Overview

Meeting Overview and Goal

- Girls complete the first two steps toward earning their Philanthropist badge. These are — Step 1: Learn what every person needs, and Step 2: Find out how to help people who are hungry.
- Girls learn about things to help them understand what other people need.
- Girls find out about organizations in need to inspire ideas for Take Action projects.

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 know your girls best. If you feel you don’t need the script, do what makes sense for you and your girls.

Prepare Ahead

- Talk to anyone who is helping you about what they will do at this meeting
- Cut 1 wide, approx. 12 long strips from worn pieces of clothing linens or fabric

Get Help from Your Family and Friends Network

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

Award Purpose

- At this meeting, girls complete final three steps toward earning the Philanthropist badge.
- They will earn their Philanthropist badge at the end of this 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
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Time Allotment
10 minutes

Materials

- Sheets of paper
- Crayons, markers

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Girl Scout Promise and Law

Activity 3: Make a Recycled Necklace

- Strips of fabric: 1 wide x 12 long from worn clothing items, three per girl
- Rubber bands

Activity 4: How to Help in an Emergency

- Pens and pencils
- Sticky notes
- Poster board

Activity 5: Snack Chat

- Healthy snack items

Activity 6: Take Action Pause

- Paper
- Pen or Pencil
- List of things girls talked about in previous meeting about helping people

Activity 7: Closing Ceremony

- Philanthropist badges, enough for each girl

Detailed activity plan

Activity 1: As Girls Arrive
Steps

SAY:

Draw a picture of an emergency or disaster that leaves people in need. It could be a fire, flood, or tornado.

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

• Girl Scout Promise and Law

Steps

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

SAY:

At the end of this meeting, you’ll earn your Philanthropist badge. Does anyone remember what a philanthropist does? You’re right — they get help and supplies to people who need it.

What kind of emergencies or disasters did you draw? Those are examples of things that happen where philanthropists can help. For example, in a flood, a family may be evacuated from their home. How would you help them? (Sample responses: By offering to read a story to younger children. By helping to walk the family’s dog with a trusted adult. By collecting and giving your extra school supplies to the children.)

We’ll talk more about how you can help in an emergency later in the meeting.

Activity 3: Make a Recycled Necklace

Time Allotment

20 minutes

Materials

• Strips of fabric: 1 long x 12 wide from worn clothing items, three per girl
• Rubber bands
Steps

SAY:

What are some things you can make to sell so you can donate your proceeds to a place in need? (Cookies at a bake sale. Jewelry. Drawings.) What you make doesn't have to cost money!

Take three strips of fabric and tie a rubber band 4 from the end. Braid the strips until you get about 4 to the other end. Then tie a second rubber band on that end. Now tie the lose ends together to form a bracelet.

This is one way to make use of old clothing, especially if it's damaged or stained. Another thing to do with used clothing is to donate it to a secondhand store, such as Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

People who need clothes can shop at secondhand stores and buy them for a lot less money than they would spend at a store with new clothes.

What do you have in your closet that you don't need anymore or wear that you might want to give away?

Activity 4: How to Help In An Emergency

Time Allotment

20 minutes

Materials

- Pens and pencils
- Sticky notes
- Poster board

SAY:

Come up with a story about a girl your age that has just been through a disaster with her family. Let's say it's a flood and she's been evacuated to her school gym with her family. Now put yourself in her shoes. What kinds of things you do you think she needs?

Think about all the ways you can pitch in. What is she doing for fun? Do you think you might volunteer at the gym to do an activity with the other girls? What is she sleeping on? What is she eating? What is she wearing? Is it hot or cold where she is? Does she need school supplies? Maybe a backpack? Books to read? Art supplies to draw?

As you come up with ideas, write them down on the sticky notes and post them on this poster board.
Once girls have posted their ideas, ask:

- What do you think are the needs on this list? What are the wants?
- Are both important?
- How are you acting like a philanthropist here? (By finding out what is needed and helping.)

Activity 5: Snack Chat

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

- Healthy snacks

Steps

As girls enjoy their snacks, SAY:

Have you ever tried collecting pennies and ended up with enough to buy something?

There is power in the penny! One penny may not buy much on its own, but the power of many pennies is huge! One group called Common Cents collected almost one million dollars in a penny harvest! They donated the money to women's shelters, animal rights organizations, community gardens, senior centers, and neighborhood service projects.

How is collecting pennies and giving them to a person or place in need one way of being a philanthropist?

Activity 6: Take Action Pause

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

- Paper
- Pen or Pencil
- List of things girls talked about in previous meeting about helping people

Steps

SAY:
At the last meeting you heard about some organizations that need help in our community. Here are some you were interested in. (Read back some of the organizations girls liked.)

What do you think you would need to do as a group to organize?

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.

- Work as a team to collect and donate food
- Host a clothing-donation party
- Organize to get a holiday gift for families in need
- Create a poster to teach younger girls about the importance of giving to others

Remember, we’re keeping 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

10 minutes

Materials

- Philanthropist badges, enough for each girl

Steps

Girls form a friendship circle and get their Philanthropist badges.

SAY:

As you each get your badge, finish this line:

I'm going to be a philanthropist because I'm going to…

Now you know what a philanthropist is and how to help others. What are some ways being a Girl Scout helps you be a philanthropist? What part of the Girl Scout Law and Promise sounds like being a philanthropist?

Does it help that you work with your Girl Scout sisters to make a difference?
Would you want to find out how other Girl Scouts have helped people and follow their example? (If you have access to a computer, show Brownies Map It projects on girlscouts.org.)

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 or friend — what’s one thing you’d say is important about giving to others and being a philanthropist?

Keep It Girl-Led Tip

When girls have a conversation about earning their badge, they understand what they’ve learned and remember it. Ask questions and let them talk about their experiences any way they want.

Let girls decide how to hand out their Philanthropist badges.