

Speaking in Sign

Junior Badge



Complete a total of six activities including two Discover, two Connect, one Take Action and one other activity 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 10 words.
2. Learn to sign the Girls Scout Promise and the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Learn to sing a song in sign language. Sing and 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. What types of communication technology are available to help deaf people during their everyday lives? How are these things different from what you use?

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. Call the phone company and ask about TTY. Ask them to explain how the TTY works to enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate using the telephone.
5. 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.
6. 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. Volunteer at a classroom or program for deaf or hearing-impaired students. Help the teacher with anything that they might need.
3. Teach younger Girl Scouts the American Manual Alphabet. Help them learn their name and have the girls spell at least 10 words to each other. If possible, invite a deaf person or an interpreter to the meeting and encourage the girls to have a conversation with him or her.
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.