
<th>What do you need to find out?</th>
<th>What supplies would you need?</th>
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Then follow the decision-making guidelines on pages 78-79 of the adult guide to help your girls choose their Take Action Project! If your group does not finish this in one session, do not worry! They will have time next session to brainstorm and choose their project.
Session 8: Plan to Fly Into Action!
Additional Materials Required: Chart from last week and a marker
Preparation Required: Read the tips on pages 82-83 in the adult guide.

Brownie Circle: 5 minutes
Continue the tradition of forming a Brownie circle and saying the Promise and the Law.

Tour of Take Action Location: 15 minutes
Keeping in mind the girls’ ideas from last session, lead the group on a walk-through of the area the girls want to influence for their project. Have them really think about what extra materials they will need to bring or things they will need to consider that they may not have thought of originally. Girls should also think about any additional people they can bring into their project to help the girls execute their plan!

Finish Take Action Plan: 25 minutes
Take this time to update the materials list, answer any questions, and finish the group’s Take Action plan! Refer back to pages 82-83 in the adult guide for tips! Tell the girls they will do their project next session.

Session 9: Make the World a Better Place!
Additional Materials Required: any materials listed on the Brownie Brainstorm Chart

Brownie Circle: 5 minutes
Before starting their Take Action Project, have the girls come together in a Brownie Circle to recite the Promise and the Law.

Take Action!
Use the remainder of the session to have the girls complete their Take Action project! Save a few minutes at the end of the session to go over some of the discussion questions on page 87 in the adult guide so the girls can reflect on their experience!
Session 10: The Three Keys

Additional Materials Required: Brownie Quest Map, white paper (1 sheet per girl), colored pencils or markers and any supplies for the celebration

Brownie Circle: 15 minutes
Bring the girls into a Brownie Circle and begin by saying the Promise and the Law together. Read page 69 to them in the girl journey book and ask the girls if they have anything else to share about their experience last session. Then have the girls say the final chant for the Take Action Key:

    Flying into action.
    That’s the biggest key!
    Improving the world
    All around you and me.

Take out the Brownie Quest Map and review everything the girls did to earn their three keys. Have the girls guess what they have become (leaders!). Tell them that a leader discovers, connects, and takes action in her community!

Juliette Gordon Low and the Three Keys: 5 minutes
While the girls are still in their Brownie Circle, have the girls take turns reading page 72 from the girl journey book out loud to the group.

Leader Drawing: 10-15 minutes
Give the girls a piece of paper and colored pencils or markers and have each girl draw a picture of her taking action in her community! Remind the girls that leadership is a life-long journey, and that the more they discover, connect, and take action in their communities, the more of an impact they will have and the more leadership skills they will develop!

Celebration: Remainder of session
Celebrate the completion of the Brownie Quest Journey and their new-found leadership skills with your girls! Present the girls with their four awards and consider snacks and beverages, relay races or playing some teambuilding games to feel bonded as a troop!