

*Taken from the Volunteer Toolkit Badge Year for Brownies  
Making Friends 1*

## Overview

You'll tell girls what this Journey is all about: How the stories they read or the TV shows and movies they watch can show them how girls live around the world — and give them ideas about how they can help others.

In this meeting, girls will:

- Girls complete the first three steps toward earning their Making Friends badge. These are — Step 1: Make friendly introductions; Step 2: Show friends you care; and, Step 3: Share favorite activities.
- Girls find out how their friendship skills can make the world a better place.
- Girls think about how they might take action with the badge skills they've developed.

**Note to Volunteers** The excitement and fast pace of running troop meetings for the first time can sometimes leave us tongue-tied. For that reason scripting is included for guiding girls through a meeting; these "lines" are under the heading "**SAY**." However, you're the expert. If you feel you don't need the script, do what makes sense for you and your girls.

## Prepare Ahead

- Get your badges [here](#).
- Talk to anyone helping you about what they will do at this meeting.
- Throughout the year, you'll guide girls on their Take Action Project. When it comes up in your meetings, you'll want to make sure girls understand the steps for taking action: They will see a need, work with others to brainstorm solutions, develop a plan, and do the project.
- Activity 4: Print out instructions for two Game Exchange card games PDFs: Girls are in teams. Print one game instruction per girl; make sure each girl on a team has a different game.

## Get Help from the Friends and Family Network

- Find out if anyone wants to lead or support an activity or meeting.

## Award Connection

- In this session, girls begin activities toward earning the Making Friends badge.
- They will earn their badge after completing activities at the end of the second Making Friends meeting.

## Meeting Length

90 minutes

The times given for each activity will be different, depending on how many girls are in the troop.

*Taken from the Volunteer Toolkit Badge Year for Brownies  
Making Friends 1*

Plus, girls may really enjoy a particular activity and want to continue past the allotted time. As much as possible, let them! That's part of keeping Girl Scouting girl-led!

## Materials

### Activity 1: As Girls Arrive

- Sheets of paper
- Markers, crayons

### Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- **Girl Scout Promise and Law**
- **Brownie Smile Song**

### Activity 3: Care Creation

- **Name Poem About Brownies** – one for each girl
- Arts and crafts materials: glue, sequins, pipe cleaners
- Markers and crayon
- Paper
- Plastic beads (to make a friendship bracelet or for SWAPS)
- 6-inch pieces of colored yarn (to make a friendship bracelet)
- Large safety pins (for SWAPS)

### Activity 4: Game Exchange

- Deck of cards, one for each pair of girls
- **Snap Instructions** – make sure each girl on each team has one of these
- **Prediction Instructions** – make sure each girl on each team has one of these

### Activity 5: Take Action Pause

- None

### Activity 6: Snack Chat & Friendship Pledge

- Healthy snack items: fruit (strawberries, blueberries, cherries, apples, oranges, bananas), granola bars, crackers, carrot sticks, graham crackers, sliced cucumber and yogurt dip, juice, goldfish
- Poster board
- Markers
- Tape
- Digital or camera phone to take photo of Friendship Pledge poster (optional)



*Taken from the Volunteer Toolkit Badge Year for Brownies  
Making Friends 1*

## **Activity 7: Closing Ceremony**

- **Making New Friends**

## **Detailed activity plan**

### **Activity 1 : As Girls Arrive**

#### **Time Allotment**

10 minutes

#### **Materials**

- Sheets of paper
- Markers, crayons

#### **Steps**

##### **SAY:**

*Draw a picture of what you think it means to be a good friend.*

### **Activity 2 : Opening Ceremony**

#### **Time Allotment**

15 minutes

#### **Materials**

- **Girl Scout Promise and Law**
- **The Brownie Smile Song**

#### **Steps**

Girls gather in a circle. Welcome them to the first Making Friends meeting.

Girls say the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law together. Then have girls sing the Brownie Smile Song.

##### **SAY:**

*Taken from the Volunteer Toolkit Badge Year for Brownies  
Making Friends 1*

*Making new friends can be as simple as introducing yourself. It's nice to share something about you when you introduce yourself.*

*Stand up and start walking around the room. When I say STOP, pair up with someone. Then introduce yourself by saying, My name is so-and-so. Then ask them one question. It can be What is your favorite ice cream flavor? or What is your favorite movie? or Do you have any pets? Once you do that, keep walking until I say STOP again. Make sure that each time I say STOP, you find a different girl you haven't paired with before.*

*Let's try it!*

When girls are finished with introductions, **SAY:**

- *How did it feel to hear that other girls have the same situations, experiences, or likes that you do?*
- *How is a smile important for making new friends?*
- *How would you introduce a new friend to an old friend?*
- *How would you help a new student feel welcome at school?*

### **Activity 3 : Care Creation**

#### **Time Allotment**

20 minutes

#### **Materials**

- **Name Poem About Brownies** – one for each girl
- Arts and crafts materials: glue, sequins, pipe cleaners
- Markers and crayon
- Paper
- Plastic beads (for friendship bracelets or for SWAPS)
- 6-inch pieces of colored yarn (to make a friendship bracelet)
- Large safety pins (for SWAPS)

#### **Steps**

Read the Name Poem for Brownies with the group.

#### **SAY:**

*One important way to keep your friendship strong is to help each other feel better when something goes wrong. Another way is to let your friend know why she's special to you.*

*Taken from the Volunteer Toolkit Badge Year for Brownies  
Making Friends 1*

*Think about a friend and create something special for her.*

If girls need ideas, offer these prompts:

- *Is your friend's birthday coming up? How about making a card?*
- *Does she like to laugh? Draw something funny!*
- *Write her a name poem, using the letter of her name.*
- *How about friendship bracelets — one of each of you?* (If girls need instructions, have them choose a selection of colored yarn or wire, string some beads, and tie at both ends.)
- *You might want to make SWAPS for friends from another Brownie group.* SWAPS stands for Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere or Shared With a Pal. These are tokens of friendship you can make to share with other girls.

## Activity 4 : Game Exchange

### Time Allotment

20 minutes

### Materials

- Deck of cards, one for each pair of girls
- **Snap Instructions** – make sure each girl on each team has one of these
- **Prediction Instructions** – make sure each girl on each team has one of these

### Steps

Have Brownies team up in pairs, or groups of threes if you have an odd number of girls.

### SAY:

*A great way to show a friend you care is to share something new with them. Here, you'll be learning a card game and teaching it to your teammate. Then you'll switch roles.*

*Start by reading the instructions to your card game. You'll either have the game Snap or Prediction. Then share it with your teammate and play one round. When you're done, switch roles so your teammate will teach you her game.*

*Remember it helps to use kind words to support a person when they're learning something new. You can say things like, You're learning fast, or You're doing great figuring this out, or It's fun playing with you.*

After girls are done exchanging games, **SAY:**

*Taken from the Volunteer Toolkit Badge Year for Brownies  
Making Friends 1*

- *What did you like about learning something new?*
- *How did you feel sharing something new with someone else? Was it easy or hard?*
- *Is there something you would do differently next time?*
- *Did you remember to compliment each other?*
- *Why is it important to make sure we are fair and never leave others out?*
- *If any of you were in a group of three, did you find a way to include all three girls in the game?*

## Keep It Girl-Led Tip

If girls have their own card game to share with their teammate, let them. Or, if girls want to share a game that doesn't require cards, such as a hand-clapping game, that's fine, too!

## Activity 5 : Take Action Pause

### Time allotment

10 minutes

### Materials

- None

### Steps

#### **SAY:**

*As you do the activities to earn your Making Friends badge, you're learning how to be caring and keep things peaceful. That's part of helping others, which is what Girl Scouting is all about.*

*When you are a good friend, you are helping make the world a better place.*

*You can also think about being a friend to someone you don't know. Sometimes the people that need friends most are the ones they didn't know they had. Can you think of some examples for this?*

Give girls time to respond, then **SAY:**

*It might be children at hospital, soldiers overseas, or someone left out at your school.*

*As you earn badges this year, we're going to think about how you can use the skills you're learning to take action. Then we're going to come up with a small Take Action Project that you can do in a meeting later in the year.*

*Taken from the Volunteer Toolkit Badge Year for Brownies  
Making Friends 1*

(Note to volunteer: Write down girls' Take Action ideas throughout the year as they work on badges. You'll use this list later to remind them of their ideas and help them choose one to do.)

## **Activity 6 : Snack Chat & Friendship Pledge**

### **Time Allotment**

10 minutes

### **Materials**

- Healthy snack items: fruit (strawberries, blueberries, cherries, apples, oranges, bananas), granola bars, crackers, carrot sticks, graham crackers, sliced cucumber and yogurt dip, juice, goldfish
- Poster board
- Markers
- Tape
- Digital or camera phone to take photo of Friendship Pledge poster (optional)

### **Steps**

On the top of the poster board, write, I will be a good friend by...

### **SAY:**

*As you're enjoying your snacks, think about ways you are, or hope to be, a good friend. Finish the sentence, I will be a good friend by.... I'll write your answers on the poster board. We'll call this board our Friendship Pledge.*

**Note to volunteer:** You can tape the drawings girls made when they arrived about what friendship looks like on or near the friendship pledge poster. If you can, take a picture of the poster board. Later, you can load it onto your computer and print it out on a piece of paper to give each girl at the next meeting.

## **Activity 7 : Closing Ceremony**

### **Time allotment**

5 minutes

### **Materials**

- **Making New Friends**

*Taken from the Volunteer Toolkit Badge Year for Brownies  
Making Friends 1*

## Steps

Girls form a friendship circle and sing the Make New Friends song together.

## SAY:

*You learned that being a good friend means letting someone know you are there for them. Let's pass the friendship squeeze to each other to share friendship with our troop. Cross your right arms over your left arms and hold hands with the person on each side of you.*

Ask one girl to start the friendship squeeze. When the squeeze returns to the girl who started, have her say, Goodbye Girl Scout friends! And then have girls respond together with the same goodbye.

## Keep It Girl-Led Tip

Invite girls to choose a closing ceremony song to sing.