

Activity 1: As Girls Arrive: Camping Fun

Time Allotment

20 minutes

Materials

Pens, pencils, colored markers

Index cards

Steps

Brownies draw something fun they did when they went camping.

SAY

You will start planning our Take Action project today.

But before you do, think about when you went on your camping trip. What did you have the most fun doing? Draw it and then share your story with us! It can be one thing or many things.

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony: Leave No Trace and Take Action

Time Allotment

30 minutes

Materials

Flag

Leave No Trace handout, one for each Brownie

White board or poster board

Markers

Steps

Recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise.

Have Brownies share their fun camping story

Have Brownies review Leave No Trace principles to inspire Take Action ideas

White board or poster board

Markers

SAY:

In this meeting, you will decide on a Take Action project.

Before we start, one of the best things you can take away from camping are the stories you can tell others about the fun you had. Share your drawing and tell us your story!

Give Brownies the Leave No Trace handout.

SAY:

When you earned your Cabin Camper badge, you learned about Leave No Trace and protecting the environment. Do you remember how you practiced the principles when camping?

Did any of those experiences give you ideas for a Take Action project?

Write Brownies' ideas on a white board or poster board.

Activity 3: Deciding on a Take Action Project

Time Allotment

30 minutes

Materials

Sticky notes

Pens/pencils

List of Take Action project ideas you've collected throughout meetings handout, one for each team of Brownies

Steps

Divide Brownies into teams to come up with their favorite Take Action project ideas.

SAY:

Now you will decide on a Take Action project.

Divide girls into teams of 3--4. Give each team index cards and pens. Give each team a list of the Take Action project ideas.

Each team will look at your ideas on the handout and on the poster board. You can also come up with some new ideas.

Then, as a team, decide on the top three (3) top ideas you want to do. Then write the three ideas down on a sticky note, one for each idea.

When Brownies are done, tape or post sticky notes on poster board or white board. Organize by similar ideas.

SAY:

Now you'll decide as a team what Take Action project you want to do.

Give Brownies a chance to talk about the ideas they like (or don't like).

If Brownies disagree, help them build their conflict-resolution skills.

Remind them to speak with respect, listen to other people, and perhaps even develop a new idea together that everyone likes.

Instead of stepping in and making the decision for them, help them talk about the pros and cons of each project.

To help Brownies zero in on their top choices, ask open-ended questions, such as:

Which of these project ideas sounds like the most fun?

Which projects would help you learn something new?

Which ones will make you feel proud when you're done?

To help Brownies think about which projects are realistic, ask open-ended questions, such as:

Are there any ideas that might be hard to do right now?

It will probably cost a lot of money to do X. As a troop, we have \$X to spend. What do you think we should do? We could put it on a list to do later or we could come up with another idea that doesn't cost so much. What do you think?

If Brownies are divided between a few ideas, ask them to choose one top idea and keep the others as backups. You can also have girls vote--just make sure that anyone whose idea wasn't chosen knows that it was a good idea and that it might be used later.

Brownies may reach an agreement quickly. If they don't, note the top 2 or 3 ideas and facilitate an agreement using "fist to five":

If you're holding up 5 fingers, you love it!

4 fingers--It's good.

3 fingers--you're OK with the idea.

2 fingers--you're OK with it but perhaps want to make a little change.

1 finger--you'd like to talk about making more changes.

And a closed fist--no fingers--you really don't like it!

After Brownies make a decision, have girls do a group cheer.

SAY:

Now that you've decided on your project, you'll brainstorm ideas about how you want to do your Take Action project.

Offer things for Brownies to think about, depending on what Brownies want to do. For example:

If girls want to make a video, how will they film it?

What do they want to say?

Do they want to wear costumes?

Do they want to use music?

How will they show it to people--at a school assembly, at a gathering of their families, by having an adult post it (safely) online?

If girls want to create posters for their school, what materials will they need?

Who can they ask for permission to put the posters on the walls?

How should they ask for permission--if they want to make a presentation to the principal, what should they say?

Once they get permission, what should the posters say?

What will they look like? When do they want to hang up the posters?

Do they want to get other students to join them?

The ideas are endless! **Keep It Girl-Led** by giving just one or two examples and then seeing where the girls take it.

Remind girls that good teamwork is important. Encourage girls to take turns, make sure each girl has a role.

Is there anything you need to make in order to carry out your project? Is there someone you need to ask for help?

How could you do that? What would you say?

(Note to Volunteers: You may need to pave the way for Brownies to Take Action by calling school or town officials to get permission for what the girls want to do. Or set up a time for them to meet the officials to make their Take Action proposal. If possible, guide the conversation so Brownies come up with ideas about how you can help them so they have the experience of connecting with others to Take Action.)

Offer positive feedback and specific examples of what you observed, such as girls listening to each other, cooperation, and compromising.

Keep a list of the "to do" items Brownies are suggesting, for example: materials they need, people they need to talk to, etc.

Activity 4: Closing Ceremony: Ready to Take Action!

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Overview

Brownies reflect on and celebrate deciding on their Take Action project.

Materials

None

Steps

Have Brownies form a Friendship Circle and share something about their Take Action project.

SAY:

You made a team decision about your Take Action project.

Review the Take Action project the girls decided on.

SAY:

The next step will be to create and carry out the project in our next meeting.

Be sure to share your Take Action project idea with your friends and family and ask for their help and support.

Go over the list of "to dos" that you have for Brownies to create their Take Action project at the next meeting. (Note to volunteer: This might be a list of materials Brownies need, a reminder for girls to bring props if they're performing a skit, names of people girls need to talk to, etc.)

Now let's go around the circle and give a high five to the girl next to you.

Remember, Brownies can change the world!

End the meeting with a Friendship Squeeze.