



## **PLAN FOR THE FIRST FOUR DAISY GIRL SCOUT MEETINGS**

Daisy Girl Scout meetings should last long enough to keep the interest of the girls, typically once a week for about 45 minutes. Each meeting will be different and plans should be flexible. Feel free to follow the Daisy two-year guide from training. The girl/adult partnership in planning is vital to Girl Scouting and the Daisy grade-level is practicing this for the first time. As you get to know your girls, you will learn what is too challenging and when they can take on more duties. A suggested meeting flow is as follows (routine is important):

- **Start-up activity:** An activity that girls do as they arrive. For example: Coloring sheets or game girls can do independently or practice a song.
- **Opening:** A calling together of all girls to begin the meeting. It should only be a short amount of time. Suggested openings are reciting the Girl Scout Promise and/or singing a song.
- **Business:** Girls Conduct the business of the meeting such as attendance, dues, and assigning Kapers.
- **Activity:** The major part of the meeting should be spent doing the activities related to badge work, ceremonies, songs, and games.
- **Snack:** A short but relaxed time together. If meeting occurs near mealtime then juice can serve as the snack.
- **Clean-up:** A set time for all girls to help with the clean-up as necessary.
- **Closing:** A song, game, or friendship circle that officially ends the meeting.

### **The Goals for the First Four Meetings are:**

- To allow everyone to become acquainted and begin to consider themselves a troop or group.
- To understand that they are part of a larger group of Girl Scouts (council and national organization).
- To begin to understand the foundation of Girl Scouting: The Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law.

## **THE FIRST MEETING**

**Objective:** To become acquainted with each other and the routine of the meetings. Start to learn the Girl Scout traditions.

**Start-up Activity:** Upon arrival each girl receives a coloring sheet with a picture of a Daisy Girl Scout. Place girl's name in the center beforehand.

**Opening:** Adults and girls join hands in a circle and walk toward each other from all around the circle meeting in the middle with clasped hands raised. Say a greeting (hello, hi, how are you,

etc.) and walk backward into a full circle again holding hands. Stay in the circle either sitting or standing and each person says “\_\_\_\_\_ is here.” Be sure each person has a turn to announce herself. Going around the circle, each girl can tell her favorite color. Next, explain the importance of the Girl Scout Promise to Girl Scouts and practice it line by line. (a poster helps). Demonstrate the Girl Scout Sign (page 12). Hold up right hand with the middle three fingers extended and the little finger held down by the thumb. Explain how the sign represents the 3 parts of the Girl Scout Promise. Recite the Promise to the troop. Have each girl make the sign with her right hand. Recite the promise once more. Point out the 3 parts of the Promise and once again have the girls make the sign as you recite the Promise encouraging them to recite the Promise with you this time.

**Business:** Explain the Kaper Chart and responsibilities girls will take at each meeting. Assign roles and show them how each is done and how duties will rotate. For example, Helper (Troop Leader assistant), Secretary (takes attendance), Treasurer (collects dues and tells all money in and out), Hostess (snack preparation), Opening (starts the Promise and Law), Clean-up (makes sure everyone has cleaned up), Song Leader and Squeeze Starter (ending Friendship Circle). Only pick jobs that the girls developmentally can handle. Make them simpler when necessary.

**Activity:** Teach girls some special Girl Scout traditions:

Safety Tour, explain how to get out in an emergency and the Buddy System.

Sitting in a circle, quiet sign (page 13) and Girl Scout handshake (page 12).

Earn your flower center by doing the 3 steps on page 8 of the Girl Guide including practicing the Girl Scout Promise. Share about your pictures girls colored as the opening activity. Learn the Girl Scout Make New Friends song on page 9. For clean-up, girls should be given a 5-minute warning before it is time to clean-up. Each girl is responsible for cleaning up her area. As girl's finish ask them to sit in a circle. (Hint: Place pieces of masking tape on the floor to indicate place where a child is to sit or place carpet remnant or sit-upon on floor in the shape of a circle.

**Snack:** Have girls pass out a small snack such as crackers and string cheese. (wash hands)

**Closing:** Gather in a standing circle, join hands and sing Make New Friends.

## **THE SECOND MEETING**

**Objective:** To learn about Juliette Low (founder of Girl Scouts) through her story and learn about the friendship circle.

**Start-up Activity:** Greet girls as they arrive and direct them to decorate a paper strip that will then be stapled onto their right wrist (by an adult). Before meeting cut construction paper into 2” wide strips about 6” long for bracelet. Additionally, prep a 3’ length of yarn to be used to limit girl sharing. Girls will use the yarn to wrap around their fingers while talking, end of yarn, end of talking. See below.

**Opening:** Have girls gather to form a friendship circle. Ask each girl to cross their right arm (the one with the bracelet) over their left and hold the hands of the people on either side of them. Explain that you will gently squeeze the hand of the person to your right as a sign of friendship and that the squeeze should travel around the circle until it returns to you. This will become the closing to our troop meetings and we will practice again at the end of the meeting. Then, have the girls make the Girl Scout sign and say the Promise.

**Business:** Assign jobs for the meeting on the Kaper chart: Attendance, dues, helpers, song leader, closing, etc.

**Activity:** Have the girls sit in a circle for a “special story”. Read the story of Juliette Low called How Girl Scouts Got Started (page 12). Afterwards discuss the story with the girls using the yarn you prepped. Show the girls how to share wrapping the yarn around the fingers of one hand while you speak. Once the yarn is gone, it is another girl’s turn and she must pass the yarn. Reinforce the events and interesting points mentioned in the story and mention your favorite part. Then go around the circle.

\* Remember that at this age it is difficult for girls to sit still for extended amounts of time. Move around, sing a song, march in place, but be active for a couple of minutes so that you will have their attention as you move to the next activity.

**Snack:** Have girls pass out a small snack such as mini carrots and granola bar. (wash hands)

**Closing:** Form a friendship circle once again. Sing or teach a simple song (like Make New Friends). Close with the friendship squeeze.

### **THIRD MEETING**

**Objective:** To continue to learn the Girl Scout Promise and to form a basis of understanding the Girl Scout Law.

**Star-up Activity:** Have ready 8 ½ x 11 sheets of paper with a large daisy flower shape drawn which includes a center circle. Girls will draw a self-portrait in the circle. Pictures will be used in their investiture ceremony

**Opening:** Have girls join in a circle and practice using the Girl Scout Sign and repeat the Promise. Welcome each girl. Ask if there is anyone who has something to share about how she used the Promise this week. Use the talking yarn to limit speaking. Have girls wrap yarn around fingers while speaking. End of yarn, end of talking. Pass yarn to another girl.

**Business:** Assign jobs for the meeting on the Kaper chart: Attendance, dues, helpers, song leader, closing, etc.

**Activity:** Practice the Girl Scout Handshake from meeting 1. (Hold right hand up with the Girl Scout Sign and shake hands using the left hand.) Explain that Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world use this greeting. Allow each girl to greet all troop members in this manner. Play the game Daisy to Daisy as follows. One person is the caller. The girls pair off into twos. The caller chants out different body parts that the paired players must match by touching. Example: Caller chants “nose to nose”, partners touch nose to nose. Caller chants “head to head”, partners touch head to head, etc. When the caller chants “Daisy to Daisy” everyone runs to find another partner and the chants begin again. Different callers can be chosen through the game. This is a great way for Daisy Girl Scouts to build confidence and troop spirit.

Have the girls sit in a circle and introduce them to the Girl Scout Law and their Flower Friends, (pages 6 – 7). Over the next several meetings, the girls will be learning the lines of the law according to each flower friend (earning a petal each time for the front of the tunic).

**Snack:** Have girls pass out a small snack such as apple slices and peanut butter. Be sure to look at your Blue Cards (health history forms) for nut allergies. (wash hands)

**Closing:** Girls join in a standing circle give a good-bye handshake to the person on her immediate right. Then perform the friendship circle by crossing hands right over left and close with the friendship squeeze.

## **FOURTH MEETING**

**Objective:** To plan an investiture ceremony and practice the troop meeting routine.

**Start-up Activity:** Have the paper chain strips prepped (also to be used during activity time) and let girls begin to decorate them with markers or crayons.

**Opening:** Using the Girl Scout sign say the Promise as a group. Read the Girl Scout Law to the girls. (They are probably not ready to try to learn this yet, however you can have them recite line by line if you think they are.) Ask girls to share how they used the Girl Scout Promise this past week, passing the sharing yarn to limit the time.

**Activity:** Form a Daisy Circle sitting on the floor. Explain that in future meetings the Daisy Circle is where they will be making decisions as a group. Remind the girls of the Investiture ceremony and that you will need them to help plan it. Allow the group to help plan the Ceremony with simple choices such as what song to sing, what type of refreshments to serve, etc. The Investiture is a simple ceremony to welcome girls who are now making a formal commitment to be a Girl Scout. Have girls decorate (crayon, foam shapes, etc.) pre-printed invitations and glue the paper to construction paper. These can be taken home by the girls or mailed by the leader. Prep some construction paper into 1" by 6" strips to be made into a paper chain as decorations for the ceremony (Start-up Activity).

Explain that during the year each girl will make a Daisy Scrapbook in which to record their activities. Have girls decorate the front cover (construction paper) of her scrapbook. These can also be displayed at the Investiture ceremony. Google possible templates for the scrapbook. Play the "Mirror Game." Girls are partnered with another girl. One girl is the leader and one is the follower, or mirror. The mirror tries to reflect what the leader is doing. She follows the movement simultaneously. If the leader moves her hand upward, the mirror will do it too. If the leader wrinkles her nose, the mirror will also do that at the same time. After four or five actions, the girls switch roles. Clean up as a group, or by using a kaper chart. Girls clean up the craft supplies and return chairs if used.

**Snack:** Have girls pass out a small snack such as fruit cups and Cheez-Its. (wash hands)

**Closing:** Form a friendship circle. If the girls have chosen to sing a song at their Investiture, practice singing it. Otherwise close with the friendship circle.

We hope this planning document is helpful for you. Feel free to adapt it to your group and add your ideas. If you have any questions, please reach out to the staff at the Girl Scout office, 907-456-4782.