

*Taken from the Volunteer Toolkit Badge Year for Brownies  
Home Scientist 1*

## Overview

**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 the 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.
- Before the meeting, inflate balloons; have at least two per girl. Have a few extra in case some pop.

## Get Help from the Friends and Family Network

- Find out if anyone has interest or expertise in science that they can share as a guest speaker or activity leader.
- See if anyone wants to lead or support an activity or meeting.

## Award Connection

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

## Meeting Length

90 minutes

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

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

- Unlined index cards or construction paper or card stock paper

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- Markers, crayons

## Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- **Girl Scout Promise and Law**
- Balls for girls to toss, at least 5 (depending on group size)

## Activity 3: Learn How to Disagree

- Scenario notecards

## Activity 4: Practice Friendship!

- Paper
- Pens or pencils

## Activity 5: Snack Chat

- Healthy snack items: fruit (strawberries, blueberries, cherries, apples, oranges, bananas), raisins, granola bars, crackers, carrot sticks, graham crackers, sliced cucumber and yogurt dip, juice, goldfish

## Activity 6: Take Action Pause

- Paper
- Pens or pencils

## Activity 7: Closing Ceremony

- Making Friends Badges – one for each girl

## Detailed activity plan

### Activity 1: As Girls Arrive

#### Time Allotment

10 minutes

#### Materials

- Unlined index cards, construction paper, or card stock paper
- Markers, crayons

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## Steps

As girls arrive, put them in pairs and **SAY:**

*Draw a care card for your partner, telling her something you like about her or that makes her special.*

## Activity 2 : Opening Ceremony

### Time Allotment

15 minutes

### Materials

- **Girl Scout Promise and Law**
- Balls for girls to toss, at least 5 (depending on group size)

## Steps

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

Girls say the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law together.

### **SAY:**

*At the end of this meeting, you'll earn your Making Friends badge.*

*But first let's do the group juggle! You'll start with one ball and toss it across the circle to another girl. It can be anyone! But before you toss it, say the girl's name. Once you get started, I'll hand you more balls to keep the juggling going.*

After a few minutes, have girls stop the ball toss and SAY:

- *Did everyone remember each other's names?*
- *Did anyone feel left out or leave anyone out?*
- *How did you feel when the ball was tossed to you?*
- *Did you make sure to always toss the ball to a different girl to include everyone?*

## Activity 3 : Learn How to Disagree

### Time Allotment

20 minutes

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## Materials

- Scenario notecards

## Steps

### SAY:

*We've all had experiences where we've felt hurt or angry about something someone else did or said. Friendships can sometimes have disagreements. For example, you might want to play a game and they want to make snacks.*

*It's OK to feel differently. You can still be friends! The important thing is to be a good friend while you disagree.*

Pair girls up in twos. Have each team pick one scenario card.

### SAY:

*Each team will have five minutes to quietly prepare the scene they are going to act out. Make sure you include how to work out the problem. Make your scene brief, not longer than one minute.*

When girls have prepared their scene, gather girls and have each team act out their scene for the group. When girls are done, **SAY:**

- *Which scenarios really made an impression on you? Why or how?*
- *What are some ways you can make things better when you have a disagreement with a friend? (Sample responses: Talk it out, say sorry, find something you both agree on, seek help from someone you trust, or forget about it and move on.)*
- *How does this activity help you think about being a better friend?*

## Keep It Girl-Led Tip

Girls might come up with other ideas for scenarios — if so, let them act those out.

## Activity 4 : Practice Friendship!

### Time Allotment

20 minutes

### Materials

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- Paper
- Pens or pencils

### Steps

Pair each girl with another girl they might not know so well.

#### **SAY:**

*Take five minutes to talk to your partner and find out three things you have in common. It may be that you both have the same number of brothers or sisters, have brown hair, go to the same school, have a cat, like playing soccer, or more. You can write your three things on a piece of paper so you'll remember.*

Once girls are done, have each pair share their findings. Then **SAY:**

- *Was it easy or hard to find things you have in common?*
- *Have you ever introduced yourself to someone new at school or sat at a different area or table at lunchtime?*
- *What are three things you discovered make someone a good friend? (Sample responses: Being able to share, solve disagreements, and shows you care.)*

### Activity 5 : Snack Chat

#### **Time Allotment**

10 minutes

#### **Materials**

- Healthy snack items: fruit (strawberries, blueberries, cherries, apples, oranges, bananas), raisins, granola bars, crackers, carrot sticks, graham crackers, sliced cucumber and yogurt dip, juice, goldfish

### Steps

While girls are enjoying their snack, **SAY:**

*Friends are another kind of family. They're the people you have fun with and who help you when you need it. Why is it important to be a good friend?*

### Activity 6 : Take Action Pause

#### **Time allotment**

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10 minutes

### Materials

- Paper
- Pens or pencils

### Steps

#### SAY:

*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. Could you help people with what you've learned earning this badge?*

### Keep It Girl-Led Tip

Give girls time to answer this question. They may want to brainstorm a bit.

If girls need prompts, you could suggest one of the following to get them started — but then step back and see how many ideas they can come up with on their own.

Possible ideas:

- Put together a video to teach other girls what you learned about friendship.
- Put on a show-and-tell at school about how to solve disagreements in a peaceful way.
- Draw posters or make booklets about how to be a good friend and give copies to the school library to hand out.

#### SAY:

*Remember, we're going to keep a list of all the Take Action ideas you come up with this year as you earn badges. When it's time to decide on a Take Action project, we'll have the list to remind us of all your good ideas.*

### Activity 7 : Closing Ceremony

#### Time allotment:

5 minutes

### Materials

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- Making Friends badges, one for each girl

### Steps

Girls form a friendship circle and get their Making Friends badges.

When girls have their badges, **SAY:**

*Share the cards you made when you arrived. Show us your drawing and tell what it's about.*

When girls finish sharing their drawings, **SAY:**

- *Were you able to make your teammate feel good with your card?*
- *Give your card to your teammate so she can take it home and have a reminder of your friendship.*

Then **SAY:**

*What was your favorite part of earning this badge? What was the most interesting thing you learned?*

*If you were talking to a younger girl — a Daisy or a younger sister — what's one thing you'd tell her is important about being a good friend?*

### Keep It Girl-Led Tip

Invite girls to choose a closing ceremony song to sing.