



“Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others. If you have that awareness, you have good manners, no matter what fork you use.”

—Emily Post,
American author on etiquette



Social Butterfly

Have you ever found yourself in a group or place where you didn't know how to act? It happens to everyone. In this badge, have fun practicing the social style and good manners that will make you comfortable in any situation.

Steps

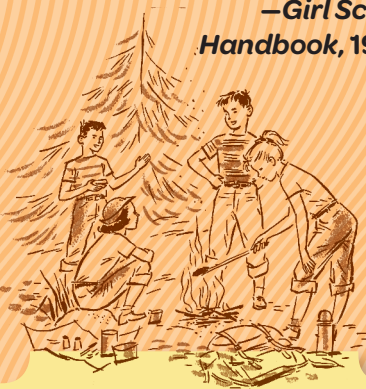
1. Hold a conversation
2. Use table manners
3. Be prepared for special occasions
4. Say thank you
5. Practice being at ease

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to act at many types of events, from picnics to weddings to parties.

Charming persons are almost never self-centered, but have wide interests in persons and things and can forget about themselves.

—Girl Scout Handbook, 1933



More to Explore

Introduce others to the conversation. Practice introducing newcomers to a conversation so everyone feels welcome, as Juniors did to earn their Hospitality badge in 1963. How would you start a conversation between your volunteer or teacher and your parents or with a new girl and your group? What are some good topics for everyone to chat about?



STEP 1 Hold a conversation

Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step. Inspired? Do more!

It's easy to have a conversation with your best friend, but what about people you don't know very well? Conversation skills will help you in your job one day and make you seem more open to new friends! Try one of these to help you have conversations with ease.

CHOICES - DO ONE:

Practice conversation starters. First, make a list of 10 great questions to start a conversation. Think about the different situations you might have: with one new person, a group of new people, or an adult friend of your parents'. Then role-play with your questions to practice starting and continuing a conversation.

FOR MORE FUN: Make a list of the questions to keep in your backpack, so you can look over them when you're around new people.

OR

Invite an expert to come talk about conversations. Some people specialize in helping people talk to one another. Ask a psychologist, motivational speaker, life coach or other knowledgeable person to show you how to introduce yourself and begin a conversation in different situations.

OR

Make a poster with 10 conversation tips. Look in books, online, or in magazines. Remember, body language is an important part of conversation, too. Some of your tips can be about smiling and other friendly gestures that can help everyone feel at ease. Then, hang your poster in a good sharing place.

Tip: One of the best conversation starters is a smile! Looking welcoming and friendly puts others at ease so they feel comfortable talking with you.

STEP 2 Use table manners



Manners can be important at mealtime. Practice feeling at ease at the table with one of these activities.

CHOICES - DO ONE:

Brainstorm five things not to do at the table. For each one, list a good substitution. Here's one to start you off: "Don't criticize the food! Instead, find something you like about it." Pick three good table manners from your list to practice in the next two weeks.

OR

Set the table. Find out where silverware, glasses, napkins, and plates go. Make paper "reminder" place mats that show outlines where everything should go—one for a formal dinner, and one for a casual meal. You might make the place mats from fabric and trace your "cheat sheet" on the back! Then try setting the table for a week.

FOR MORE FUN: With a group or your family, visit a nice restaurant and learn how a table is set for different meals.

OR

Study table manners from other countries. In the United States, many people use a fork and knife to eat, but in other places, it's more common to use chopsticks or to eat with your hands. Learn about mealtime customs from another culture, then have a meal using manners from that place.

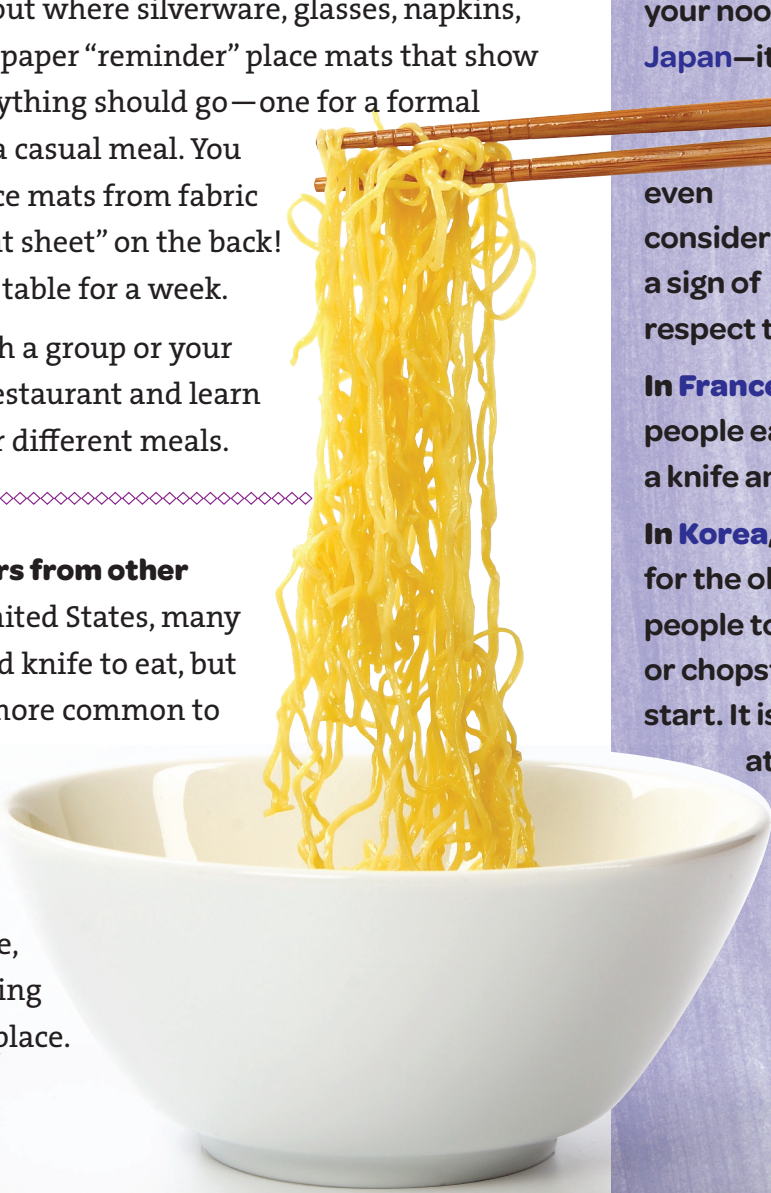


Table Manners Around the World

You may know how to be polite at your own table, or at a friend's house, but what about in a different country? Every culture has its own rules for meals!

Some Americans consider it rude to squash food, but it's perfectly polite to mush things like peas and corn onto your fork in Great Britain.

It is acceptable to slurp your noodles in Japan—it's

even considered a sign of respect to the cook.

In France, many people eat pizza with a knife and fork.

In Korea, you should wait for the oldest person or people to lift their spoons or chopsticks before you start. It is also best to eat at the same pace as everyone else.



Dance Cards

Have you ever heard the phrase, “My dance card is full,” and wondered where it came from? A dance card was a small booklet with a pencil attached that listed all the songs an orchestra would play at a formal dance or ball. Before the dance, a man would ask a woman to reserve a dance for him. If she said yes, he would sign his name next to the song. If there were no songs left, he was out of luck—the dance card was full. The last dance was usually considered the most special, so a man could ask a lady to “save the last dance.”

More to Explore



Pretend you’re a Girl Scout from 1963. Have a “style show” with your Junior group. Dress up for one of the events in this step and explain why you chose that outfit. As girls earning their Good Grooming badge did, discuss “the importance of good grooming, posture, and appropriateness of clothing.”

STEP 3 Be prepared for special occasions

Special occasions all have their own rituals. When you know what they are, you know how to act! Choose one occasion and find out the answers to the questions in the box below.

CHOICES - DO ONE:

☐ Wedding

OR ☐

☐ Funeral or wake

OR ☐

☐ Coming-of-age ceremony, like a bat mitzvah, confirmation, or a quinceañera.

Special Occasion Questions

- Why is the ceremony held?
- What important rituals are in the ceremony?
- How should you dress?
- What’s one helpful skill you should know before attending?
- When is the occasion usually held?
- Is there something that is especially nice to say (or wish to) the host or guest(s) of honor?

STEP 4 Say thank you

When you receive a gift or are invited somewhere, it’s good manners to say thank you. There are other times when thanking someone is less obvious, but just as important!

CHOICES - DO ONE:

☐ **Thank the host.** When someone has invited you over for a dinner or a party, find the host before you leave and say thanks. Tell them what you most enjoyed. Practice in a role-play or skit.

FOR MORE FUN: In many places, gifts are given to the host of a party as a thank-you. Find some examples and make a host gift of your own!

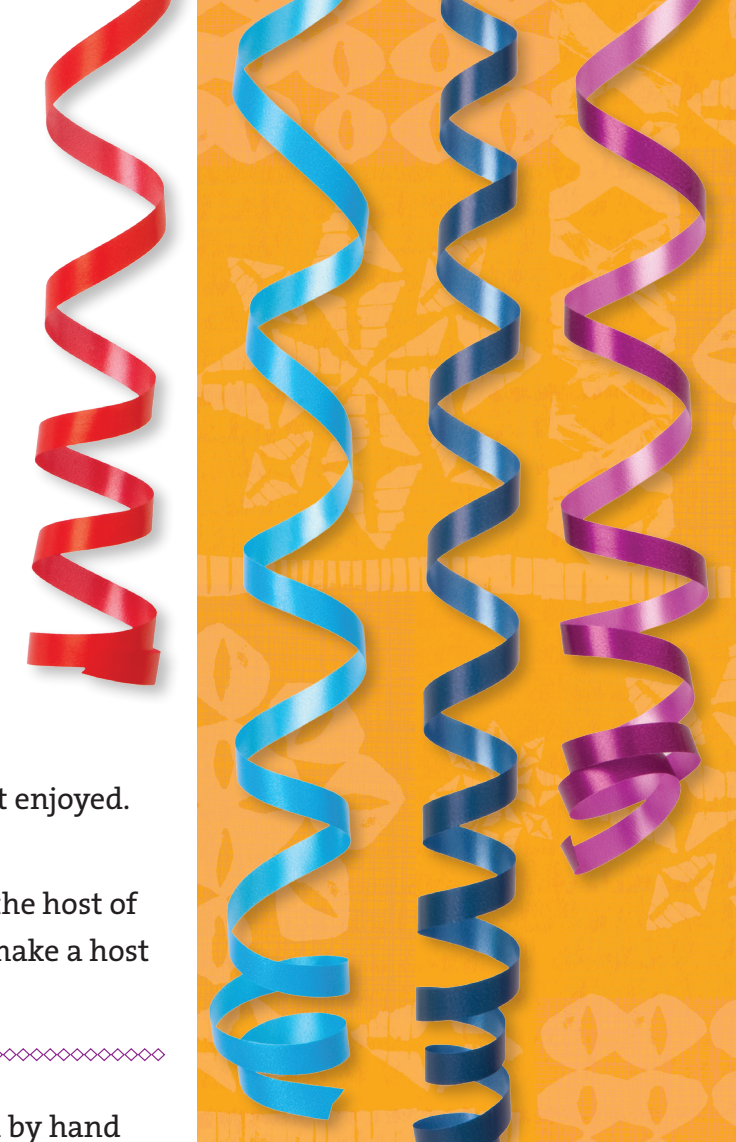
OR ☐

☐ **Handwrite a thank-you note.** Kind words written by hand show you took time to share your thanks. Handwrite three thank-you notes in the next month. (You might even make your own note card!) Include why you are thankful. If it’s for a gift, tell the giver how you use it, or your favorite thing about it.

FOR MORE FUN: Sometimes you receive a gift that’s not exactly what you wanted. In the moment, it can be hard to be thankful! Do a skit about how to have good manners in that situation.

OR ☐

☐ **Make a thank-you gift.** The next time you feel really thankful to someone, give a thank-you gift, like a bouquet of flowers, a drawing, or a bag of trail mix. Gifts you make yourself often have the most meaning. Think about thanking people who help you every day, like your crossing guard or a teacher. Or thank someone for a smaller gesture, like making you feel comfortable in a new situation.



Say “Thank You” Around the World

SWAHILI
East and
Central Africa
Asante
(ah-sahn-the)

MANDARIN
China
Xie xie
(syeh-syeh)

HAWAIIAN
Mahalo
(mah-hah-loh)

SPANISH
Gracias
(grah-cee-yas)

ITALIAN
Grazie
(gra-see)

JAPANESE
Domo
(doe-moe)

HINDI
India
Shukriya
(shoe-kree-a)

DANISH
Tak
(tahg)

TAGALOG
Philippines
Salamat
(sa-la-mat)

ARABIC
Shukran
(shoe-krahn)

FRENCH
Merci
(mehr-see)



More to Explore

Make it a dance party. Girls earning their Social Dancer badge in 1963 had to “develop some ideas for getting a dance party off to a quick start, be able to teach an icebreaker, and know several ways to help guests mingle.” Try these skills yourself!



STEP 5 Practice being at ease

Hold a party to practice all you’ve learned. Invite people you aren’t that close with so you can really practice being at ease. Make introductions, make conversation, show good table manners, and thank guests for coming. Pick a group to invite from the list below, and start partying!

CHOICES - DO ONE:

- ☐ **Other Girl Scouts.** Grow your skills by inviting younger and older girls.
OR ~~~~~
- ☐ **Your friends and their parents.** Make a point of chatting with some adults!
OR ~~~~~
- ☐ **Everyone in your class.** Think about classmates you don’t know very well and come up with some conversation starters ahead of time.



Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Helping others feel comfortable in a conversation
- Showing my friends how to act at a wedding
- Making a special thank-you gift for my school custodian or crossing guard



I'm inspired to:

TM ® & © 2022 Girl Scouts of the United States of America. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical methods, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, now known or hereinafter invented, without the prior written permission of Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA), except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permissions requests, write to GSUSA at the address below or visit the www.girlscouts.org website to access permission request forms.

First published in 2011 by GSUSA | 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798 | www.girlscouts.org

Printed in the United States

UPC 64345



7 31955 64345 4