

Take Action Outdoor 1

Overview

Note to Volunteers:

Brownie Take Action Requirements

The Brownie Outdoor Journey consists of three badges—First Aid, Hiker, Cabin Camper—and three Take Action meetings. To complete the Journey, have girls complete the meetings in the following order:

- First Aid badge (2 meetings)
- Hiker badge (2 meetings)
- Cabin Camper badge (2 meetings)
- Take Action (3 meetings)

Girls must complete a Take Action project at the end of the Brownie Outdoor Journey.

Get Help for Take Action

There are three Take Action meetings—one for planning, one for creating and carrying out a project, and one for awards and celebration. Look for this helpful Take Action Guide in the Meeting Aids resources section:

- **Girl Scout Volunteer Take Action Guide:** Find out the difference between community service and a Take Action project, steps for a Take Action project, how to make a project sustainable, and ways girls can Take Action.

Make the Most of the Take Action Meetings

Use the talking points (but make them your own): In each session, you'll find suggested talking points under the heading "SAY." Some volunteers, especially new ones, find it helpful to follow the script. Others use the talking points as a guide and deliver the information in their own words. Either way is just fine.

Add an extra meeting: The meetings are each designed for 90 minutes. It's perfectly OK to add a meeting to your Outdoor Journey plan if you feel girls need more time completing the Take Action project.

Use Girl Scouts' three processes: Girl-Led, Learning By Doing, Cooperative Learning—these three processes are the key to making sure girls have fun in Girl Scouts and keep coming back.

"Learning by doing" and "cooperative learning" are built into this Journey, thanks to the hands-on activities and tips. You'll also find "keep it girl-led" tips in the meeting plans. They'll help you create an experience where girls know they can make choices and have their voices heard.

Read "Think Pair Share" in Meeting Aids: Find out how to make sure all girls are heard when making team decisions.

Leave time for the Closing Ceremony: If girls are having fun doing an activity, you may be tempted to skip the Closing Ceremony so they can keep going—but the Closing Ceremony is absolutely key to their learning, especially when you take time for reflection.

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One of the most important components of any activity is allowing time for the girls to reflect on what they have learned. Ask girls:

- *What did you learn? What did you like best?*
- *How would you share what you learned with others?*
- *In what ways did your troop work together?*

Complete the surveys: Be sure to complete the surveys in the Volunteer Toolkit about your experiences. Your input is important! The data collected is used to enhance the program.

If You Have a Multi-Level Troop

Be prepared: To help run a successful Outdoor Journey Multi-level meeting, read this useful information in the Meeting Aids resources section:

- **Benefits of a Multi-Level Troop:** Find out about why a Multi-level troop can be a great experience.
- **Tips for Working with Girls at Different Levels:** Get hands-on tips for how to deal with younger girl/older girl scenarios.

Prepare Ahead

- Gather supplies.
- If your meeting location doesn't have a flag, bring a small one from home to either hang or have the girls take turns holding.
- Print the handout of the list of Take Action project ideas you've collected throughout meetings, one for each team of 3–4 Brownies.

Get Help from Your Family and Friends Network

Your Friends and Family Network can include:

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

Ask your Network to help:

- Bring supplies.
- Bring a camera, smartphone, or video camera to document the meetings.
- Assist with helping girls come up with and create their Take Action project.

Award Connection

In the final Take Action meeting, Brownies will earn their Take Action award.

- From your council shop or the Girl Scout website, buy the Take Action awards, one for each Brownie.

Meeting Length

90 minutes

- The times given for each activity may be different depending on how many Brownies are in your troop, so adjust accordingly.
- Give Brownies 10- and 5-minute warnings before they need to wrap up the last activity so you'll have time for the Closing Ceremony.

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- There is no snack time activity in these meetings, but there's enough extra time built in for snack breaks if girls want them.

Materials List

Activity 1: As Girls Arrive: Camp Fun

- Colored markers, crayons
- Paper

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

- Flag
- **Leave No Trace** handout, one for each Brownie
- White board or poster board
- Markers

Activity 3: Deciding on a Take Action Project

- Sticky notes
- Pens/pencils
- Printed handout of the list of Take Action project ideas you've collected throughout meetings, one for each team of Brownies

Activity 4: Closing Ceremony: Get Ready to Take Action!

- None

Detailed Activity Plan

Activity 1: As Girls Arrive: Camping Fun

Time Allotment

10 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

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Time Allotment

20 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

50 minutes

Materials

- Sticky notes
- Pens/pencils
- List of Take Action project ideas you've collected throughout meetings handout, one for each team of Brownies

Take Action Outdoor 1**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?*

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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

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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!**Overview**

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

Time Allotment

10 minutes

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.



On your honor!