



Troop Meeting Activities for the Girl Scout Bronze Award

Your troop wants to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award, but you're not sure where to start as a troop leader. We've got you covered! The activities in this packet are designed as hands-on, minds-on ways to show your troop the steps and standards of the Girl Scout Bronze Award. And they just might have a little fun along the way.

Activities for Step 1: Build Your Team

Teambuilding activities will help your girls discover things about their own (and others') leadership styles. Recognizing our strengths will make us a better team!

ALL CONNECTED

Objective: show what happens when a few people don't fully participate

Need: ball of yarn

Have Girl Scouts stand in a circle with one person holding the end of the yarn in one hand and the ball of yarn in the other. Toss the ball to another person in the circle while still holding on to the end of the yarn. Continue this process. When each person catches the ball, they should also hold on to a piece of the string so that when the ball goes back and forth, they are making a spider-web of yarn. Once everyone has caught the ball, select a couple to drop their yarn. What does the group have to do to make the yarn taut again? *Step back, move farther apart.* Have another person or two drop their yarn. By now they should notice that the yarn gets harder and harder to keep taut.

Debrief questions:

1. What happened when a few of us stopped holding our yarn?
2. What would happen if some of us didn't complete our tasks for the Bronze Award?

ENGINEERS

Objective: observe leadership styles

Need: toothpicks, mini marshmallows

If you have a large troop, break off into smaller groups of around 5. Randomly give each person a few toothpicks or mini marshmallows. Tell them that they need to build a model house together, and they must use every single supply that has been given to them. As they are building, observe the group and watch for common personality styles to emerge: those who dominate, those who hide, those who are off-task, those who problem solve, etc.

Debrief questions:

1. Was it hard to use all your supplies to make the model house?
2. Did everyone contribute equally? Why or why not?
3. Did you have different opinions on how the construction should go? How did you work through them?
4. What would you do differently if you could do it over?

FLIP THE SHEET

Objective: practice problem solving and communication methods

Need: one flat bedsheet, tarp, or blanket

Lay the sheet on the floor. Have the group stand anywhere on the sheet. Tell the group that their task is to flip the sheet so that the bottom is now on top. They aren't allowed to have any part of their body touch the ground directly while they do so.

Debrief questions:

1. Was it hard? Easy?
2. How many different things did you try before figuring out what worked best?
3. How did you communicate with each other? Did everyone have a voice?

Activities for Step 2: Explore Your Community

You can't determine what your community's issues are if you don't dig around a bit! Here are some ways you can facilitate community exploration with your troop.

COMMUNITY MAPPING

Objective: identify areas in your community and the potential issues they face

Need: poster paper, markers

Draw out a map of your community on large poster paper. As you identify places, list people who are served by those places and issues they might be facing. For example, next to a picture of the park, you could write that parks serve families, children, or even natural wildlife. Potential issues could be unsafe playground equipment, lack of recycling containers, or destruction of natural animal habitats.

Debrief questions:

1. Are there any themes that rise to the surface?
2. Are there any people or places that we've identified we most want to work with?

TAKE ACTION TALENT INVENTORY

Objective: identify the interests of the Girl Scouts in your group

Need: Take Action Talent Inventory (found in additional resources), something to write with

Have each girl complete the Take Action Talent Inventory. Discuss the results together. Keep the list of standout talents close by when it comes time to figuring out what project you want to choose.

Debrief questions:

1. What common interests stand out? Art? Technology? Advocacy?
2. How can we use our talents to serve others?

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Objective: identifying needs vs. issues will help Girl Scouts understand service vs. take action

Need: paper, something to write with

Ask your troop to define these two words: *need* and *issue*. Then give them a list of places in their community (like humane associations, schools, or parks) and have them brainstorm some needs and issues they expect those places to have. Double check their list to make sure they understand that a need is something that requires supply or relief and an issue is an important topic or problem that must be addressed on a bigger scale.

Activities for Step 3: Choose Your Bronze Award Project

Put all the pieces together! Select a population or cause and pair that up with your group's talents and passions.

TAKE ACTION DECISION BRACKET

Objective: select a project that pairs an issue with your passions

Need: Take Action Decision Bracket (found in additional resources)

This can be done in pairs or with the group as a whole. Using the decision bracket template, list your talents and skills on the left and issues or problems on the right. And just like a March Madness basketball bracket, select the winners (the choice you feel strongest about) of each pair to move on towards the middle. Soon your champion will emerge in the middle—a problem you want to solve and how you want to solve it!

Debrief questions:

1. If doing the activity in pairs or small groups, discuss the different results together. Any recurring themes?
2. Are all our ideas feasible? Do we have the time, talent, and connections to make it happen?

BRONZE OR NOT BRONZE YET? SORTING GAME

Objective: identify community service vs. take action

Need: Bronze and Not Bronze Yet Sorting Game (found in additional resources)

Cut apart cards and mix. Read one at a time to the group and ask the Girl Scouts to sort the cards into two groups: bronze or not bronze yet. Discuss reasons why as you go through each example. If cards are not bronze yet, can they come up with ways to make them bronze?

Debrief questions:

1. What makes a project a take action project instead of a service project?
2. Does our idea meet the criteria for a take action project? Why or why not? What could we add to enhance it?

Activities for Step 4: Make a Plan

Write it down and submit your plan for approval. Be as detailed and accurate as possible—your plan should clearly show the issue you're working on and how your plan can help solve it!

POPCORN AND PLANNING

Objective: make a salty (or sweet!) snack and get that plan down on paper

Need: Bronze Award Project Proposal form (found in the Bronze Award Guidelines Packet), something to write with, popcorn and mix-ins (M&Ms, flavored salts, candies, nuts, dried fruit), bowls

Make your own gourmet popcorn mix while getting your Bronze Award plan on paper. Read each question on the proposal form to the girls and write down their responses. You'll take this information to rewrite the proposal after the meeting so you have the troop's input. Then you will submit your plan for approval!

INVITE A GUEST SPEAKER

Objective: include your community partner or project advisor in the creation of the plan

Need: your community partners or project advisor

Invite your key players to your planning meeting. This way you can develop your plan on the spot with those who you're working with and eliminate the need to "check back" with people to make sure your project can be carried out as planned.

Activities for Step 5: Put Your Plan in Motion

This is where you put in the bulk of the work and carry out the awesome plan you've developed. Be sure to give as many responsibilities to the Girl Scouts as possible and help them develop those leadership skills!

BRONZE KAPER CHART

Objective: give Girl Scouts responsibilities and ownership of all aspects of the project

Need: poster paper, markers

Make a Bronze Award kaper chart to give duties to all Girl Scouts each time you get together for Bronze Award work. Just like a troop meeting kaper chart, jobs can shift each time you meet letting girls try a bit of everything. Bronze Award kaper jobs can include photographer, note taker, communication wizard, or on-tasker (yes, someone who specifically reminds girls to get back on track if they get squirrely!). Get creative and try to give a kaper to each troop member every time you meet.

A VERY MERRY UNBIRTHDAY TO YOU

Objective: do something fun and non-project related

Need: varies

Who says celebrations have to wait until AFTER everything is done? Plan a half-way party for your troop to keep them engaged and excited about being a Girl Scout working on her Bronze Award. Much like us adults need vacations from work—the troop won't want their whole Junior experience to be about one award. Ideas could include bringing in cupcakes to decorate during a meeting, going bowling or catching a movie, reserving camp for a just-for-fun overnight, or working on a badge that you need to finish up.

Activities for Step 6: Submit Your Final Report and Celebrate!

You've done it! You've successfully led your troop through earning their Bronze Award! Let's celebrate those good times and make sure our project is fully wrapped up.

FINAL REPORT FILM SCREENING

Objective: reflect on the project and fill out the final report

Need: projector, project pictures, final report, something to write with

You've racked up some fun pictures of your Girl Scouts while working on the Bronze. Host a "film" screening final report party where you project all the pictures (yes, even the silly ones!) so everyone can reflect on the experience together. Have that final report handy so you can ask the girls the questions and get their feedback for you to submit. Add popcorn and Oscar-worthy costumes to ramp up the fun!

THANK-A-THON

Objective: recognize those who supported you during the Bronze Award

Need: card making supplies, list of your supporters

Time to thank all those who supported you in earning your Bronze Award. Get crafty with a thank-a-thon party—decorate personalized cards for everyone who helped you succeed! Don't forget your community partners, donors who gave time or supplies, family members who drove you to all the meetings, the media who covered your story, and anyone else who had a hand in your success.

Bronze or Not Bronze *Yet?*

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Make tie blankets for pets at the local animal shelter.

Bronze or Not Bronze *Yet?*

Create an annual food drive campaign at school.

Bronze or Not Bronze *Yet?*

Build birdhouses to donate to an assisted living facility.

Bronze or Not Bronze *Yet?*

Donate food to a food pantry.

Bronze or Not Bronze *Yet?*

Build a bookshelf for a daycare center and donate some books.

Bronze or Not Bronze *Yet?*

Teach others the importance of early literacy through a presentation, pamphlet, or video.

Bronze or Not Bronze *Yet?*

Pick up trash at four local parks.

Bronze or Not Bronze *Yet?*

Organize an after-school club for homework help.

Bronze or Not Bronze *Yet?*

Create a “welcome to our school” book to give to people who transfer to your school from out of town.

Bronze or Not Bronze *Yet?*

Host a Teddy Bear Picnic for Daisy Girl Scouts on a Saturday morning.

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet? Discussion Key

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet?

Make tie blankets for pets at the local animal shelter.

This is Not Bronze Yet because it is a donation only. Make it Bronze by organizing an after-school club to make blankets, teach other troops how to make and donate blankets, or teach the community about the importance of adopting animals.

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet?

Create an annual food drive campaign at school.

This is Bronze! Creating an annual program means that even after your involvement, the school will continue to carry out the plan you created.

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet?

Build birdhouses to donate to an assisted living facility.

This is Not Bronze Yet because even though building something seems like it will last a very long time, if you just build something and donate it, you are doing a service project. Make it Bronze by creating a large-print bird identification book for residents or partnering with an existing club to build and distribute birdhouses to a wider group.

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet?

Donate food to a food pantry.

This is Not Bronze Yet because donating food one time is a service project. Make it Bronze by making a presentation for students at your local school to encourage them to donate food or leaving a guide for your school on how to run an annual food drive.

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet?

Build a bookshelf for a daycare center and donate some books.

This is Not Bronze Yet because building and donating something is a service project. Make it Bronze by setting up a reading group at the daycare where Girl Scouts come in to read to children or implement a book recycling program at the daycare to properly recycle and replace books that are too used to use.

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet?

Teach others the importance of early literacy through a presentation, pamphlet, or video.

This is Bronze! Educating others and creating something that can continue to teach people about a cause or issue does leave a lasting impact.

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet?

Pick up trash at four local parks.

This is Not Bronze Yet because picking up trash doesn't get to the root cause of an issue (i.e., it doesn't solve why the trash is there in the first place). Make it Bronze by placing more trash and recycling containers in the park, educating others on the effects of litter on the environment, or coordinating a community-wide clean-up day.

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet?

Organize an after-school club for homework help.

This is Bronze! Setting up a new club is a great way to help others for the long-term, especially if it requires you to partner with you teachers or your student council to make it happen.

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet?

Create a "welcome to our school" book to give to people who transfer to your school from out of town.

This is Bronze! The book will help others long after you are done putting it together and can be shared and updated by the school as they wish.

Bronze or Not Bronze Yet?

Host a Teddy Bear Picnic for Daisy Girl Scouts on a Saturday morning.

This is Not Bronze Yet because a one-time event without a purpose is not solving an issue. Make it Bronze by defining your goal; if your goal to get more girls in Girl Scouts, then plan something more substantial than a one-time event that others can implement in their areas, too, like working with the media to highlight the things Girl Scouts do!