



Girl Scout Brownie Essentials

Resources needed to complete the Brownie Essentials self-paced home study are:

- *Brownie Quest and Adult Guide*
- **The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*
- *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*
- *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*
- **Safety-Wise*

Optional Resources available at the Council Shop

- *Transforming Leadership*
- *Juliette Low – Girl Scout Founder*
- *Let's Celebrate! Girl Scout Ceremonies*
- *Let's Play! Games for Girls*

*Some publications are available in Spanish

The *Brownie Quest and Adult Guide* are the basic resources for girls and adults; the Handbook and Try-It books supplement the basic program.

Girl Scout Brownies

Membership

A Girl Scout Brownie troop is comprised of girls who are in grades Second and Third. Girls with developmental challenges should be registered as closely as possible with girls their chronological age.

Characteristics of Girl Scout Brownies

General characteristics of Girl Scout Brownies are listed in the *Brownie Quest Adult Guide*, pages 22 – 23 and in *The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders*, pages 19 – 21. The information gives you a general idea of what to expect as you work with Girl Scout Brownies, but it is intended as a guide only. Every girl is unique, with different needs, interests, and levels of development. Remember this is a guide, not an absolute, and their abilities are different and ever changing from girl to girl, day to day. These are the years when a girl begins to reach out beyond the world of her family to build new friendships and to explore new horizons. Girls need to know that you accept them as they are. Be fair and equal in your relationship with each troop member.

Reflections

Think of the ways you might describe girls in a typical Girl Scout Brownie troop. Now list 3 – 4 characteristics classic of this age Girl Scout. What qualities in girls do you most value and which qualities in girls do you least value?

List characteristics you might need to know more about – or those which could become problematic. Do you think you consistently reward the behavior you most value? How might you need to change your reaction to some behaviors in girls? You may discover that your values about girls' behaviors and qualities differ from theirs. How will you respond to those differences as you work with the girls and their adult partners?

The Brownie Story

The Brownie story is a Girl Scout tradition dating back to Lord Baden-Powell, who adapted the original story written in 1865 for use by Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries also have a similar story, and in many countries Girl Scouts leaders are called "Brown Owls." Read the Brownie story on pages 29 – 32 in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook* to the girls.

Girl Scout Brownie Meetings

Look at the sample sessions in the *Brownie Quest Adult Guide* and other Girl Scout program resources and make some tentative plans. Are there some activities that could be grouped into monthly themes? The *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook* is not written to be used in a sequential order. You and the girls may begin anywhere in the book, or with activities from other Girl Scout resources, and follow a plan that works best for you. Check with the Council publication, *Program at a Glance*, for dates of any special opportunities planned for Girl Scout Brownies. Balance your year's program with the following suggestions:

- Involve girls in using their Journey books and Handbooks to complete activities about themselves and others, on safety and skills.
- Include at least one service project.
- Plan field trips that enhance program activities.
- Have 2-3 inter-troop activities – 2 with older girls and 1 with younger girls – this enhances Bridging concepts and completes some requirements.
- Participate in at least one Neighborhood activity.
- Include some activities at a Council camp.
- Participate in some outdoor skills activities.
- Participate in one Council activity – see *Program at a Glance*
- Participate in a summer activity.

The most important thing to remember is the year should start with girl/adult planning.

Reflection

Design three activities you can do with girls outside the meeting place that could help provide a balanced program.

Self-Check

Where can the correct ratio of girls per adults for a Girl Scout Brownie meeting are found?

What is it?

What is a Fly-Up/Bridging Ceremony?

How are you planning to make this a wonderful and exciting Girl Scout Brownie experience?

Girl Scout Brownie Earned Age-Level Awards

Three Keys and Brownie Quest Awards

These are the keys to leadership discovered in the *Brownie Quest* journey book. Descriptions and requirements are found on pages 8 – 9 in the *Brownie Quest Adult Guide*.

Bridge to Girl Scout Brownies

The Bridge to Girl Scout Brownies is for girls who were once Girl Scout Daisies and did special activities before becoming Girl Scout Brownies. Bridging information can be found on pages 136-137 in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*.

Brownie Try-Its

There are 60+ Girl Scout Brownie Try-Its; 54 can be found in the *Brownie Girl Scout Try-It* book and additional Try-Its can be found on the GSUSA web site as well as our own Council web site. As with all Girl Scout proficiency-building activities, Try-Its are non-competitive recognitions; quality of experience should be stressed over quantity. The girls' enthusiasm, attendance, and interest are the best indicators and the best judges of whether the activities are meeting their needs and interests. They should be asked what they like to do the most, although the Girl Scout program should be balanced in both the type and subject of activities that are done. Try-Its are designed to encourage girls to attempt new things. Each Try-It has six or seven activities to select from. When girls complete four of the activities, they may receive the Try-It award to wear on their sash or vest. When possible, encourage the girls to try all six or seven of the activities.

Our Own Council's Try-It and Our Own Troop's Try-It

Councils and troops may develop their own Try-Its to familiarize girls with the area or state in which they live. The requirements for our Council's Try-Its are listed on the council web site.

Safety Award for Girl Scout Brownies

Girl Scout Brownies may earn the Safety Award by completing a number of activities. These activities reinforce the importance of safety in everyday life and in everything we do in Girl Scouting. See page 11 in *Safety-Wise* for requirements for this award.

Girl Scout Brownie Challenge

Girl Scout Challenge 1 is Girl Scout Brownies Making the World a Better Place. The activities for the Girl Scout Challenge are designed to engage girls in *discovering* key Girl Scout values, building *leadership* skills and taking *action* by applying these values and skills to their everyday lives. Requirements can be found on the GSUSA web site.

Brownie Wings

Refer back to the information in the Program Level Essentials – Part I

Reflections

Try-Its can be found on the GSUSA and Arizona Cactus-Pine Council’s web sites, list three additional that you might do with your troop.

Self Check

What are the grades for a Girl Scout Brownie?

“Twist me and turn me and show me the elf. I looked in the water and saw _____!”

What are some of the ways in which Girl Scout Brownies can take part in the planning for a rededication ceremony?

What are Brownie Try-Its?

What are Brownie Wings and when are they presented?

What do Girl Scout Brownies become during a bridging ceremony?

CONGRATULATIONS!

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (printed) _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Email _____

Neighborhood _____ Troop # _____

Did the course content answer your questions?

Did you get enough information to begin your troop meetings?

What other information would you find useful?

Mail

Part I – Program Essentials - Self-paced Home Study AND

Part II – Brownie Self-Paced Home Study

Leadership Essentials/Program for Adults

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Questions?

Contact the Leadership Essentials/Program for Adults Department at (602) 452-7048 OR the Membership Resource Center (MRC) at (602) 452-7196.