

At-Home Brownie Try-It Guide

from



Stuck at home without a way to complete your troop meetings?

Supplement your scouting plan and earn retired badges at home!

The badges listed in this packet are official, earnable, and front-wearable. They were originally designed by and produced for Girl Scouts of USA. GSUSA no longer produces them, but you can still earn them.

You are welcome to alter the activities to your interest, abilities, supplies, time, etc. The official written requirements reflect the time in which they were developed. Some vintage badges use terminology or resources that are outdated or no longer exist. The activities below are only suggestions; feel free to modify these requirements and activities as you see fit – the spirit of the badge is what matters.

Remember that the overarching goal of earning any badge is to be ready to provide service in that topic. You are NOT limited to these badges! While the ones chosen generally have good availability, there are always lots more available at www.badgefairy.com.

Why vintage? Retired badges allow girls to take choose their own at-home scouting without the need to worry about how it would affect your troop's plan. The activities included here can all be done by a single girl in her own home, often with the assistance of a parent. They're written simply and clearly with minimal supplies, so any adult can just jump right in. Retired badges are also a great way for today's girls to connect to yesterday's GS traditions.

*****To earn any Brownie Try-It, girls need to complete any FOUR of the listed activities.***

Careers

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1. Autobiography – Make a list of all the things you like to do – it can include hobbies, schoolwork, sports, or anything else. Discuss your list with a trusted adult. Which of the things on your list are done in real jobs? Choose one and learn about a career associated with it.

2. Future Jobs – Many jobs that exist now did not exist 100, 50, or even 20 years ago. Ask a trusted adult about their job, and if it was something they thought they would do when they grew up. Think about how the world will be when you are an adult. Think of a job that will exist then but doesn't yet. What kind of job is this?

3. Women Pioneers – Find out about famous women inventors and explorers. What were some of the things they did? Can you find women who were pioneers in other fields? Share what you learn with your troop, group, family, or adult.

4. Career Charades – choose a friend or family member to play with. Do this over videochat if you need a partner. Take turns acting out one of the jobs below, or add others you can think of to this list.

computer programmer

musician

teacher

bus driver

tv reporter

chef

pharmacist

astronaut

farmer

doctor

scientist

carpenter

firefighter

coach

book illustrator

veterinarian

electrician

photographer

5. It's Your Business – Many women own their own businesses. Create an idea for your own business. What will you make or sell? How will you reach your customers? What are your business goals? Make a video or poster or other creative project explaining your business design to share with a parent, leader, or friend.

Citizen Near and Far

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1. Citizen of America – Learn about someone who acted like a good citizen. You can search news websites, your council’s materials, or other sources to find someone who did good for others. Share the story you found with a parent, leader, or friend.
2. Getting along – Think how boring life would be if everybody were the same. America has people from many different countries, races, and religions. With a parent, leader, or friend talk about a situation you’ve experienced that involved the differences among people. What happened, and how did it make you feel? If you are in a situation like this again, talk about what you can do to help others. Think about what you would do if you heard someone say something bad about another person’s race or religion, or if someone isn’t allowed to participate in an activity because of the way she speaks or looks.
3. It’s the Law – Children and adults have to obey the laws of their land. Rules and laws make things fair for everyone. What special rules do you have to follow at school, at scouts, or at home? Why do these special rules exist? Can you think of a new rule that would help in your school or family?
4. Making Choices and Voting – As citizens, you will help make the laws when you get older. You do this by voting for the people that make and enforce the laws. Have you voted in your classroom, family, or troop? How do you feel if your vote isn’t the winning choice? Lead a vote in your group or family about a decision you need to make today – like what to eat for dinner, what movie to watch, or what game to play. If you have the chance, accompany an adult to their polling place.
5. Calling all helpers – The United Nations brings people together from different cultures and countries. They talk about the problems shared around the world and try to solve these problems. As a troop or family, choose a problem that affects people all of the world. Ask your family or friends to suggest ways to solve this problem. Hold a pretend “United Nations” meeting. You can do this with your family, or use a video chat program with friends and leaders. Take turns sharing with each other what you learned from the community members about the problems. Vote on the best way to handle the problem.
6. Reaching out – As a citizen of the world, you can help people in other countries with their problems. Find a group in your community that works to help people in other countries. Talk with them (by phone, email, or social media) about what they do to help people in other parts of the world. Ask them what kind of help they need and determine how you and your troop could help.

Dancercize

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1. Move to the beat – turn on some of your favorite music, and practice these movements:

march in place

step forward and backward while swinging your arms

step sideways and move your arms in circles

put your hands on your hips and move from side to side

walk in a circle, lift your knees, and clap your hands

make up your own moves too

2. Dance on stage – watch a video online of a dance performance at a theater, community center, outdoor stage, or in a television show or movie. Can you imitate the dance shown?

3. My own dance – make up a dance to your favorite song. Make a video describing the steps and share your video with friends, leaders, family, or troop members.

4. Dance Party – participate in a dance party with your friends or family. Use a videochat program if needed. Serve a healthy snack. Plan a song list that will keep you moving. Pick a date and time and coordinate with your friends. Teach each other new steps for your favorite music.

5. Follow the leader – take turns with a friend or parent acting as the dance leader. Everyone should follow the leader's movements

6. A dance story – make up a dance that tells a story. Use movement to express feelings such as fear, excitement, sadness, or surprise.

Eco-Explorer

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1. Exploring Nature – Go into your own backyard or nearby natural area with a trusted adult. Find the non-living, living, and artifacts on this list. Check off as many as you can find.

dew drops	pointy green leaf	squirrel
smooth rock	leaf with insect holes	bird
shiny rock	pine needles	dog
sand	pine cones	ant hill
broken rocks	insects	bird nest
water	worms	bones
sunlight	flower	fur
clouds	cactus	feathers
rock piles/cliffs	mushroom	spider web
flat green leaf	moss	animal tracks

2. What's a habitat? – unscramble the words below to discover the four most important things that living things need to survive. Ask a trusted adult for a hint if you get stuck.

O F O D

P A S E C

T A W R E

T E L S H R E

A habitat is the place where an animal lives. It usually has easy access for all four things needed to live.

3. Make a habitat – Choose a stuffed or toy animal in your home. Build a pretend habitat for it. Remember the four things above that it needs. Use any construction or craft materials to build your habitat into a shoebox or poster.

4. Food chain – Make a food chain out of paper strips. You'll need paper, crayons or markers, and tape or glue. Use magazines or print out pictures from the internet.

- a. cut four long strips from a sheet of construction paper
- b. on one strip tape, glue, or draw a picture of a plant
- c. on the next strip, tape, glue, or draw a picture of an animal that eat that plant
- d. for the next one find an animal that eats your first animal
- e. keep adding loops until you reach the end of your food chain.

Share your food chain with a friend or trusted adult.

5. Speak Up for Animals! – learn about an endangered animal. Use books, Wikipedia, or a zoo’s website to learn about the endangered status of some of your favorite animals. Choose one that is endangered. Learn why this animal is endangered and what you and other people can do to help.

6. Helping wildlife – Think of a project you can do on your own to help the wildlife in your area. Make up your own, or choose from these suggestions:

put up a bird house

pick up trash and recyclables

plant a butterfly garden

put out and maintain a bird feeder

Make It, Eat It

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Learn how to make healthy snacks to share with your friends and family.

1. Baked Apples

Peel and core as many apples as you would like to make. Stuff the cores with raisins. Put the apples in a baking dish and pour some apple juice over them to about a quarter inch of the dish. Sprinkle a little bit of cinnamon over the top of the apples. Bake at 375F for about 40 minutes. Let cool then eat

2. Fruit juice fizz

Mix together whatever fruit juices you like – orange, pineapple, lemon, and cranberry are good together, or make whatever mix you like. Then add about one cup of plain club soda to about every three cups of juice. Add ice cubes and whatever slices of fruit or berries you like.

3. Sloppy joes

Make this for a family dinner. Cook one pound of ground meat or meat substitute. Add 1 can of tomato soup, plus other flavors that you like such as mustard, garlic, paprika or other spices. Stir well and serve on hamburger buns. Choose a vegetable or salad that you like for a side.

4. Green thumb

You can grow your own food by started a small vegetable garden in your home. Choose any vegetable seed that grows well in your area. Beans, carrots, and potatoes are an easy choice as they will produce the food without needing pollination. Follow the directions on the package for planting and watering. Watch your plant grow.

5. Recipe book

Use a notebook to make your own recipe book. Decorate the cover like a cookbook. On each page, write a recipe that you enjoy making and eating. Share your book with friends, family, or your troop.

My Body

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1. Brain Power – Try these brain activities. Share what you learn with a friend or trusted adult.

Different muscles – Sit down and write your name. Then take one of your feet and move it in a circle on the floor. Now try doing both things at once. How does it feel?

Eye to Brain to Hand – Find a partner for this activity. Cut a piece of paper about the size of a dollar bill. Hold it in front of your partner. You'll drop the paper and your friend will have to move to catch it before it hits the floor. Take turns trying this. Your brain will get better at sending signals between your eyes, brain, and hands.

2. Dreams – your brain still works when you're sleeping – that's why we have dreams. With a parent, sibling, or in a video chat share one of your dreams

3. Funny Face – your face is full of muscles. Use a mirror to make a frown and a happy face. Pretend to chew food and blow a bubble. Then look at your eyes in the mirror and move everything except your eyes. Look at all the things your muscles can do!

4. Balloon volley – you can play this with a friend or on your own. Blow up a balloon. Use your different body parts to keep the balloon in the air – but don't use your hands!

5. Pulse – You can take your own pulse. Feel the thumping in your wrist, neck, knee, ankle, or thumb. Use a clock to count how many times you can feel your pulse in one minute.

Numbers and Shapes

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Follow the directions illustrated in the Try Its book to complete these activities in origami, tangrams, Mobius strips, jigsaw puzzles, moon phases, and nature shapes:

http://www.badgefairy.com/uploads/1/1/3/1/113161675/brownie_numbers_and_shapes.pdf