



Detective [Meeting 2]

Overview

Note to Volunteers

A few agenda activities in this meeting plan have two options—one that can be done inside and one to be done outside (*Get Girls Outside!*). Carefully read through both activity options and choose one to add to your meeting plan agenda. **Please note all PDF-printed documents list the description and materials required for both the inside and outside options—you will only need to purchase materials for one option.**

The excitement and fast pace of running troop meetings for the first time can sometimes leave us tongue-tied. For that reason scripting is included for guiding girls through a meeting; these "lines" are under the heading "**SAY.**" However, you're the expert. If you feel you don't need the script, do what makes sense for you and your girls.

Prepare Ahead

- Talk to anyone helping you about what they will do at this meeting.
- Read the Take Action Guide for Volunteers located in the resources section. Throughout the year, you'll guide the girls on their Take Action Project. When it comes up in your meetings, you'll want to make sure girls understand the steps for taking action: They will see a need, work with others to brainstorm solutions, develop a plan, and do the project.
- For Activity 1: Collect items for girls to dress up in disguises, such as a variety of jackets, hats, scarves, eyeglasses, and sunglasses.
- For Activity 5: For this meeting, girls will participate in solving the Mystery of the Lost Snacks.
- Girls will use detective skills to find their missing snacks.
- This activity would be best if it could be outside, or in a large area that has multiple hiding spots.
- You'll need to not only create the clues, but hide them. You may need to tweak the clues listed below, based on the scavenger hunt area you are working with. The clues should build off each other and use some of the skills they learned in this badge.
- If you have a large troop, you can break them up into teams to perform the activity as a race — have multiple copies of clue #1, so each team has one.
- Prepare these clues as written and follow volunteer instructions:
- Clue #1 (hand this first clue to the girls): Use your powers of observation and find a small insect that looks out of place. Volunteer: Hide a plastic toy bug somewhere, along with Clue #2 underneath it.
- Clue #2 (hidden underneath the bug): Use the inkpad and white paper to take all the girls' fingerprints. Find out how many of your fingerprints match a loop pattern. Write the number down, then go to your volunteer leader and give her that number. She will give you your next clue. Volunteer: Attach this clue to a baggie containing a fingerprinting kit. In one plastic bag include an inkpad, enough white paper for each team, a pen, and a printout of Fingerprint Patterns.
- Clue #3: Break this code to find your next clue, what does this say? Hint: each number corresponds to a letter. 7/15_2/15_20/8/5_6/18/15/14/6_3/15/15/18 Volunteer: The answer here is Go to the front door.
- Clue #4 (hidden near the front door): To solve the mystery and get your snack, you must go to somewhere black. Volunteer: Hide this clue near the front door.



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- Clue #5 (hidden near somewhere black): Go to your volunteer leader and give her the secret password. Hint: It is the last two words of the Girl Scout Law.
- Volunteer: Hide this clue near something black. The password is Girl Scout.

Get Help from Your Friends and Family Network

Your Friends and Family Network can include:

- Girls' parents, aunts, uncles, older siblings, etc.
- Other volunteers who have offered to help with the meeting

Ask your network to help:

- Make snacks
- Welcome girls to the meeting
- Supply materials for the session

Meeting Length

90 minutes

The times given for each activity will be different, depending on how many girls are in the troop. Plus, girls may really enjoy a particular activity and want to continue past the allotted time. As much as possible, let them! That's part of keeping Girl Scouting girl-led! And what do you do if you only have an hour for the meeting? Simply omit some of the activities.

Materials

Activity 1: As Girls Arrive

- Variety of hats, sunglasses, scarves, and coats

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Index cards
- Pens

Activity 3: Write or Wrong — **Inside Option**

- Cards from Activity 2
- Index cards
- Pens

Activity 3: Write or Wrong — **Get Girls Outside!**

- Cards from Activity 2
- Index cards
- Pens



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Activity 4: Take Action Pause— **Inside Option**

- Paper
- Pen or Pencil

Activity 4: Take Action Outside — **Get Girls Outside!**

- Index cards with “Problem” and “How to Help” on each
- Pen or Pencil

Activity 5: Mystery of the Lost Snack — **Inside Option**

- Healthy snacks in a sealed bags (suggestion: granola bars, trail mix, pretzels)
- Index cards with clues on each (as outlined in Prepare Ahead)
- Large plastic zip bag for fingerprint kit
- Ink pad
- White paper, enough for each girl
- Fingerprint Patterns
- Pens or pencils, enough for each girl
- Plastic toy bug

Activity 5: Mystery of the Carved Tree— **Get Girls Outside!**

- Tracing paper
- Pencils
- Measuring tape or rulers
- Star cut out from piece of paper
- Ribbon or string to tie the star to the tree (can also use tape if it doesn't damage the tree)

Activity 6: Snack Chat

- Snack girls found in previous activity

Activity 7: Closing Ceremony

- Detective badge, enough for each girl

Detailed Activity Plan

Activity 1: As Girls Arrive

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

- Variety of hats, sunglasses, scarves, and coats

SAY:



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- *One way a detective can work without anyone noticing her is to dress up in disguise. While everyone is arriving, see if you can come up with a great disguise using the materials here.*

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

- Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Index cards
- Pens

Steps

Gather girls in a circle. Welcome them to the Detective meeting. Girls say the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law together.

SAY:

- *Let's take a minute to look at your disguises. Do you think you could walk down a street without being recognized?*
- *For our next activity, you'll need to write the Girl Scout Promise on an index card and then write your name on the back.*
- *Pass out index cards and pens for each girl. After they've written it, collect all the cards for the next activity.*

Activity 3: Write or Wrong — **Inside Option**

Time Allotment

15 minutes

Materials

- Cards from Activity 2
- Index cards
- Pens

Steps

Pass out a blank index card and pen to each girl.

SAY:

- *So the first kind of detective science we are going to practice is handwriting analysis — that's where a detective has to figure out a clue to the mystery using only someone's handwriting.*

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- *Maybe she might find a note that the suspect dropped, or a secret message.*
- *Using the card, this time write down what your favorite hobby is and why. It should be one sentence— I like to BLANK because _____*
- *Give the girls a few minutes to write it down. Then collect the cards, and mix them up. Line up the hobby cards on the table, and then mix up the Promise cards and line those up next to the others.*
- *Now using your observation skills, see if you can match the handwriting samples — a Hobby card with a Promise card. After we've matched them all, let's look and see how many we got right. Do you think you can get 100%?*

Activity 3: Write or Wrong — *Get Girls Outside!***Time Allotment**

15 minutes

Materials

- Cards from Activity 2
- Index cards
- Pens

Steps

Pass out a blank index card and pen to each girl.

You can use the agenda meeting plan for “Write or Wrong” inside option but take meeting materials outdoors. In the opening ceremony for this meeting, girls wrote the Girl Scout Promise on an index card and signed their names on the back. In this activity, you’re asking them to fill out another index card about their favorite hobby. Instead of lining these handwriting cards on a table, plant cards in different areas outdoors so girls have to search for and match the cards.

SAY:

- *So the first kind of detective science we are going to practice is handwriting analysis — that's where a detective has to figure out a clue to the mystery using only someone's handwriting.*
- *Maybe she might find a note that the suspect dropped, or a secret message.*
- *Using the card, this time write down what your favorite hobby is and why. It should be one sentence— I like to BLANK because _____*
- *Give the girls a few minutes to write it down. Then collect the cards, and mix them up. Line up the hobby cards on the table, and then mix up the Promise cards and line those up next to the others.*
- *Now using your observation skills, see if you can match the handwriting samples — a Hobby card with a Promise card. After we've matched them all, let's look and see how many we got right. Do you think you can get 100%?*



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Activity 4: Take Action Pause — Inside Option**Time allotment**

10 minutes

Materials

- Paper
- Pen or Pencil

SAY:

- *As you earn badges this year, we're going to think about how you can use the skills you are learning to take action. Then we're going to come up with a small Take Action Project that you can do later in the year.*
- *Can you think of any mysteries that you might want to solve?*

[Give girls time to respond, then if need prompts **SAY:**]

- *It doesn't have to be a crime — it could be a mystery that you have to get to the bottom of:*
 - *Why your school has certain rules.*
 - *Why there are so many stray cats in your neighborhood.*
 - *Why there aren't enough trashcans in the park.*
- *Remember, we're going to keep a list of all the Take Action ideas you come up with this year as you earn badges. When it's time to decide on a Take Action Project, we'll have the list to remind us of all your good ideas.*

[**Note to volunteers:** Write down the girls' Take Action ideas throughout the year as they work on badges. You'll use this list later to remind them of their ideas and help them choose one to do.]

Activity 4: Take Action Outside — Get Girls Outside!**Time Allotment:**

10 minutes

Materials

- Index cards with “Problem” and “How to Help” on each
- Pen or Pencil

Steps

Gather girls outdoors to observe possible problems and come up with solutions to help.

SAY:



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- *Using your observation skills as a detective is a good way to find ways to take action and make a change. Take a minute to use your power of observation to look around outdoors to see ways people can help the outdoors.*
- *For example, you see a broken playground set in the schoolyard—so you find help to fix or replace it. You see a trail littered with trash, you organize a trash pick up with your troop. You see squirrels eating junk food from an open trash bin, you find a way to cover all the trash bins in the park.*

[When girls are finished, have them share their ideas and SAY:]

- *What made you come up with you Take Action idea project? Is it something you saw for yourself or something you care about?*
- *What are the problems or challenges or problems in your Take Action idea? What is your solution?*
- *When you heard some of the challenges or problems other girls found with their Take Action projects, did you come up with another solution? What was it?*
- *Were any of Take Action ideas you heard from each other a project you would want to do as a group?*

Activity 5: Mystery of the Lost Snack — Inside Option

Time Allotment

30 minutes

Materials

- Healthy snacks in a sealed bags (suggestion: granola bars, trail mix, pretzels)
- Index cards with clues on each (as outlined in Prepare Ahead)
- Large plastic zip bag for fingerprint kit
- Ink pad
- White paper, enough for each girl
- Fingerprint Patterns
- Pens or pencils, enough for each girl
- Plastic toy bug

Steps

Have girls work together as one team or, if you have a lot of girls, you can create teams that compete as to who can solve the mystery first.

SAY:

- *Now you're going to investigate in order to get your snack as the reward. You will get a series of clues that lead you from one point to another. You will keep going until you find the fifth clue, which will release the snacks to the winning team. Remember to use your observation skills, communicate and work together.*

[Hand the girls or teams the first clue. Once girls have succeeded with clue #5, hand each their bag of snacks.]



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Activity 5: Mystery of the Carved Tree— *Get Girls Outside!***Time Allotment**

30 minutes

Materials:

- Tracing paper
- Pencils
- Measuring tape or rulers
- Star cut out from piece of paper
- Ribbon or string to tie the star to the tree (can also use tape if it doesn't damage the tree)

Steps

Use the same meeting agenda plans for “Mystery the Lost Snack,” but take your materials and set girls up outdoors. Cover a picnic table or ground area with a plastic tablecloth to use as a workspace. You can also offer girls this option for “Mystery of the Lost Snack” or do both!

Find an outdoor area with a tree. Place the star on the tree, either by tying it or taping it on. Out of sight from other girls and without them knowing, place white paper on a trail to the tree. Have one girl rub her shoes in mud and walk along the paper trail, making sure she leaves footprints.

Gather the girls together, including the girl with prints, and have them figure out the mystery of the footprints.

SAY:

- *Leave No Trace tells us to leave things as they are in nature to help protect it. Part of this respect for nature means we don't pick flowers and leaves, write on rocks or carve initials in trees.*
- *Today you're going to solve an outdoor mystery case. It's called “Mystery of the Carved Tree.”*
- *Pretend that paper star is actually a carving on this tree.* [Point to the tree where the footprints lead to.]
- *Someone in this group has carved a star in this tree. You've been hired as nature detective to find out which one of you did it!*
- *First, make sure to watch your step and protect the area leading to the tree. Leave all the paper footprints as they are. The footprint impressions are your biggest clue so you don't want to mess up your evidence.*



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- Take a look at the impressions on each piece of paper and study the shapes made from the bottom of the shoe. Sometimes you might even see the label of the shoe in the markings.
- Measure the footprints so you know the shoe size.
- Then, take a tracing paper and using a pencil, rub the bottom of one of each girl's shoe.
- Take the shoe rubbings and match them to the shoe print. Do any match? Which one comes closest? Do you think you found your tree carver?

[When girls have finished, **SAY:**]

- *What was the hardest part about studying and matching the footprints?*
- *Can you think of other prints that can be matched in a crime scene? [For example, finger prints, animal prints, tire prints from a car or bicycle.]*

Activity 6: Snack Chat

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

- Snack girls found in previous activity

[As girls are enjoying their snacks, **SAY:**]

- *What was the hardest part about solving the clues?*
- *How do you think your team worked to solve the clues?*

Activity 7: Closing Ceremony

Time allotment

5 minutes

Materials

- Detective badge, enough for each girl

Steps

Girls form a Friendship Circle and sing a song. Then they receive their Detective badge.

SAY:

- *Are there mysteries that you want to solve?*
- *What do you like best about being a detective?*
- *What are some ways you can use your detective skills to help others?*

Ask a girl to end the meeting by starting the Friendship Squeeze.