

Making Games [Meeting 1]

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.**

Meeting 1 activities can be done inside a meeting room setting, large enough for girls to move around. For meeting 2, try to take girls outside to an open area—a park or field. 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 know your girls best. If you feel you don't need the script, do what makes sense for you and your girls.

Prepare Ahead

- Have healthy snacks available for snack time
- Collect shoeboxes, enough for each group of girls. Cut a hole big enough for a girl to slide her hand in on the bottom of the box.

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

- Paper
- Pencils, crayons, markers

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Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- PDF of Girl Scout Promise and Law

Activity 3: Scavenger Hunt — **Inside Option**

- Tape
- Index Cards
- Large-size post its—multiple for each girl
- Pens, pencils

Activity 3: Nature Scavenger Hunt — **Get Girls Outside!**

- Index cards
- Large sticky notes, multiple for each girl
- Pencils, one for each girl
- Poster board
- Tape

Activity 4: Make a Mystery Game — **Inside Option**

- Shoe box with hand-size hole cut out, one for each group of girls
- Objects to put in boxes (can be craft supplies or anything on hand in the meeting room—or something girls have in their purses or backpacks)
- Paper
- Pens

Activity 4: Nature Guess Game — **Get Girls Outside!**

- Sticky notes
- Pen

Activity 5: Snack Break: Mystery Snack

- Water or Juice
- Different kind of cookies on a plate
- Different kinds of fruit on a plate
- Napkin to cover snack plates

Activity 6: Board Game Makers

- Rectangle poster boards, one for each group of girls
- Pens and pencils
- Colored markers and crayons
- Stickers
- Rulers
- Dice

Activity 7: Closing Ceremony

- Beach ball or any type of soft ball girls can toss

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Detailed Activity Plan**Activity 1: As Girls Arrive****Time Allotment**

5 Minutes

Materials

- Paper
- Pencils, crayons, markers

Steps

As girls arrive, have girls draw a picture of their favorite game.

SAY:

- *Draw a picture of your favorite game you like to play. It can be something outside or inside—a board game, tag, or a swimming game. Draw one that you like!*

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony**Time Allotment**

10 minutes

Materials

PDF of Girl Scout Promise and Law

Steps

Gather girls in a circle. Welcome them to the first Making Games meeting.

Girls say the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law together.

SAY:

- *Did you know that there is a job where a person designs games for other people to play? Game designers can create things--from card games and board games to video games.*
- *Does this sound like a fun job?*
- *When you earn your Making Games badge, you will be a game maker.*
- *You'll not only learn about different games and rules, you'll also make up some of your own! Sound fun?*
- *First, let's see what kind of games you drew when you arrived. What are some favorites?*

[When girls have shared...]

- *What are some of the first games you remember playing?*
- *What makes playing a game fun for everyone? What does it mean to be a good team player or play fairly?*

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Activity 3: Scavenger Hunt— Inside Option**Time Allotment**

20 minutes

Materials

- Tape
- Index Cards
- Large-size post its—multiple for each girl
- Pens, pencils

Steps

Girls go on a scavenger hunt to learn a search game, then they make up different ways to play.

SAY:

- *A scavenger hunt is where you hide things and have to find them. Has anyone ever played one?*
- *Let's do it now. Give each girl an index card.*
- *Each of you has a card. Walk around the room and spot one object, then describe it on your card. For example, if it's a clock, you might write "tells time." If it's a rug, you might write, "we walk over it." If it's a fan, you might write "keeps us cool."*
- *Write a clue about one object and bring it to me. But don't list the object, just the clue.*

[When girls are done, tape the cards to a wall or board. Make sure each girl has large-size post-its for next round of activity.]

- *You see all the cards up on the wall. Read what they say then, using your post it, see if you can find the object and write or draw what it is. You can walk around the room to see if you can find it, too. You can work with another girl as a team or as a small group, it's your choice!*
- *Once you finish, put your post it next to the clue card. Keep going and see how many you can find!*

[When girls are done]

- *What could you do differently to this game? Find objects with certain letters? Find objects with different sizes? Have a time limit to find objects?*
- *Was it easier to work with a friend or team or alone?*
- *If you were go have a Scavenger Hunt and only describe things by how they feel, what are some clues you'd come up with? Look around and describe things by how they might feel. [Examples: something smooth—a table. Something soft and bumpy—a rug. Something wet—a sink. Something fuzzy—a sweater.]*

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Activity 3: Nature Scavenger Hunt — *Get Girls Outside!***Time Allotment**

20 minutes

Materials

- Index cards
- Large sticky notes, multiple for each girl
- Pencils, one for each girl
- Poster board
- Tape

Steps

Gather girls outside and let them know the boundaries of the area to play the game. Pass out one index card and pencil to each girl.

SAY

- *A scavenger hunt is where you have to find things. Let's do one now.*
- *Each of you has a card. Walk around outdoors and spot one object. Describe it on your card. For example, if it's a tree, describe what it looks like, color? Size? Don't list what it is, just the clue. For example, you can write "Tall and shady with lots of green on it."*

*[When girls are done, tape the cards to a poster board. Make sure each girl has large-size sticky notes for next round of activity. **SAY:**]*

- *You see the cards on the board. Read what they say and see if you can find the object and write what it is. Post your answer next to the clue card. Keep going and see how many you can find.*

*[When girls are done, **SAY:**]*

- *What would you do differently to this game? Find objects with certain letters? Find objects with different sizes? Have a time limit to find objects?*
- *Would this game be easier to work with a friend or team or alone?*
- *If you were to go on a Scavenger Hunt and only describe things outdoors by how they feel, what are some clues you'd come up with?*

Activity 4: Make a Mystery Game — *Inside Option***Time Allotment**

20 minutes

Materials

- Shoe box with hand-size hole cut out, one for each group of girls

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- Objects to put in boxes (can be craft supplies or anything on hand in the meeting room—or something girls have in their purses or backpacks)
- Paper
- Pens
- Steps
- Girls break into groups and put together their mystery boxes.

SAY:

- *You will break into group and each have a mystery box to fill. Find up to 10 objects around the room to put into each box.*
- *When you're ready, cover your box. Then have your friends from another group put their hands through the hole and guess what the objects are just by touching them. They can write their answers down on a paper.*
- *Whoever gets the most right answers wins.*

Activity 4: Nature Guess Game — *Get Girls Outside!*

Time Allotment

20 minutes

Materials:

- Sticky notes
- Pen

Steps

Write the names of animals and insects on sticky notes. Put one on each girl's forehead. Girls will pair up and ask yes or no questions to her friend to find out what animal or insect she is.

SAY:

- *I've written the name of an animal or insect on a sticky note and will put one on your forehead.*
- *Pair up with another girl and ask her questions about what you are until you guess right. The catch? You can ONLY ask yes or no questions. Like, am I brown? Am I small? Am I an insect? Can I fly?*

[After girls have finished, SAY:]

- *Was it hard or easy to figure out what you were?*
- *Did you think of other questions you should have asked?*
- *Was it easier for you or your partner to figure out what you were?*
- *Can you think of another fun way to play this game?*

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Activity 5: Snack Break: Mystery Snack**Time Allotment**

10 minutes

Materials

- Water or Juice
- Different kind of cookies on a plate
- Different kinds of fruit on a plate
- Napkin to cover snack plates

Steps

Girls play a mystery game while enjoying their snack.

SAY:

- *Want to play a game to win your snack?*
- *I will describe the snacks under the napkin on each plate. You have to guess what it is. When you've guessed them all, you win! I'll lift the napkins and you can start snacking!*

[While girls are snacking...]

- *What was it like to guess all the items and win the snacks?*
- *What are some games you play where you win or lose?*
- *Do you play any games where everyone plays together and no one wins or loses?*

Activity 6: Board Game Makers**Time Allotment**

20 minutes

Materials

- Rectangle poster boards, one for each group of girls
- Pens and pencils
- Colored markers and crayons
- Stickers
- Rulers
- Dice

Steps

Have groups of girls design a board game.

SAY:

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- *Separate into groups. You're about to become game makers by designing your own board game.*
- *Have a start space and a finish space on each board.*
- *Where is your game set? What's your theme? Is it a jungle adventure? A camping trip? Explorers on a mountain trek? A horseback rider trying to get back to her horse?*
- *What kind of traps will your players get into along the way that might set them back a few paces?*
- *Come up with your own rules and how this game will work. When you're done, we'll share and play your games.*

[After girls have created and tested games...]

- *What was it like coming up with a game idea with your group?*
- *Did you all agree on what kind of game to design?*
- *Did you come up with a rough idea before you drew it on your board?*
- *Did you test your game before you let others play it?*
- *Which game was the most fun to play?*
- *If you could change anything about your game or another you played, what would it be?*

Activity 7: Closing Ceremony

Time Allotment

5 minutes

Materials

Beach ball or any type of soft ball girls can toss

Steps

Girls sit in a circle and toss a ball to share their favorite part of Making Games.

SAY:

- *Today you created different ways to do a scavenger hunt, played a mystery game, and designed your own board game, just like a game designer would do!*
- *Right now, toss the ball from girl to girl so each of you can say what your favorite part of today's meeting was. Remember, games don't always have "winners" and "losers," sometimes it's just about having fun! Ask a girl to end the ceremony by starting the friendship squeeze.*