



# GIRL SCOUT BROWNIE MEETING IDEAS

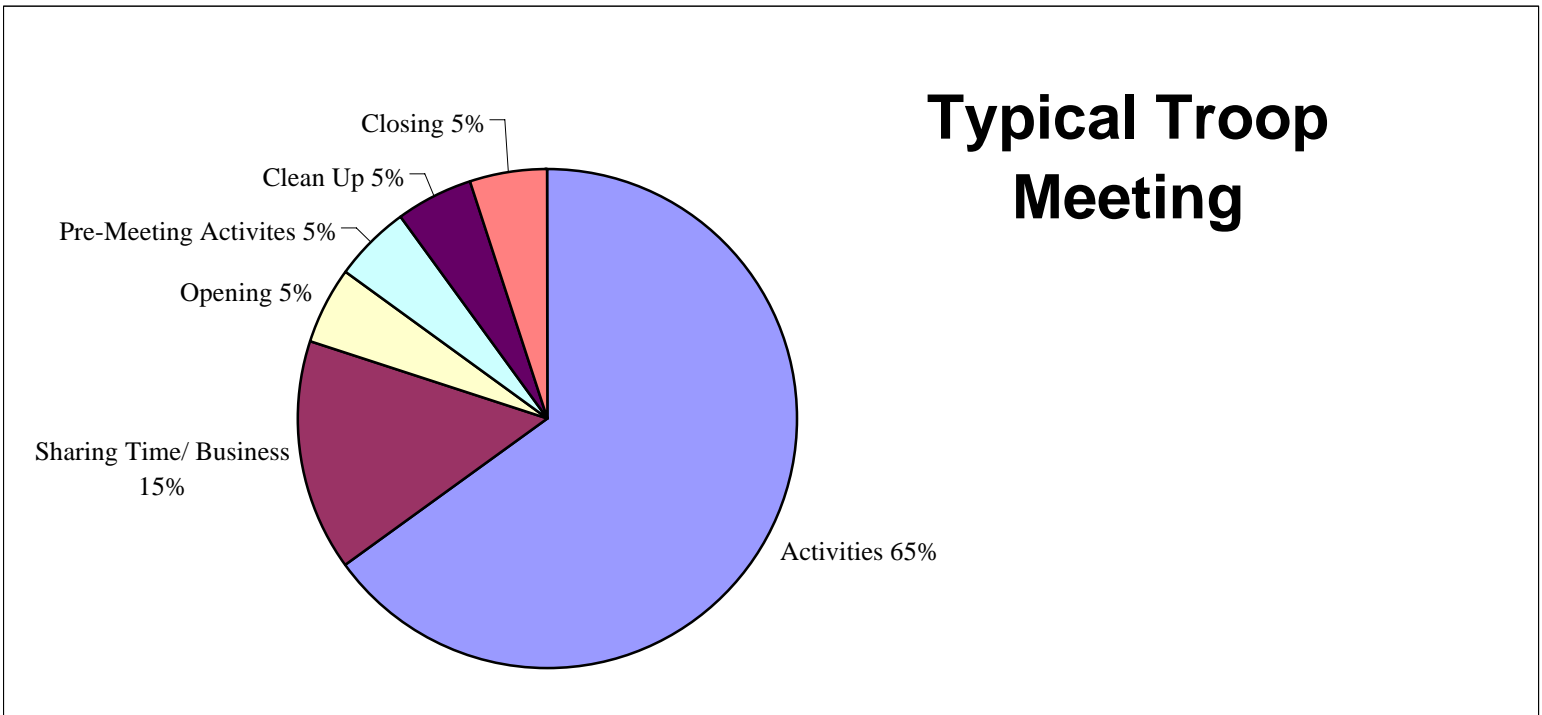


Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines  
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Dear Brownie Girl Scout Leader:

This packet of Brownie meeting ideas has been created especially for you to help you as you begin troop leadership in Girl Scouting. Thank you for taking the time to share your talents with our girls.

Below you will find two charts; the first a pie chart illustrating the parts of a typical troop meeting. The next is a chart describing the things you might do during each part of the meeting. Please remember that these are guides for you - nothing is set in stone.



## A suggested meeting agenda

<b>Start-ups:</b>	Games or activities girls can do alone or with friends as they arrive at the meeting place (jump rope, puzzles, books, etc.).
<b>Opener:</b>	A ceremony or activity to bring everyone together and begin the meeting.
<b>Business:</b>	Girls collect dues, mark attendance, check Kaper (job) chart, and make announcements
<b>Activity time:</b>	Try-Its or other Girl Scout Patch activities; games, projects, and other activities from <u>Handbooks</u> and <u>Try-Its/Badge Books</u> . Special activities that might include: service projects, activities with other troops, etc.
<b>Brownie Girl Scout Ring: Sharing Time</b>	A time for planning, problem solving, and decision-making. Girls share and choose activity ideas, and make plans to carry them out.
<b>Clean-up Time:</b>	Girls pick-up, put away, recycle, sweep, etc., to leave the meeting place in good shape.
<b>Closing:</b>	Everyone comes together for a short ceremony to say goodbye and send the girls home with a good feeling or thought for the day.

Remember, these are only guidelines. There is no one correct way to lead a Girl Scout troop as long as you and the girls have fun and are safe. Allow the girls as much input into planning their activities as they are capable of handling. A good way to gather their input is by pre-planning several options and then asking the girls.

The younger the girls, the more pre-planning (by you, your co-leader/s and perhaps your troop committee) is necessary. Start by looking at the *LEAD ON guide*. What opportunities do you think the girls would like to participate in? Choose two or three. At your next meeting, say to the girls, "We have some exciting opportunities available to us. They are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. Ask the girls which they would prefer and why. Give each girl a chance to respond and then take a vote.

## **Beginning Meetings**

- Play some “getting to know you” games so the girls can learn about each other. Suggestion: Explain to the girls that you will start the game by telling them something about yourself (i.e. My favorite color is red.) When you have done this, any girl who has the same favorite color joins you and takes your arm. She then tells the group something about herself (i.e. My favorite Girl Scout cookie is \_\_\_\_\_.) As girls hear something that is true of them, they join arms. Continue until all girls have joined arms to form a circle. You are now in your Brownie Girl Scout circle and everyone has learned something about each other.
- Tell the story of Girl Scouting (pages 6-11 in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*.) Discuss the Girl Scout Promise and Law and relate them to the activities and learning opportunities the girls will have during the year.

Tell the Brownie Story (pages 29-32 in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*) or a Brownie Tale (a “modern” Brownie Story on pages 33-37). Ask the girls to act out the story (*Brownie Girl Scout Leader’s Guide*, page 38.) Review the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Do activities 1 and 2 from the Girl Scout Ways Try-It (page 14 in *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*).

- Talk about an investiture ceremony (and/or rededication ceremony). Plan with the girls the things they would like to do (play, Brownie Smile Song, page 15 in *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*). Check out Girl Scout Ceremonies (T299) and *Let’s Celebrate!* (available in the council shops). Practice a simple flag ceremony (also in T299). Make invitations to the ceremony. Do activity 4 in Girl Scout Ways *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*, page 15.
- Practice Flag Ceremony for investiture. Practice the play, song, or whatever, and the Promise and Law. Do activity 5 from Girl Scout Ways Try-It (page 15 in *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*).

Ask the girls to be thinking about some places they would like to visit – Library, Fire Station, Police Station, Newspaper office – help them plan.

## **Service Projects**

- Service is another Girl Scout tradition – we make the world a better place by helping others. Service means you do something for someone without the expectation of anything in return.
- Blanket the Community is a council-wide service project that takes place in October. There is an activity guide in your program packet.
- Holidays are always a good time to do service projects. Talk with the girls about what they might like to do. (Singing at a hospital or nursing home, making and sending holiday cards to residents or patients, collecting food for the hungry. There is a list of suggested service projects in the workbook you received at Girl Scout Basics training.)

## Holidays

- Celebrating holidays is a good way to learn about customs and cultures from around the world.
- Plan to celebrate holidays and special occasions with the girls. Ask about their favorite foods for each holiday, (keep in mind food allergies) and invite the girls and their families to share a favorite custom or food at a party you and the girls plan.
- The Manners Try-It fits in nicely with the holidays. (Pages 68-69 in Brownie Girl Scout Try-Its.)
- The Eat Right, Stay Healthy Try-It (pages 26-27) is also a good fit with the holidays.
- The Caring and Sharing Try-It is a good fit for Valentine's Day, as is activity 3 from All in the Family (pages 58-59.)
- Plan a Juliette Low Birthday Celebration. This is a good time to talk about Girl Scouting Around the World and incorporate activities from Brownie Girl Scouts Around the World Try-It (pages 8 and 9.)
- Celebrate World Thinking Day (February 22). Check out the activities listed on page 20 of the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*. *Trefoil Around the World*, available in the council shops, is a great resource to find out about Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world. Check out our council's Different Shoe Day activities (contact the Program Department for more information). Is your area doing a Thinking Day event the girls would like to participate in? This is a good time to give the girls their World Association Pin.

In reflecting on Thinking Day, discuss the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. (Check out [www.girlscouts.org/who\\_weare/global/juliette\\_low\\_fund.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/who_weare/global/juliette_low_fund.asp) for more information.) Talk with girls about making a donation and make it fun. (a penny for each inch of a girl's height.) People Near and Far Try-It activities (pages 117-134 in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*) fit here nicely.

## **Ceremonies**

- Planning ceremonies of any kind usually requires portions of several meetings. You need to have the girls decide what kind of ceremony they want to do. Will it be very serious like a Girl Scout's Own? Will it be a fun one where girls can create skits, songs, etc? What supplies are needed? Who will be responsible for each part? And then of course there is practice, remember you can never practice enough. For more help with planning and implementing ceremonies, refer to *Let's Celebrate!* A GSUSA publication available in the Council shops, and/or T299, *Girl Scout Ceremonies*, available in hard copy from your Membership Director or on our Web site on the forms page.

## **Crafts**

- Young girls like things they can make and take home to share with their families.
- There are many Web sites where you can find ideas for easy crafts. Always try the craft yourself before bringing it to the girls. Check out [www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts).

## **Cookie Sale Program**

- The Cookie Sale program is an opportunity for you to teach girls about money. Each year, a theme is created and activities designed to help the girls learn about setting goals and handling money.
- Be sure to set aside at least one meeting for your trained Troop Cookie Manager to talk with the girls about the cookie sale program. Assist her in helping the girls set goals for themselves and the troop as a whole. Use the resources provided by the cookie company to assist in this process. When the sale is complete, be sure to let the girls know how much they earned, and ask them how they would like to spend the money.

## **Trip Planning**

- Before planning a trip, be sure to check *Safety-wise*, pages 44-60.
- Trip and Travel Safety (TP110) is a great resource to help you determine any special training you might need, how to plan with the girls, and insurance information for you to consider.
- Remember progression – for some of your girls, this may be the first time they have ever been away from their families. Take a short trip during your meeting time, go on to a full day trip and slowly progress to longer trips as the girls become comfortable being without their families.

## Try-Its

- Brownie Girl Scouts love to earn Try-Its while they are learning about themselves and the world around them. Many of the Try-Its are designed to bring the world a little closer to home. When planning to earn a *Try-It*, be sure that you try the activity yourself before bringing it to the girls. It can look so easy when you read the directions and be much more difficult when you actually try it! And remember, if you have any confusion or difficulty, the girls probably will as well. Playing Around the World Try-It (pages 160-161 in *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*) is a fun way to introduce chapter 8 in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*, People Near and Far (pages 177-133). Have the girls choose the activities they want to do from each. Remind girls that cookie sales have begun. Ask how they are doing. Finish Activities for Planning Around the World Try-It (pages 160-161 in *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*). Tally cookie sales for troop. Use the Brownie Girl Scout Ring to decide how to use the proceeds. Remember to check the *LEAD ON guide* for upcoming program opportunities.

## Camping

- Camping is another Girl Scout tradition. Be sure that you or another adult on your troop committee take Moving Into the Out of Doors and Camping Out training where they will learn about camping skills, safety, and planning camping trips with girls.
- The Outdoor Trained adult will be the person responsible for attending several troop meetings to prepare the girls to go camping. Make sure you reserve the time in your troop meetings to allow this to happen. It is suggested that you use a part of each of six meetings to plan a camping trip with the girls. The first meeting might be deciding where to camp (are the girls experienced? Is this their first time away from home? Have they camped in a backyard or at a campsite before?) These are some of the questions you will need to ask before deciding on a place to camp.

Next, what will you eat? Talk with the girls about health and nutrition (no we won't be eating candy for every meal!) the types of meals that can be easily prepared, especially if the girls are helping to cook (which they should be.) Also be aware of any food allergies someone in the troop might have.

A part of another meeting might be devoted to discussing what to pack. You might be surprised at the things girls will offer as "must haves" on an overnight! A fun activity is to have the girls do relays to pack a bag for the overnight. Which team can get the most essential items in the bag in the least amount of time? When talking about sleeping bags, be sure to remind the girls that sleeping bags designed for camping are not the same as slumber party bags – the ones with cartoon characters etc. They are not sufficient for sleeping in the out of doors.

For more ideas refer to *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting*. Have the Outdoor Trained person use the Brownie Girl Scout Camping Notebook (PG902) with the girls.

- Start with a day at camp – perhaps attending Princess Party – and progress to one overnight, such as Kamp Kaper, then 2 nights, etc.
- When the summer camp brochure arrives, be sure to discuss it with your girls so they know the types of opportunities available to them.
- Try Group Camp. It is a wonderful opportunity to have program provided all day while all of you get to know one another and other girls from around the council.

### **End of Year Meetings**

- Do have a year end celebration. You and the girls have accomplished much! Be sure to let girls and their families know what plans you might have for the summer months (i.e. group camp) and when and where the troop will meet at the start of the new program year.
- Be sure that each girl receives all the Try-Its she has earned and any participation patches.
- Have a great summer!

We hope you find this packet helpful. As always your input is important, so please contact the Volunteer Services Department with your comments, suggestions, or ideas.