

A Step by Step Guide For Your First 6 Meetings!

Dear Junior Leaders,

Congratulations! You have just taken the first steps into the amazing world of Junior Girl Scouting!

If you have been a Brownie or Daisy leader you already know the rewards that you and the girls will receive in Girl Scouting. If you are a new leader, the unique things that Girl Scouting has to offer you and your girls will surprise you. As leaders you instill values, lessons and ideals in the girls that they will use throughout their life. We thank you for taking on *this* opportunity and know you will have many gratifying experiences.

The following information (in the form of this “jump-start”) is for you to use along with your own ideas, as well as the girls, to create an exciting start for Junior Girl Scouts. Remember that the troop belongs to the girls and, as Junior Girl Scouts; they are responsible for at least 50% of the decision-making, planning and the implementation of their activities. They are capable of setting goals and carrying through with the activities they choose to do for the next 3 years. You will begin to advise, guide and encourage your girls to make sound and ethical decisions. The Girl Scout Mission is to inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens. Watching the girls grow and mature with these values is a remarkable experience you will never forget.

We encourage you to have fun, enjoy and learn with the girls.

Your Neighborhood Training Team

First Meetings Objectives:

- To get to know each other.
- To teach or reemphasize the quiet sign.
- To say the Promise and Law and talk about what it means.
- Learn a Girl Scout song and the Girl Scout traditions.



Pre-Meeting Activity:

At the first meeting the girls and leaders should spend time getting reacquainted with each other and getting to know any new or perspective members. **Play a game to get to know everyone's name.**

- Pin a name-tag-sized piece of paper on each other's back, which is printed the name of an animal.
- Everyone must ask each other questions that can be answered with a yes or no (do I have four legs, do I have fur) until they have guessed what they are.
- Then remove the paper, have girls print their name on the front and wear it as a name tag until everyone knows each other by name.

Opening:

Sing a song. If you know a Girl Scout song, teach it, or have a former Girl Scout teach one that she knows.



Business:

- Teach or review the quiet sign (*Page 9 in the Junior Girl Scout Handbook JGSH*).
- Introduce the leaders and tell a little about yourselves and why you are leaders.
- Have the girls introduce themselves or share something important to them.
- Brainstorm on things that they would like to do in the coming year.
- Share information regarding Council events and ask if they would like to participate.
A calendar is helpful to set dates for events and projects.
- Tell the girls that next week they will be deciding on:
 1. how much dues will be
 2. the type of government that they will use for their troop
 3. uniforms
- Have them read in their handbooks about these subjects in preparation for discussing next week. **Remember decisions are for the girls to make and not for you to decide.** (You are to guide and help by making suggestions.)



1st Meeting

The Fun Begins!

Break or Social Time:

Refreshments may be served depending on meeting time. If you are meeting in the evening or on the weekend refreshments may not be necessary. If the meeting takes place after school the girls may be ready for a snack that you could have as the girls arrive and get settled in for their meeting or at break time.



Main Activity:

- Have the girls recite the Promise and talk about the meaning (*Page 6 in the JGSH*).
- Do “Test Yourself” (*page 7 in the JGSH*).
- Second, recite the Girl Scout Law, discuss its meaning (*Page 6 JGSH*).
- Third, teach the Girl Scout Slogan, motto and handshake, and discuss their meanings (*Page 9 JGSH*).

Clean-up time:

All girls help clean up. Next week you can start to use a meeting “Kaper Chart”.

Closing:

Teach the girls the friendship circle and squeeze. Explain the friendship circle stands for the unbroken chain of friendship with the Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world (*Page 9 JGSH*).



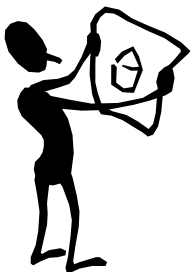
Evaluation:

It is important for you and your Co-leader to evaluate after each meeting.

- Did everyone have a good time?
- Did everyone participate? Did everyone learn something?
- Was the meeting meaningful?
- Discuss plans for the next week.

Get any questions answered through a Service Team Member before the next meeting.

The girls are now on their way to learning what Girl Scouting is all about and how to live by the Promise and Law. They are also earning badges and signs.



Looking Ahead:

Look on page 6 of the Junior Girl Scout Badgebook at the Girl Scouting (*JGSB*) in the USA Badge requirements 1 and 4 and page 194 of the *JGSH* at the Sign of the Sun. During the next few months emphasizes the girls actions in living the Girl Scout Promise and Law. When you feel that they understand how their actions relate to the Promise and Law do a service project to complete requirement 1 of the Sign of the Sun. Next week have the girls develop a code of conduct (*Page 23 JGSH*) that relates to the Law (requirement 4 in the Sign of the Sun).

You Did It!!!

Congratulations on your first meeting!!

First Meetings Objectives:

- Learn about how Girl Scouting began and its founder.
- Continue to review and discuss the Promise and Law.
- Do requirement 2 of Girl Scouting in the USA.
- Create a Code of Conduct.
- Decide on government, dues, and uniforms.
- Talk about investiture and rededication.



Pre-Meeting Activity:

Have girls read about how Girl Scouts started and its founder Juliette Gordon Low “Daisy” (Pages 2, 3, and 4 in the *JGSH*). You might want to find other books about Juliette at the library or on-line at www.girlscouts.org.

Opening:

Say the *Promise and Law* and sing a Girl Scout song. (When e're You Make A Promise)

Business:

- Have the girls decide the amount of their troop/group dues and how often they will be collected (weekly, monthly, etc.).
You might want to help them get started by telling them the amount of money they will need for the year based on the activities they want to do. (*Setting up a budget page 26 and 27 JGSH*)
- Ask them what they learned after reading the section regarding troop government.
- Help them understand how each form of troop government will work.
- Ask which form of government that they think will work best for their troop.
Remember if one form of government does not work then try another one.
- Look at the uniforms on pages 16 and 17 in the *JGSH* and let the girls decide what kind of uniform they would like to wear.
Remember their choice of uniforms will last for three years.
- Tell the girls that in 5 weeks they will be having a Rededication Investiture Ceremony (Parents meeting) and begin planning for the ceremony next week.



Break or Social time:

If you choose not to have refreshments, have a game or chat time.

Main Activity:

- Do requirement 2 for Girl Scouting in the USA page 7 of the Junior Girl Scout Badgebook (*JSGB*).
- Design a troop code of conduct. (*PAGE 23 JGSH*, requirement 4 of the sign of the sun on page 195 *JGSH*).

Clean-up:

Introduce a Kaper Chart that could include:

- 2 or more girls do opening ceremony
- 2 do closing ceremony
- 2 do refreshments or decide on games
- 2 do clean-up

Make sure that each girl has done each task at least once in a month.

Closing:

In the friendship circle you can:

- Teach the girls a new Girl Scout song (Evening Taps, Girl Scouts Together, etc.).
- Do the squeeze.

Evaluation:

- Do the girls understand what Girl Scouts is all about?
- Are they sharing, communicating with each other and voicing opinions?
- Are we planning too much or too little?



Another one under your belt!!!

Congratulations!!

Third Meetings Objectives:

- Start the planning of the Rededication Investiture Ceremony.
- Continue working on requirements for Girl Scouting in the USA and the Sign of the Sun. Plan a service project.
- Make Good Deed Catcher.



Pre-meeting activity:

Do requirement 10 in the Girl Scouting in the USA badge on page 7 in the *JGSB*.

Opening:

- Say the Promise and Law.
- Teach the girls to do a flag ceremony.

If you need help with teaching a flag ceremony call upon a troop or adult in your Neighborhood.



Business:

- What is a Rededication Investiture Ceremony? (*Page 12 in the JGSH*)
- Talk about what kind of ceremony the girls would like have.
 - Who will come?
 - What will be included in the ceremony?
 - Who will do what?

Suggestion and ideas will be needed to get the girls started to create their own ceremony.

- Use the ceremony worksheet on page 13 in the *JGSH*.

Note: If all girls can take a leadership role in the ceremony after completion they will have complete requirement 3 in the Girl Scouting in the USA badge.

- Have some ideas about a service project that can be done at a later date.
- Let girls decide which project they would like to do.



Break or Social time:

Girls' choice.

Main activity:

- Before making a Girl Scout Good Deed Catcher, reinforce their previous discussions about the meaning of each law (*Page 7 in the JGSH*)
- Use the good Deed Catcher for several weeks to implement the Promise and Law in the actions of the girls' lives (Requirement 2 in the Sign of the Sun).

Clean-up time:

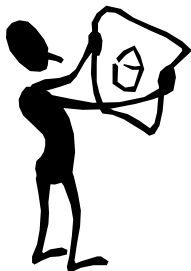
Use "Kaper Chart"

Closing:

- Teach the girls how to retire the flag.
- Do a friendship circle.
- Sing Taps or a Girl Scout song.

Evaluate:

- Are the girls excited about their meetings?
- Are meetings getting into a routine?
- Have we thought about what we will do after the ceremony?
- Do we understand how to make meetings interesting, meaningful and educational?



Looking Ahead:

Devote the following week and part of the next week to the rehearsal of the Rededication Investiture Ceremony.

You Are Doing Great!!!

Pat Yourself on the Back!!

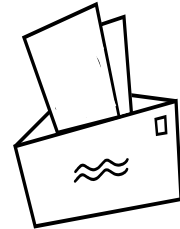
Fourth Meetings Objectives:

Continue working on any projects for badge and sign requirements.

To format and rehearse the ceremony.

Opening Activity:

- Make invitations for ceremony.
- Have girls take invitations to family, friends, relatives or those invited to ceremony.



Opening:

Practice Flag Ceremony (or opening ceremony that will be used at the Rededication Investiture Ceremony).

- Sing a patriotic song.
- Say the Promise and Law.

Business:

- Format the ceremony
- Have girls go over the logistics of the ceremony.

Break or Social Time:

Girls' choice.

Main Activity:

- Assemble a candle board.
- Start practicing the Rededication Investiture Ceremony.



Clean up:

Use a "kaper chart", "I can" can, etc. or girls choose.

Closing:

- Retire flag.
- Do a friendship circle (or practice closing that will be used at the ceremony).

Evaluate:

- Do we need another full rehearsal?
- Are we completing any loose ends of the badge and sign requirements?
- Do the girls understand the concept of the Promise and Law?
- Are they showing signs of trying to live their lives by these values?
- How are they getting along with each other?
- Are they starting to take an interest in making their own decisions in the business of the troop?

Fifth Meeting Objective:

- To finish preparations
- Do final rehearsal for the ceremony and parents meeting.
- Work on requirements for badges and sign.

Pre-meeting activity:

- Start working on requirement 7 in Girl Scouting in the USA.
- Learn the meanings of both the Girl Scout Membership Pin and the World Trefoil Pin.
- Make several World Trefoil Pin puzzles with the meanings of each piece on the back of the pieces. The girls can have relays putting the pieces together. In addition the girls could then do a relay on the meaning of each part of the World Trefoil Pin.



Opening:

Practice the opening you will use at the ceremony.

Business:

- Make sure the girls are ready for the Rededication Investiture Ceremony.
 - Do they have uniforms?
 - Do they know what they will say?
 - Do you know how many people will be there?
 - Does everyone have a job and know how to do it?

Main Activity:

- Rehearse for Ceremony.

If the girls have a successful rehearsal and you have some extra time take some time to have some fun by playing anew game or learning a new song or maybe just socializing.

Break or Social time:

Girls' choice.



Closing:

Do the closing you will do at the ceremony.

Evaluation:

- Is everything ready for the Rededication Investiture Ceremony?
- Prepare a list of the positions, projects, activities and areas that you will need parent help throughout the year.

This is a golden opportunity for you to acquire the assistance you will need to give the girls a rewarding year in Girl Scouting.

Third Meetings Objectives:

- Talk about which badge the girls want to work on for requirement 3 for the Sign of the Sun.
- Deal with any last minute needs for your ceremony next week.

Opening Activity:

- Make a wall hanging of the Girl Scout Promise and Law (*See page 36 in the JGSB*).
This hanging can be displayed at the Ceremony.



Opening:

Girls' choice.

Business:

- Have the girls look over the three badges that are in requirement 3 of the Sign of the Sun.
- Let them choose the one that they would like to do.

Break or Social time:

Girls' choice.

Main Activity:

- Do an activity from the badge the girls have chosen to do.
- It's Important to Me requirement 6.
- High on Life requirement 3
- The Choice is Yours requirement 1.
- If need be, do a quick rehearsal for Ceremony.



Clean-up

Closing:

Girls' choice

Evaluation:

Do the girls have a smile on their faces when they leave the meeting?
If so, we are doing a GOOD JOB.

You Made It!!!

Congratulations!!

LET'S RECAP THE ACTIVITIES THE GIRLS HAVE BEEN DOING.



- **Requirement 1 in Girl Scouting in the USA.**
Do the girls know the Promise and Law and its meaning?
- **Requirement 2 of Girl Scouting in the USA.**
Do they know who founded Girl Scouts and some things about Juliette Low?
- **Requirement 3 of Girl Scouting in the USA.**
Did they plan the Rededication Investiture Ceremony and will they participate in it?
- **Requirement 4 of Girl Scouting in the USA.**
Do they know the Girl Scout traditions that are listed in this requirement?
- **Requirement 7 of Girl Scouting in the USA.**
Do they understand the meaning of the Girl Scout Membership Pin and the World Trefoil Pin?
- **Requirement 10 of Girl Scouting in the USA.**
How are the girls learning to “Be Prepared” in their everyday activities?
- **Requirement 1 of the Sign of the Sun.**
Have you decided on a service project and when it will be done?
- **Requirement 2 of the Sign of the Sun.**
Did they complete and use the Good Deed Catcher?
- **Requirement 3 of the Sign of the Sun.**
Begin working on one of these badges. “It’s Important to Me” will reinforce many of the things they have just done in Girl Scouting in the USA. Requirement 1,2, 3,4,5,and or 8, followed by a service project requirement10. This is just a suggestion because the girls should decide which badge they would like to work on.
- **Requirement 4 of the Sign of the Sun.**
Did they complete a Code of Conduct and are they using it?
Requirement 5 of the Sign of the Sun.
Read pages 44 and 45 in the *JGSH* and complete the activity “Test yourself.”



Earning a badge, a sign, a patch or an award is an important part of Girl Scouting. How do we know that a girl has really earned the award? Juliette Gordon Low said that you have earned a badge when you can do it so well that you can teach it to someone else. Use this as your guideline and you will never go wrong.

INVESTITURE REDEDICATION CEREMONY



- You can open the ceremony with a flag ceremony.
 - ✧ Say the Pledge of Allegiance
 - ✧ Sing a patriotic song
 - ✧ Say the Girl Scout promise
 - ✧ Sing a Girl Scout song
- The girls could form a horseshoe around a table with a candle board.
- Any new Girl Scouts can come forward to be invested by saying the Girl Scout promise to you or your Co-leader after which you may pin on her the Girl Scout Membership pin.
- All girls may take part in the candle ceremony.
 - ✧ Girl one repeats the first part of the Promise (On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country) and after explaining its meaning lights the middle candle on the candle board. (Make sure you abide by Safety-Wise and rules of the establishment you are holding your meeting in, regarding lighting candles. You may have to use flashlights and cover with colored paper or electric candles.)
 - ✧ Girl two repeats the second part of the Promise and after explaining its meaning lights the candle on the right.
 - ✧ Girl three repeats the third part of the Promise and after explaining its meaning lights the candle to the left.
 - ✧ Girl four repeats the first part of the Law (I will do my best: to be honest and fair) and after explaining its meaning lights the next candle on the right.
 - ✧ Girl five repeats the next part of the Law and after explaining its meaning, lights the next candle on the left.
 - ✧ Continue until all 13 candles are lit. Three for the 3 parts of the Promise and 10 for the 10 parts of the Law.
- Girls may need note cards to read their parts. The meanings of each part of the Promise And Law should be determined by the troop. (Week 3)
- After the candle ceremony you could sing a Girl Scout song. (When're You Make A Promise)
- You could ask the girls to explain in unison the meaning of the World Trefoil Pin and then present each girl with a World Trefoil Pin. (Remember that the girls should be able to explain the meaning of anything that she wears on her uniform.)
- May be followed by refreshments. (served by girls)

Then you can talk to the parents about the projects, activities and goals the girls have decided to do this year, and the areas in which you will need the parents assistance.
- The Closing: The retiring of the flag the friendship circle and the singing of taps.

This is a suggested ceremony. You might want to ask other leaders how they do their Rededication Investiture Ceremony or use one from the Girl Scout Ceremony Book. Whatever the girls decide to do in their ceremony will be just fine as long as it results in a meaningful and inspiring ceremony.

Good Luck to you! May your Girl Scouting experience be filled with joyful rewards!