

JUNIOR GARDENER BADGE – MEETING 2

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they’ll know how to help plants and flowers grow.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster
20 minutes	Ways to Choose Garden Plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls learn how to choose garden plants. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Seeds <input type="checkbox"/> Seed packets in six different varieties of herbs (ex. oregano, basil, chives, dill, parsley, thyme) <input type="checkbox"/> A bulb such as a tulip or daffodil bulb, or a picture of a bulb <input type="checkbox"/> A small un-potted plant to show the roots, or a picture of one <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Computer with internet access
25 minutes	Plant an Herb Garden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls grow their own garden. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Seed packets from Activity #1 <input type="checkbox"/> Potting soil <input type="checkbox"/> Six small containers (ex. Dixie cups or one six-pack egg carton per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Spice jars of the same herbs being planted
15 minutes	Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls enjoy snack while discussing what they have learned. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.



Activity #1: Ways To Choose Garden Plants

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Learn how to choose garden plants

Materials Needed: Seeds; seed packets in six different varieties of herbs (ex. oregano, basil, chives, dill, parsley, thyme); a bulb such as a tulip or daffodil bulb, or a picture of a bulb; a small un-potted to show the roots, or a picture of one; (optional) computer with internet access

1. Show girls the seeds, bulbs and plant with roots and discuss how different plants can be grown from these beginnings.
 - Explain that bulbs are typically planted in the fall.
 - Explain that plants which are already growing, such as those purchased from a garden store, are typically planted in the late spring.
 - Explain that seeds need to be watered in order to germinate, or start growing. When you plant them indoors, the time of year might not matter, but if planting outside, you plant them in the spring.
2. Describe how regions of the United States are divided into hardiness zones, which assists gardeners in determining which plants are most likely to thrive in their areas. Hardiness is based on average annual minimum winter temperatures. Most of the Twin Cities, southern Minnesota, and western Wisconsin are in Zone 4. If you have access to a computer, have the girls go to the USDA website to figure out which Zone they live in.
3. Next, describe how some plants are annual, which means the plant grows and dies in one season and doesn't come back, while others are perennial, which means they come back every year.
4. Have girls check the seed packets they will be using for their herb garden to find out what information is included on the packet. You can ask them questions like:
 - Are the herbs annual or perennial?
 - What is their hardiness zone?
 - What are the planting instructions for each particular herb?

RESOURCES:

Hardiness zones website: planthardiness.ars.usda.gov

Activity #2: Plant an Herb Garden

Time: 25 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Grow your own garden

Materials Needed: Seed packets from Activity #1; potting soil; six small containers (ex. Dixie cups or one six-pack egg carton per girl); spice jars of the same herbs being planted

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.
 - If using egg cartons, get cartons ready prior to the meeting (cut off the lids and cut the bottoms in half to make two six-cup containers).
1. Fill each container with potting soil.
 2. Dig a shallow hole in the center of each container and place 1 or 2 seeds in it.
 3. Cover the seeds with soil.
 4. Pour a couple of tablespoons of water over the soil.
 5. Advise girls that the plants should be placed by a sunny window. Once the plants start sprouting, they should replant them in containers with drainage holes.
 6. Open the spice jars and pass them around for girls to smell. Tell them that these are dried versions of the herbs they are growing.
 7. Explain how cooks use more of a fresh herb in cooking, and less of a dried herb because it's concentrated.
 8. Have girls share which herb they think smells the best.



Activity #3: Snack Chat

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps

Materials Needed: Healthy snack; paper; writing utensils

1. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
 - Remind girls that they took home plants in egg cartons after their previous meeting. Ask who experimented with different amounts of water. Was it better to give the seeds more water or less water, or did it make any difference?
 - Ask girls if they will do any experiments with their herb gardens.
 - Talk about different recipes or foods which could be flavored with the herbs they are growing.

Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Visit a local farmer to find out how they grow crops.
 - Visit a local park that has gardens.
 - Visit a botanical garden.
 - Visit a local nursery.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a gardener, landscaper, or nursery owner to talk about what they do.

