

Activity 1: Activity 1: As Girls Arrive: Campsite Map

Time Allotment

5 minutes

Materials

Colored markers

Paper

Steps

Welcome Brownies and have them draw a map of their campsite showing where they eat, sleep and clean up.

SAY:

Draw a map or picture of your campsite to show where you eat, sleep, and clean up.

Activity 2: Activity 2: Opening Ceremony: Leave No Trace and Camp Rules

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

Illustrated Leave No Trace Principles handout, one for each Brownie.

Steps

Recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Promise and Law.

Remind Brownies about Leave No Trace.

Go over camp safety.

Go over the Brownie kaper chart.

SAY:

Leave No Trace teaches you to respect the environment and keep the campsite clean.

Give Brownies the Leave No Trace handout. Have Brownies read aloud and explain the principles.

SAY:

Have any of you practiced Leave No Trace since you arrived at camp? Explain how.

So now you know how to keep nature safe. What will you do to make sure you are safe? I'll name some camp safety rules and you tell me what they mean:

Use the buddy system. (Answer: You are paired with another Brownie and you should stay together at all times. You can warn each other about danger or get assistance if something happens.)

Protect yourself from weather. (Answer: Wear sunscreen or a hat when it's sunny and hot. Wear a raincoat or jacket when it's cold and rainy.)

Be careful around a campfire. (Answer: Wear closed-toe shoes. Don't walk over a fire.)

Protect your food from wildlife. (Answer: Store food away from tents and out of reach of animals.

If necessary, hang food from a rope stretched between two trees and make sure all food is packed in closed containers.)

Go over the Brownie kaper chart and the chores each of them will do.

Activity 3: Teepee Fire Building

Time Allotment

20 minutes

Materials

Printouts of **How To Build a Teepee Fire**, one for each team of 3 - 4 girls

Collected tinder, kindling, and thicker pieces of wood for fuel

Shovel or long stick to use as a "fire stick" to stir ashes

Bucket of water

Matches (if you plan to light the fire)

Steps

Go over the **How to Build a Teepee Fire with Brownies**.

Break Brownies into teams of 3 - 4 to prepare a teepee fire.

Have Brownies collect kindling, tinder and fuel for their teepee fire.

SAY:

You will learn how to prepare a teepee fire.

[Note to volunteers: If you plan to light a teepee fire with Brownies, make sure to have a shovel, bucket filled with water, and matches.]

There are many different ways to build campfires. They usually get their names from their shape. You can build a "teepee" fire by following the steps on the handout.

Break Brownies into teams of 3 - 4 and give each team a Teepee Fire How-To handout.

SAY:

First you'll need to collect tinder, kindling and fuel for your fire.

Important note: To collect wood, find an area that's a good distance from the campsite that has a lot of fallen wood. Make sure Brownies collect only fallen, dead wood on the ground and never cut or break wood or branches off a living tree. Be sure to find out if wood collection is allowed at your campground.

SAY:

Each team will need about two handfuls of tinder, like twigs, pine needles, weeds, or pieces of bark that have fallen from dead trees.

Tinder is what starts the fire and lights the smaller pieces of wood.

Then each team will collect an armful of kindling, like dry sticks, branches, and twigs and 6–12 inches long and as thick as an adult's thumb.

Finally, you team will collect fuel: firm pieces of wood no bigger around than an adult's wrist.

When Brownies have collected their wood, have them make separate piles for each and start building their teepee fires.

Remind girls to keep their fires small to conserve fuel. Tell them it will also avoid creating too much smoke.

Keep the water bucket and shovel nearby.

If you plan to light the Brownies' teepee fires:

Remember to strike the match close to the tinder and away from your body. You may need to blow softly at the base of the fire to add oxygen.

To put your fire out, carefully sprinkle small amounts of water on the fire and stir the coals with the fire stick or shovel.

Never pour water on a fire, it will become steam, which can rise up and burn girls' faces and hands.

Once the fire has died down, sprinkle water on hot spots and continue to stir the ashes.

When the fuel and coals in the fire circle are cool enough so you can place the back of your hand close to it, your fire is *out!*

When Brownies are done, have each team show their work to the group.

SAY:

When you light a fire, here are some safety rules to follow:

Always tie your hair back and wear closed-toe shoes.

Don't wear clothes that might catch fire, like nylon windbreakers.

Never leave a fire unattended.

Never walk across or reach over a fire.

Always have access to water - in a bucket or a hose - near your fire. (Show girls the water bucket.)

Here's how you put out a fire:

Carefully sprinkle small amounts of water on the fire and stir it with a stick or shovel.

Always have a shovel or stick nearby so you can stir the ashes. (Show girls the shovel or fire stick.)

Once the fire has died down, sprinkle water on the hot spots and stir the ashes.

If you can place the back of your hand close to the fire, it is out.

Activity 4: Activity 4: Camp Chef: Prepare a Stew from Canned Foods

Time Allotment

20 minutes

Materials

Canned food: carrots, corn, chili, Vienna sausages, diced tomato, baked beans

Can opener

Portable camp stove

Pot
Stirrer
Reusable bowls, spoons

Steps

Girls act as camp chefs and prepare a stew from canned goods.

Note to volunteer: Brownies can prepare, heat, and eat the stew or keep it for a later meal.

SAY:

Canned foods are great for camping because they're easy to store and don't attract animals. Check out the canned foods offered here and make a one-pot meal with what you have.

Note to volunteer: You can break Brownies into separate chef teams to make more than one pot of stew. Later, they can do a taste test to see which stew is the camp favorite.

Give Brownies can openers, spoons and pots.

If Brownies need help, suggest adding canned carrots and corn to chili. Or Vienna sausages and diced tomatoes to baked beans.

Activity 5: Activity 5: Tie A Square Knot and Clove Hitch Knot

Time Allotment

15 minutes

Materials

Square Knot and Clove Hitch Knot How-To printout, one for each pair of Brownies

Pieces of rope or thick string to tie knots, enough for each pair of Brownies

Roll of paper towels

Steps

Girls practice tying a clove hitch knot.

Give each pair of Brownies the Clove Hitch Knot How-To handout and rope or string.

SAY:

Have you ever tied a knot? How about when you tie your shoes? Or a ribbon on a present? Today you'll learn how to tie a clove hitch knot.

With your team partner, follow the directions and tie a square knot and clove hitch knot using the pieces of rope.

Practice both knots until you can do it without looking at the pictures.

When Brownies are done practicing, have them try to hang a roll of paper towels between two trees, close together, using their knot-tying skills.

Activity 6: Activity 6: Camp Games

Time Allotment

15 minutes

Materials

Balls (volleyball or beach ball), net, flags, or anything Brownies might need to create a camp

game (optional)

Steps

Brownies break into teams and make up a camp game for the group to play.

SAY:

Games are even more fun on camping trips!

Break Brownies into teams of 3 - 4 girls.

Come up with a fun idea for a game and then you'll all play it!

If Brownies need help, suggest a game of tag, bowling (using a ball and bottles), or sleeping bag guessing game where girls crawl into sleeping bags and the "it" girl has to guess who is in each one by asking three questions.

Activity 7: Activity 7: Closing Ceremony: Badge Awards & Bridging Ceremony

Time Allotment

5 minutes

Materials

Cabin Camper badge, one for each Brownie

Bridging patch, one for each Brownie who will be a Junior next year

Steps

Brownies sit in a circle and get their Cabin Camper badge, then hold a bridging ceremony for girls who will be Juniors next year.

SAY:

Let's go around the circle and say the one thing that you like most about camping or protecting nature.

Give each Brownie a Cabin Camper badge.

SAY:

Some of you will be Juniors next year. It's a special thing in Girl Scouting to do a bridging ceremony.

First, let's ask the Brownies who will be Juniors next year to tell us the best thing they did as a Brownie.

Give Brownies who will be Juniors next year a bridging patch.

End the meeting with a Friendship Squeeze.