

SENIOR GIRLTOPIA JOURNEY AWARD – MEETING 1

Badge Purpose: When you’ve earned this award, you’ll have developed your own vision of an ideal world and acquired the skills to make that vision a reality.

Activity	Materials Needed
Current Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research issues currently impacting girls, and brainstorm your ideal world for girls. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pen
Picturing Utopia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a collage of your perfect world, then share it with others. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardstock (or other heavy paper/material) <input type="checkbox"/> Old magazines, newspaper, and/or picture books <input type="checkbox"/> Coloring utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Glue or Mod Podge <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Washi tape
Humans of (Your Hometown) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take portraits of people in your hometown and interview them about their hopes and dreams for the future. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera or smartphone <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook <input type="checkbox"/> Pen <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Printer <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Photo paper

Getting Started

- You’ll be planning and carrying out a Take Action Project as the third step in this Journey. As you work through the first two meetings, jot down issues or ideas that come up that you might be able to do for your project.

Activity #1: Current Affairs

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Create It: Create a unique vision and artistic representation of an ideal world, and then share it with others

Materials Needed: Computer with internet access; paper; pen

- When you hear the word “utopia,” what pops into your head? In this Journey, you’ll create your vision of the perfect world for girls, where girls’ values, needs, and interests are always respected and celebrated.
- To enact change, though, first you need to figure out what the state of girls is like today. Think about your school, community, country, and world at large—what makes life hard for girls? Research the status of women



in the US or globally (or both!). Some possible topics to explore: education, jobs and wages, personal safety, physical and mental health, leadership opportunities.

Activity #2: Picturing Utopia

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Create It: Create a unique vision and artistic representation of an ideal world, and then share it with others

Materials Needed: Cardstock (or other heavy paper/material); old magazines, newspaper, and/or picture books; coloring utensils; glue or Mod Podge; scissors; (optional) washi tape

1. After doing your research, what do you think about the current state of girls? Is the world we live in ideal for them? Keeping these facts and figures in mind, create a collage that completes the sentence: *“In a perfect world, girls would...”* and/or *“In a perfect world, girls could...”*
2. When you’ve finished your collage, share it with others in your group.
3. Once everyone has shared their art, discuss:
 - Did you notice any similarities in your ideas of a perfect world?
 - What surprised you about these individual visions?
 - If everyone had a different vision of the perfect world, are there any shared values that tie them together?
 - What issues arose that you might be able to address in your Take Action Project? How would you go about figuring out and helping solve the root cause of that issue?

Activity #3: Humans of (Your Hometown)

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Create It: Create a unique vision and artistic representation of an ideal world and then share it with others

Materials Needed: Camera or smartphone; notebook; pen; (optional) printer; (optional) photo paper

1. Do you follow Humans of New York (or, the local project that was inspired by it, Humans of Minneapolis)? Brandon Stanton created the photoblog to connect to fellow citizens of his adopted hometown, New York City.
2. For this activity, grab a camera and a notebook and walk around your hometown. Take a portrait of someone (it can be a friend, family member, shop owner, etc., just be sure to ask for permission first) and ask them about their dreams for the future. What issues are they concerned about? What are they passionate about?
3. After you’ve collected a few portraits, take a self-portrait and write down your own hopes for the future.
4. (Optional) If you’d like (and have permission from the people you’ve photographed), set up a gallery show (check with your local library or community center to see if you can host an exhibit there), and invite friends and family to view your portraits.

