



# Badge of the Month Activity Plans

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## Brownie – Citizen Near and Far & Junior – Active/Model Citizen



This month's two-for-one activity plan is a just right accompaniment to Independence Day celebrations, participating in a citizenship event like a rally or parade, learning about civil rights or voting rights, and helps your girl be prepared to make the world a better place.

Today's girls may earn and wear retired badges on the front of their uniforms.

Buy these badges here: [www.badgefairy.com/shop-2](http://www.badgefairy.com/shop-2)

(Note this junior badge goes by both "Active Citizen" and "Model Citizen")

*\*Brownies complete at least four and juniors complete at least six. All girls should complete item #1 and choose from the rest. Some activities apply to both – look for the B and J icons. Mix and match to create a plan that works for your troop.*

### 1. A Good Citizen

Learn about someone who acted like a good citizen. Did they speak up for someone else? Did they use the ideals of their nation to improve something for others? Share the story you found with others in your troop or family. With a group or troop, use the ideas and come up with more to make a list of ten things that you think make one a good citizen or good neighbor. Choose one idea you can do as a family or troop and design and carry out a project to help others.

### 2. Getting Along

America made up of people of different races, national origins, and religions. We can have different kinds of families, different accents, different skin colors, for example. With your troop or family, talk about situations that involve these differences. Share an experience in which you or someone else was treated unfairly because of these differences. How does it feel when you're not allowed to be part of a group? Talk about what you can do to help others in this situation.

### 3. It's the Law

Children and adults have rules and laws to obey. Rules and laws are meant to make things fair for everyone. Discuss with your family or troop how the rules and laws we follow help to make things fun and fair for everyone. Are there laws or rules that you think are unfair or unkind? What can you do to get this law or rule changed?

Pretend to be a leader or lawmaker in charge of something and design two laws or rules that might be needed in one of the following situations: You are the first mayor in a new town, an amusement park company wants to build next to your school, a toxic waste dump wants to build next to a farm, you own an five-story apartment building with no elevator.

### 4. Making Choices and Voting

When you are older, you will get to help choose the laws by voting for rules and for people who will make the rules. Has your troop or family ever voted on something? With your family or troop, practice making choices and voting. Discuss the pros and cons of voting for or against a rule or choice. You can try to convince others to vote for your idea.

## **5. Calling All Helpers** ⑥

Have you heard of the United Nations? It is an organization that brings together people from all over the world to try to solve problems that face many nations. As a troop or with your family, choose a problem that can affect people all over the world. Some examples might be pollution, violence, access to education or health care, or hunger. Ask people you know for ideas they have to help. With your family or troop, hold a pretend United Nations meeting. Everyone pretends to represent a country, and take turns sharing the ideas they learned about. Then, your United Nations can vote on new rules for world leaders.

## **6. Global Citizenship** ⑥ ⑩

Find a group in your community that works to help people in other countries. Visit this group, or invite them to your troop meeting. Talk with them about what it is like to live and work in other countries compared to the United States. Find out how you can help them, and be a good citizen of the world.

## **7. Rights and Responsibilities** ⑩

Rights and responsibilities are associated with being a citizen of a country. With your family or troop, think of some rights and some responsibilities that come with being a citizen of the United States. Do you think these rights are valuable and these responsibilities are fair?

## **8. Simulated Government** ⑩

There are board games and video games that involve creating a country or city from scratch, or leading a nation of people through time. Play one of these games with your family or troop and discuss what you learn about leading your citizens.

## **9. Visit a government branch** ⑥ ⑩

Visit the local government where you live. Choose something like a city hall, a courthouse, a county council, or something similar. While you are there, learn the names of the people who represent your neighborhood or town and learn about how they voted on an issue of concern to you.

## **10. Learn about Protesting** ⑩

Voicing your support or disapproval of the laws your government enacts is an important part of being a citizen. In the United States, the right to protest is protected by the first amendment of the Constitution. Talk with your troop about ways to legally and peacefully protest in the United States. If you can, plan to participate in a legal and peaceful event in support of something you believe in.

## **11. Red, White, and Blue** ⑩

The American flag is one of the symbols that represent our nation. Learn about and participate in a flag ceremony.

## **12. Paperwork** ⑩

Learn about how your family keeps their important documents safe and up-to-date. Think about driver's licenses, or residency and occupancy records, social security cards, birth certificates, marriage certificates, school records, and so on. Make sure your family has back-up copies, and that these items are organized well and stored in a safe place with quick access in emergencies.

*Most of these requirements are based on or adapted from the official requirements written and published by GSUSA. All badges should be earned in the spirit of the topic, and with an emphasis on being prepared to serve others. You are free to adapt the requirements to your needs, budget, supplies, and so on. Your troop leader has the final say on determining if/when a badge has been earned.*