



Speaking in Sign

Brownie Badge

Complete a total of four activities including one Discover, one 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.
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.

Connect:

1. Put on a short play that others are familiar with (like The Three Bears) without talking... use signs, gestures and mime. You can even use props and costumes. See if your troop or family can guess what play you are doing.
2. Visit your local library and check out children's books that are written in words and signs. Practice reading and signing the stories.
3. Make a pin to wear showing the universal sign for "I love you." You can do this by tracing your hand onto craft foam or heavy cardboard. Bend down the ring finger and middle finger and glue them to the palm. Attach a pin back with glue.
4. Sound Waves: Do at least two of the following to see how people can feel sound. (You must wear earplugs or cotton in your ears to block out sound).
 - Put your hand on a piano when no one is playing it. Have someone play the piano while your hand is still on it. Can you feel the vibrations?
 - Put your hand on a radio when it's not on, and again when it is on. Can you feel the difference?
 - Use an empty cardboard tube. Placing tube opening over mouth, make noise or talk. Can you feel the vibrations?
 - Lightly put your hand on your throat and talk to a partner. What do you feel? Can you feel the different sounds when you say the alphabet and your name?

Take Action:

1. Perform a signing concert at a school or program for the deaf.
2. Volunteer at a school or program for the deaf.
3. Think of your own project! Use the skills and knowledge you developed in the Discover and Connect activities to guide you.

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.

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.

