



# Brownie Troop Start-up Kit

This booklet is a resource designed for a new leader to help make it through those first couple of troop meetings before a Basic Leadership and a Brownie Program Age Level Training is completed.



# Welcome to Girl Scouts!

Thank you for volunteering your time to invest in a group of girls! Hopefully this kit will help you get through the first couple of meetings and give you an example of how to plan future ones. This resource will help you start meeting with the girls even if you have not yet completed the required Leadership training and secured the Brownie Girl Scout Handbook and Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts. We hope that your Girl Scout experience will be a positive one as you help girls grow strong! If you have any questions or need any help please contact

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## Tips for getting your troop started:

- For safety reasons there must be 2 adults at every meeting. Have a co-leader, assistant leader or another registered adult helper at every meeting.
- Create a “Troop Box” of materials that will be used at every meeting.
- Recite the GS Promise and Law at every meeting to help the girls learn them and live by them.
- Show the girls examples of the uniform they might wear and the Try-Its they will earn.
- Tell the girls what they are going to do at the next meeting so that they will be excited to come back.
- To prevent you from being overwhelmed, get help from the girls’ parents to serve in different troop committee positions.

## Girl Scout Promise:

On my honor, I will try:  
To serve God and my country  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

## Girl Scout Law:

I will do my best to be:  
Honest and fair  
Friendly and helpful,  
Considerate and caring,  
Courageous and strong, and  
Responsible for what I say and do,  
And to,  
Respect myself and others,  
Respect authority,  
Use resources wisely,  
Make the world a better place,  
And be a sister to every Girl Scout.



## Girl Scout Glossary:

**Girl Scout sign:** Hold the middle three fingers up by putting your pinky and your thumb together.

**Girl Scout handshake:** Shake hands with your left hand while making the Girl Scout sign with your right hand.

**Friendship circle:** This stands for an unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world. Everyone stands in a circle and places their right arm over her left and holds hands. Everyone makes a silent wish as a friendship squeeze is passed from hand to hand.

**Friendship squeeze:** After someone shares something in the circle, they squeeze the hand of the person standing next to them and then it gets passed around the circle.

**Quiet sign:** Hold up your right hand. As people in the group see the quiet sign, they stop talking and also raise their hands. Once everyone is silent, the meeting continues.

**Girl Scout motto:** "Be prepared!"

**Girl Scout slogan:** "Do a good turn daily!"

**Brownie ring:** A circle that Brownie Girl Scouts sit in to share ideas.

**Brownie Try-It:** Recognition earned by Brownie Girl Scouts. Girls have to complete a required number of activities for each Try-It. There is no minimum or maximum number of Try-Its to earn throughout the year. The girls should have a say in determining which Try-Its to work on.

## Girl Scout Songs:

### Brownie Smile Song

I've got something in my pocket, it belongs across my face,  
I keep it very close at hand, in a most convenient place.

I'm sure you couldn't guess it, if you guessed a long, long while  
So, I'll take it out and put it on, it's a great big brownie smile!

### Princess Pat

The Princess Pat (*Egyptian pose*), Light infantry (*salute*)  
And she sailed across (*wave motion in front of body with one hand*)  
The seven seas (*number 7 with your finger, then make a "C" with one hand*)  
She sailed across (*wave motion*)  
The channel two (*two hands tracing a channel, then number 2 on one hand*)  
And she took with her (*throw a sack over your shoulder*)  
A rig-a-bamboo! (*trace a wavy figure in front of you going down, bend knees as you go*)

**Chorus: A rig-a-bamboo (same as before)**  
**Now what is that? (shrug shoulders, hold out hands)**  
**It's something made (bang one fist on top of the other)**  
**For the Princess Pat (Egyptian pose)**  
**It's red and gold ("twirl" one arm down by your hip)**  
**And purple too (flip hands as if you were saying "Oh my gosh!")**  
**That's why it's called (cup hands in front of mouth, shout)**  
**A rig-a-bamboo! (same as before)**

Now Captain Jack (*salute*), Had a mighty fine crew (*salute several times*)  
They sailed across (*wave action*), The channel two (*same as before*)  
But their ship sank (*plug nose, one hand over head and waving as you bend knees*)  
And yours will too (*point to others in the circle*)  
Unless you take (*throw an invisible bag over your shoulder*)  
A rig-a-bamboo! (*same as before*)

### **Chorus**

Now the Princess Pat (*Egyptian pose*), Saved Captain Jack (*salute*)  
She pulled him out (*pull out of water*), She brought him back (*pat yourself on the back*)  
She saved his life (*hug self*), And his crew too (*salute several times*)  
Do you know how?-- (*make question mark in the air*)  
With a rig of bamboo (*trace a wavy figure in front of you going down, bend knees as you go*)



## Introduction to Girl Scouts

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### Materials:

- Foam sheets
- Permanent marker
- 1 Safety pin/girl
- Something to store a First Aid Kit
- Band-aids
- Alcohol swabs
- Poster

### Advanced Preparation:

- \* Cut the foam sheets into shapes such as butterflies, hearts, flowers for the girls to wear as a nametag.
- \* Learn the “Brownie Smile Song”.
- \* Make a poster of the GS Promise and Law.

### Meeting:

#### Pre-meeting activity

1. As the girls arrive have them make a nametag for themselves.

#### Opening

1. Sit in the Brownie ring and have everyone introduce themselves.

#### Business

1. Tell them that they will be learning about being a Brownie Girl Scout and that they will begin earning the “Girl Scout Ways” Try-It.

#### Activity

1. Teach them the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Have them repeat one line after you.
2. Introduce the girls to the Girl Scout Ways described in the glossary in the introduction.
3. Discuss how you can be prepared for certain situations. For example, how can we be prepared for bad weather, a house fire, the power going out, a long trip or an injury or a fall?
4. Make a troop first aid kit, having each girl put an item into the kit and telling what it might be used for.
5. Have the girls share some of the things that they would like to do in Girl Scouts throughout the year.

#### Closing

1. Explain that a Girl Scout always leaves a place cleaner than it was. So everyone should pitch in to help clean up!
2. End in a friendship circle and ask the girls to share one thing they learned about Girl Scouts.

#### Back Pocket Activity

1. Play a band-aid relay game. Have girls divide up into two lines. Each girl is given a band-aid. The girl at the front of the line takes about 10 large steps forward and turns around to face the others in the line, she is the starter. The leader (or extra girl) can be the caller. She says Go, Arm or Leg or Elbow.... When “GO, arm!” is said, the first girl in line runs up to the starter, hold out her arm and gets a band-aid stuck on it. She then becomes the starter, and the first starter goes to the end of the line. Relay continues until all girls have a band-aid stuck on them.



## More Girl Scout Ways

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### Materials:

Brownie Story  
Graham crackers  
Large marshmallows  
Milk chocolate bars  
A couple of long sticks or hangers  
Camp stove, gas stove or microwave  
Square pieces of paper  
Word search  
Origami Instructions

### Advanced Preparation:

- \* Buy the graham crackers, marshmallows and milk chocolate bars.
- \* Get sticks/hangers for roasting marshmallows.

### Meeting:

#### Pre-meeting activity

1. Make cat and dog origami.

#### Opening

1. Gather the girls to form a Brownie Ring.
2. Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

#### Business

1. Explain that they will be learning more about who Girl Scouts are and what they do.

#### Activity

1. Read “The Brownie Story” and/or “A Brownie Tale” (pages 29 and 33 in the Girl Scout Brownie Handbook).
2. Ask the girls how they can be helpful Brownies.
3. Ask if anyone knows what a S’more is. Tell them that it is a special sweet treat that Girl Scouts love to make.
4. Make S’mores over a camp stove, a gas stove or in the microwave.

#### Closing

1. Clean up!
2. Form a Brownie Circle and teach the girls “The Brownie Smile Song”.

#### Back Pocket Activity

1. Have the girls do a word search.



## Be Prepared!

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### Materials:

- 1 large tablecloth (or trash bags)/8 girls
- Newspapers or other stuffing
- Tape
- Yarn (approx. 5 ft/girl)
- Permanent marker

### Advanced Preparation:

- \* Buy tablecloths.
- \* Cut the tablecloth into 1'x1' squares.
- \* Hole punch the sides of the squares to allow the girls to sew them up.
- \* Cut the yarn into 5' pieces and tape one of the ends and make a knot in the other end.

### Meeting:

#### Pre-meeting activity

1. Teach the girls the "Princess Pat".

#### Opening

1. Gather the girls in a Brownie Ring.
2. Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

#### Business

1. Remind them that the Girl Scout motto is "Be Prepared!" Ask them how they can be prepared if they are outside and the ground is too damp, hot or cold. Tell them they can make a Sit-Up. You can use these at your troop meetings, at camping events or other Girl Scout get-togethers. If you don't want to store them, just have the girls take them home.

#### Activity

1. Have each girl make a sit-upon:
  - \* Give each girl two squares of tablecloth.
  - \* Have the girls sew the pieces together with a piece of yarn with tape on one end.
  - \* Leave an opening to stuff it with newspaper.
  - \* Sew the rest of it up.
  - \* Write their name in a corner.

#### Closing

1. Clean up!
2. Explain that now they have earned the Girl Scout Ways Try-It. Tell them that they will begin to work on another Try-It at a later meeting.

#### Back Pocket Activity

1. While sitting on their Sit-Up, play Brownie, Brownie, Juliette (just like duck, duck, goose).



## Prepare for the Investiture Ceremony

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### Materials Needed:

- Crayons
- Investiture invitations
- Whirly Bird sheets
- Paper Clips

### Advanced Preparation:

- \* Prepare investiture invitations to invite the parents to the ceremony.
- \* Plan the investiture ceremony. There is a sample one on the following page.

### Meeting:

#### Pre-meeting activity

1. Have the girls color a “Whirly Bird”.

#### Opening

1. Gather the girls in a Brownie Ring.
2. Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

#### Business

1. Tell them that the next meeting will be a ceremony welcoming them to Girl Scouts. Their parents will be invited to see it. Ask them how we can be prepared. Tell them that we need to practice the ceremony and make invitations to give to their parents.

#### Activity

1. Practice the ceremony.
2. Color the invitations.
3. Tell the girls about Juliette Gordon Low.

#### Closing

1. Clean up!
2. Remind the girls to take the invitations home to their parents and tell them about the ceremony.
3. End the meeting with a Friendship Circle.

#### Back Pocket Activity

1. Cut out their Whirly Bird.
2. Attach a paper clip to the bottom of it.
3. Drop it and let it whirl!



## Sample Investiture Ceremony

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Girl 1: "Please Stand".

Girl 2: "Please say the Girl Scout Promise".

All: Recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Leader: "Where are the girls who want to be Brownie Girl Scouts"

All: "Here we are!"

Leader: "You have all agreed that you are ready to make the Girl Scout Promise and receive your pin as Brownie Girl Scouts. Do you remember who the founder of Girl Scouts is? Her name is Juliette Gordon Low and her nick name was Daisy. Girls throughout the world say the GS Promise in their own language and give the same handshake. Now you are a Brownie Girl Scout."

Assistant: "\_\_\_\_\_ as a Brownie Girl Scout would you come forward?"

Leader: "Welcome \_\_\_\_\_. Here is your Brownie Girl Scout pin." She pins girl, gives Girl Scout handshake, "And here is your certificate." Repeat this for each girl.

Leader: "Tonight we welcome you and your daughters to the world of Girl Scouting. We will close with a song and the Girl Scout Friendship Circle".

Leader: "Now lets stand up and sing our Brownie Girl Scout song".

All: Sing "Brownie Smile Song".

Leader: "Let's all (including the parents) make a Friendship Circle by putting your right hand over your left." Share the Friendship squeeze and all turn around.





## Investiture Ceremony

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### Materials:

- Girl Scout Brownie Pins
- Certificates (can be purchase in the GS Shop or created yourself)
- Refreshments
- Table cloth
- Name tags

### Advanced Preparation:

- \* Set up the room for the ceremony.
- \* Buy Brownie pins from the GS Shop.
- \* Prepare certificates if you would like to hand them out.

### Meeting:

**Pre-meeting activity** 1. Have everyone make a nametag.

**Opening** 1. Welcome the parents and introduce the leaders.

**Business** 1. Explain that today, this Investiture ceremony is held to welcome the girls into Girl Scouts.  
2. Share some of the ideas of things the girls would like to do throughout the next year.

**Activity** 1. Investiture Ceremony.  
2. Invite everyone to join you for refreshments.

**Closing** 1. Clean up!  
2. Sing "Brownie Smile Song".  
3. Form Friendship Circle with the parents.  
4. Thank the parents for attending and tell them they can talk to you if they have any questions.



## Introduction to “My Body” Try-it

### Materials:

- 1 Pen or Pencil/girl
- Sheets of paper
- Pieces of paper the size of a dollar bill
- 1 balloon/2 girls

### Advanced Preparation:

- \* Cut paper into pieces the size of a dollar. Blow up balloons.

### Meeting:

1. Have the girls draw a picture of themselves.

#### Pre-meeting activity

#### Opening

1. Gather the girls in a Brownie Ring.
2. Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

#### Business

1. Explain that they will begin to work on “My Body” Try-It (page 44 in the Try-it book).

#### Activity

1. Have each girl put her picture in front of her. Talk about the different parts of the body and discuss how they all work together.
2. Brain Power: Try these activities to see how your brain works.
  - Different muscles: Sit at a table and write your name. Then take one of your feet and move it in a circle on the floor. Now try doing both things together. Explain that sometimes it’s hard for your brain to do two things at once.
  - Eye to Brain to Hand: Have the girls get into partners. Give one of them a piece of paper the size of a dollar bill. She should hold it in front of a friend. The idea is for your friend to have her hands in position to catch the piece of paper before it falls to the floor. Now let go of the piece of paper. What happened? Was your friend able to catch it? Explain that the eyes send messages to the brain, which then tells the hands what to do. But sometimes an object falls faster than the message travels. Keep practicing until their reaction time improves and then switch roles.
3. Muscle Reaction: With the same partners, have one of the girls place her arms straight down by her side. One girl should press the other girls arms down as hard as she can while her partner should try as hard as she can to lift them. Count to 20 and then let go. The girl whose arms were held down should hold still. Her arms should start to raise in the air.
4. Body Volley: Have the girls stand with their partners and face each other. Give them a balloon. Tell one girl to call out a body part. They must keep the balloon in the air using only that body part. After a little while let the other girl choose a different body part to keep the balloon in the air. (Now they have completed 3 out of the 4 required activities to earn the My Body Try-it.

#### Closing

1. Clean up!
2. End with a Friendship Circle and have them share what their favorite activity was.

#### Back Pocket Activity

1. Sing the “The Brownie Smile Song”.

# Brownie Girl Scout Awards

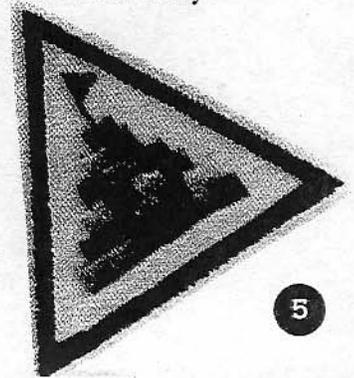
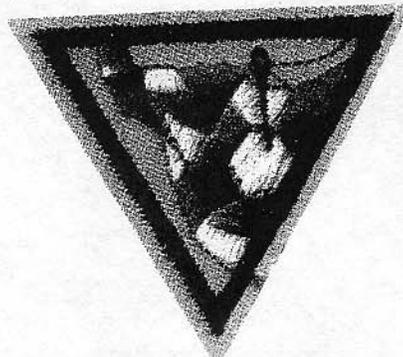


*TRY-IT* MEANS JUST THAT. JUMP RIGHT IN. Get your hands dirty and your heart racing. Use your imagination. Learn a new hobby. Show everyone how good you are at an old one.

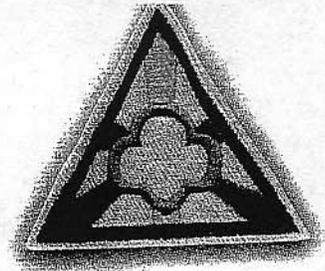
This book is just for you. You don't have to do the same Try-Its as your friends or your Girl Scout troop—unless, of course, you want to. It's great fun to do Try-Its with other girls. You don't have to do all the activities perfectly. If you decide you don't want to finish a Try-It, just put it aside. Maybe you'll come back to it later, maybe you won't.

**To earn a Try-It, complete four of the activities listed for that topic.** You and the other girls can then plan a Court of Awards ceremony as a special way to receive your Try-Its. Some troops or groups plan one Court of Awards at the end of the year. Others like to have these ceremonies more often. That's a decision you and the other girls in your troop or group can make with your leader.

The main thing is to have fun. Experiment! Explore! Learn! That's what Try-Its and Girl Scouting are all about.



# Girl Scout Ways



Being a Girl Scout makes you part of a very special group of people! Here are some activities that show some of the things Girl Scouts everywhere know.

## 1. The Girl Scout Law

Create a puppet show, coloring book, poem, or play that tells about two parts of the Girl Scout Law. Show it to other Girl Scouts or to girls who want to become Girl Scouts.

## 2. Special Girl Scout Ways

Read the section "What Makes Brownie Girl Scouting Special?" in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*. Practice the hand signs and traditions listed below and show them to someone who is new to Girl Scouting:

- Girl Scout handshake.
- Girl Scout sign.
- Quiet sign.
- Friendship circle.
- Friendship squeeze.

## 3. S'mores

A S'more is a special sweet treat that Girl Scouts love to make. You might want to try it on a camping trip or at a cookout. Do you know why they're called *S'mores*?

You will need:

- Graham crackers.
- Large marshmallows.
- Milk chocolate bars.
- A long stick or roasting wire to hold over the fire.

1. Break a chocolate bar so that it is the same size as the graham cracker or smaller. Put the chocolate on top of the graham cracker.
2. Put one or two marshmallows on the end of the stick.
3. Use the stick to hold the marshmallows over the fire, but not too close.
4. When the marshmallows start to melt just a little, take them off the stick and put them on top of the chocolate bar square.
5. Put another graham cracker on top of the marshmallows.
6. Eat it! And you will want s'more.

**Note:** Whenever you are using fire in the outdoors, in a fireplace, or anywhere else, you must have an adult helping you.

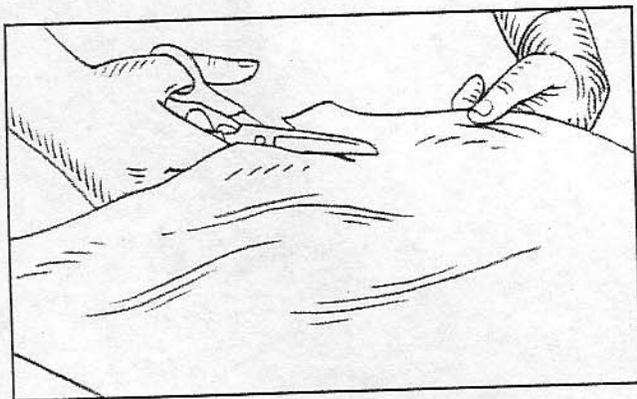
## 4. Sit-Up-on

Girl Scouts make sit-upons to use when the ground is damp or too hot or cold, or they want to keep their clothes clean. You can make your own to use at troop meetings, camping events, or other Girl Scout get-togethers. Follow these steps and look at the pictures for help.

You will need:

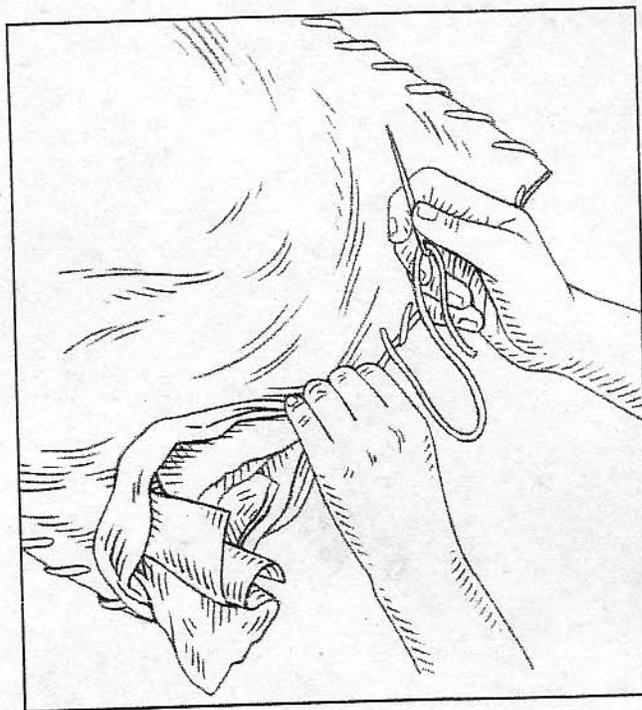
- A large piece of waterproof material (like an old plastic tablecloth, shower curtain, or plastic garbage bag).
- Newspapers or other stuffing.
- A yarn needle.
- Yarn or string.

1. Cut the waterproof material into two large squares big enough for you to sit on.



2. Put newspapers or old rags between the two squares to form a cushion.

3. Sew the two squares together with yarn or string, using the yarn needle. Have an adult show you how to use the needle



safely. Be sure to sew completely around the edges of the sit-upon.

## 5. Be Prepared

Girl Scouting's motto is: "Be Prepared!" Talk with other Girl Scouts about how you can help your troop or group, school, family, and friends prepare for two or three of the situations below:

- Bad weather.
- A house fire.
- The power going out.
- An injury like a cut or fall.
- A long trip.

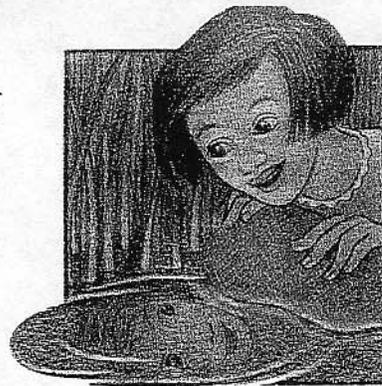
What other situations should you and your family prepare for? You can get some ideas from Chapter 2, "Taking Care of Yourself," in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*.

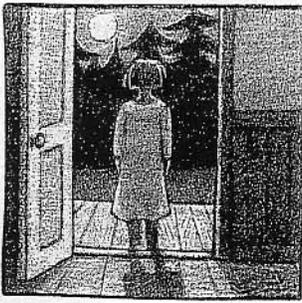
Mary turned and ran to the pond. She slowly turned herself around three times while she said the rhyme:

“Twist me and turn me and show me the elf.  
I looked in the water and saw \_\_\_\_\_.”

She stopped, looked into the pond, and saw only her own face. “Belf! Helf! Jelf! Melf!” All those words rhymed with elf but they didn’t mean anything. Suddenly, she gasped. “Myself! I see nothing but myself. I’m a Brownie!” said Mary.

Mary went home and back to bed. In the early morning, she told Tommy what had happened. Together they crept downstairs and did every bit of work they could find to do before their father woke up. Then they hid in the kitchen so he wouldn’t see them.





That night, Mary could hardly sleep. She kept thinking about the brownie. "There's an owl living in the old shed by the pond," she thought. "If it is the Wise Old Owl, she can tell me where to find a brownie." Mary got out of bed and hurried to the pond in the woods.

"Hoo! Hoo!" said a voice behind her.

"It's an owl! Maybe it's the one I'm looking for," said Mary.

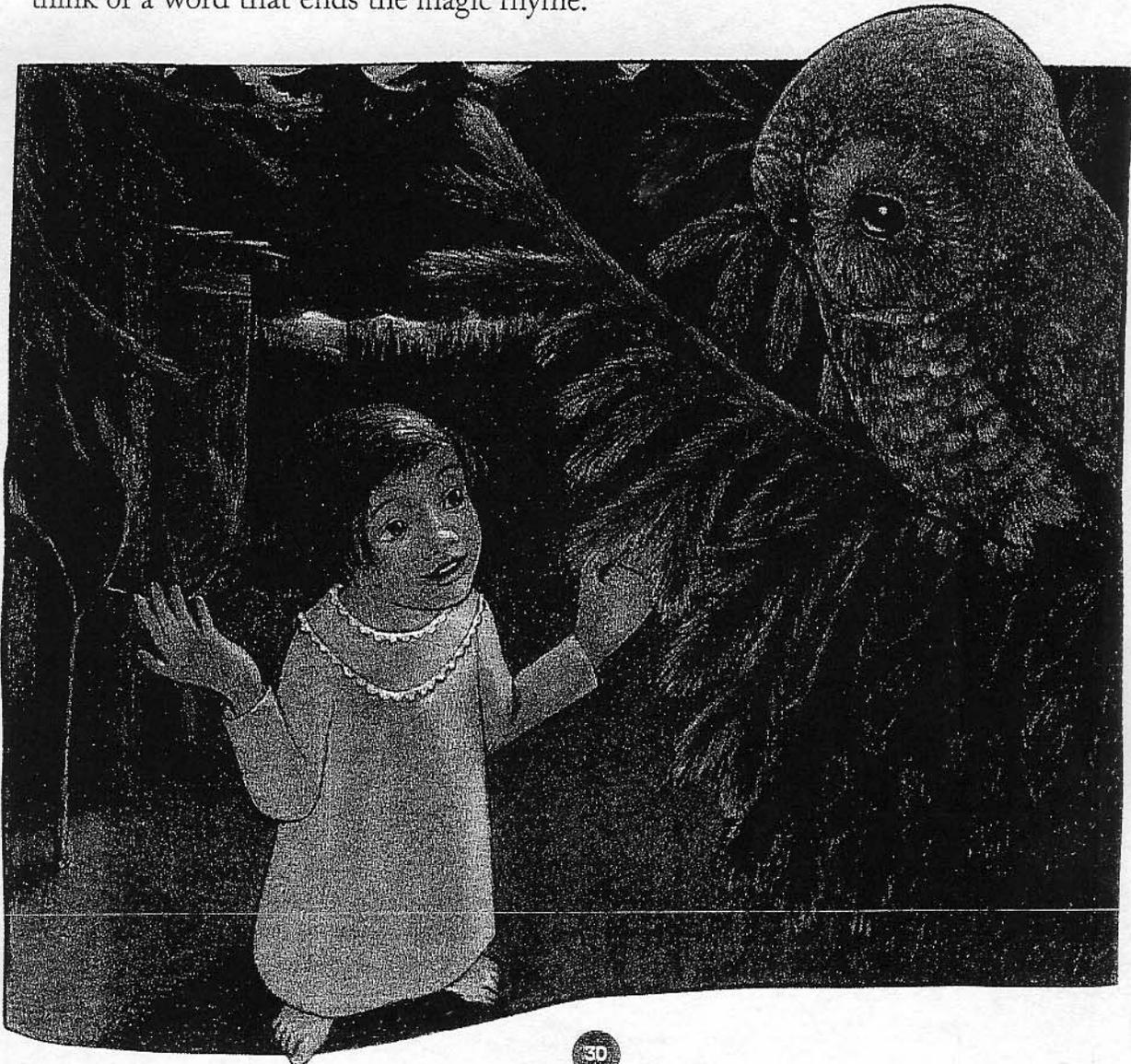
"Please," asked Mary of the owl, "where can I find a brownie to come and live with us?"

"Well, Mary," said the owl, "I can tell you how to find one of the brownies. Go to the pond when the moon is shining and turn yourself around three times while you say this charm:

'Twist me and turn me and show me the elf.

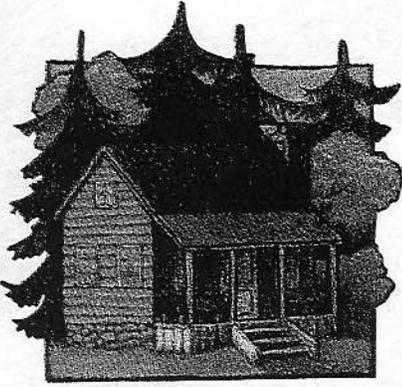
I looked in the water and saw \_\_\_\_\_.'

Then look into the pond to see the brownie. When you see the brownie, you will think of a word that ends the magic rhyme."



# The Brownie Story

*This story was adapted from a tale told at the beginning of Brownie Girl Scouting in 1926.*



Mary and Tommy lived with their father and grandmother in a cabin near the woods. Their father worked very hard all day. Their grandmother was too old to do the housework. Their father tried his best to keep the house clean. Mary and Tommy didn't help him very much. They just played all day long.

"What this house needs is a brownie or two," said their grandmother, looking around the messy house.

"What is a brownie, Granny?" asked Mary.

"A very helpful little person," answered their grandmother. "She'd come in before the family was up and did all sorts of chores. The brownie always ran off before anyone could see her, but they could hear her laughing and playing about the house sometimes. Brownies always helped for love."

"Oh, Granny, where are the Brownies now?" asked Tommy.

"Only the Wise Old Owl knows, my dear."





When Father came downstairs, he looked around and rubbed his eyes. The table was set, the floor was clean, and the room was as bright and shiny as a new penny.

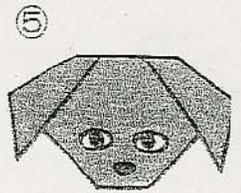
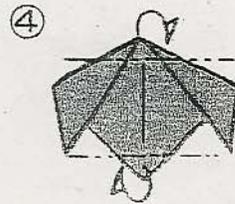
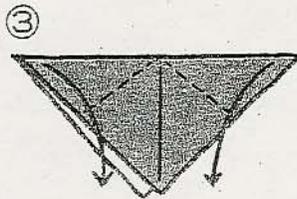
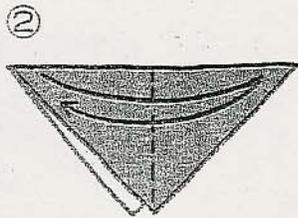
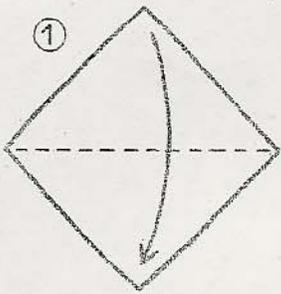
At first, Father could not say a word. Then he ran to the foot of the stairs, shouting, "Mother! Our brownie has come back!"

"Thank Goodness!" said Grandmother. "Where is she?" Father heard laughter coming from the kitchen.

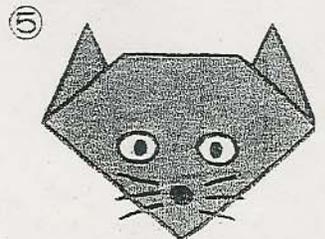
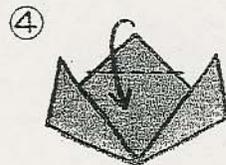
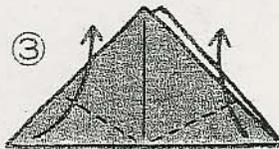
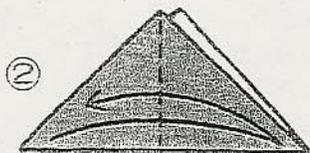
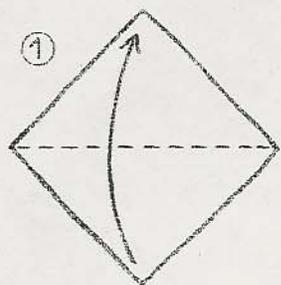
"It must be the brownie," he said. He opened the kitchen door, and saw Mary and Tommy dancing around the room.

"What's this?" he asked, his eyes twinkling. "Where are the real brownies?"

"Here we are!" yelled Mary and Tommy as they ran into their father's arms.



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Whirly Bird

pattern

A

B

cut

cut

cut

C

D

E

Whirly Bird

pattern

A

B

cut

cut

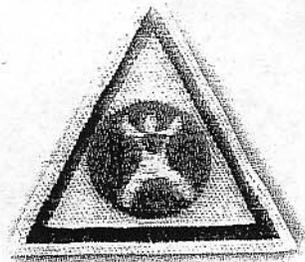
cut

C

D

E

# My Body



Try these fun activities to learn more about your body.

## 1. Brain Power

Try these activities to see how your brain works.

### Different Muscles

Sit at a table and write your name. Then take one of your feet and move it in a circle on the floor. Now try doing both things together. Sometimes it's hard for your brain to do two things at once.

### Eye to Brain to Hand

Cut a piece of paper the size of a dollar bill. Hold it in front of a friend. The idea is for your friend to have her hands in position to catch the piece of paper before it falls to the floor. Now let go of the piece of paper. What happened? Was your friend able to catch it?

The eyes send messages to the brain, which then tells the hands what to do. But sometimes an object falls faster than the message travels.

With your friend, practice this exercise. When your friend's skill at catching the falling piece of paper improves, switch roles.

## 2. Dreams

Your brain works even while you're sleeping—that's why you have dreams. In a circle with friends, tell about one of your dreams.

## 3. Funny Face

Muscles help you breathe, see, eat, and walk. Even your heart is a muscle. It pumps blood through your body. The more you exercise your muscles, the stronger they will grow.

Your face is full of different muscles. Looking into a mirror, make a frown. Make a happy face. Pretend to chew food or blow a bubble. Each change in expression is a result of your brain sending messages to the muscles in your face.

Your eyes also have muscles. Sit facing a friend. Keep your head still. Using just your eyes, look to the left, the right, up and down. The muscles in your eyes help move both of your eyes in the same direction even if your head is not moving.

# Try It!



## 4. Body Volley

See how well you can use your muscles.

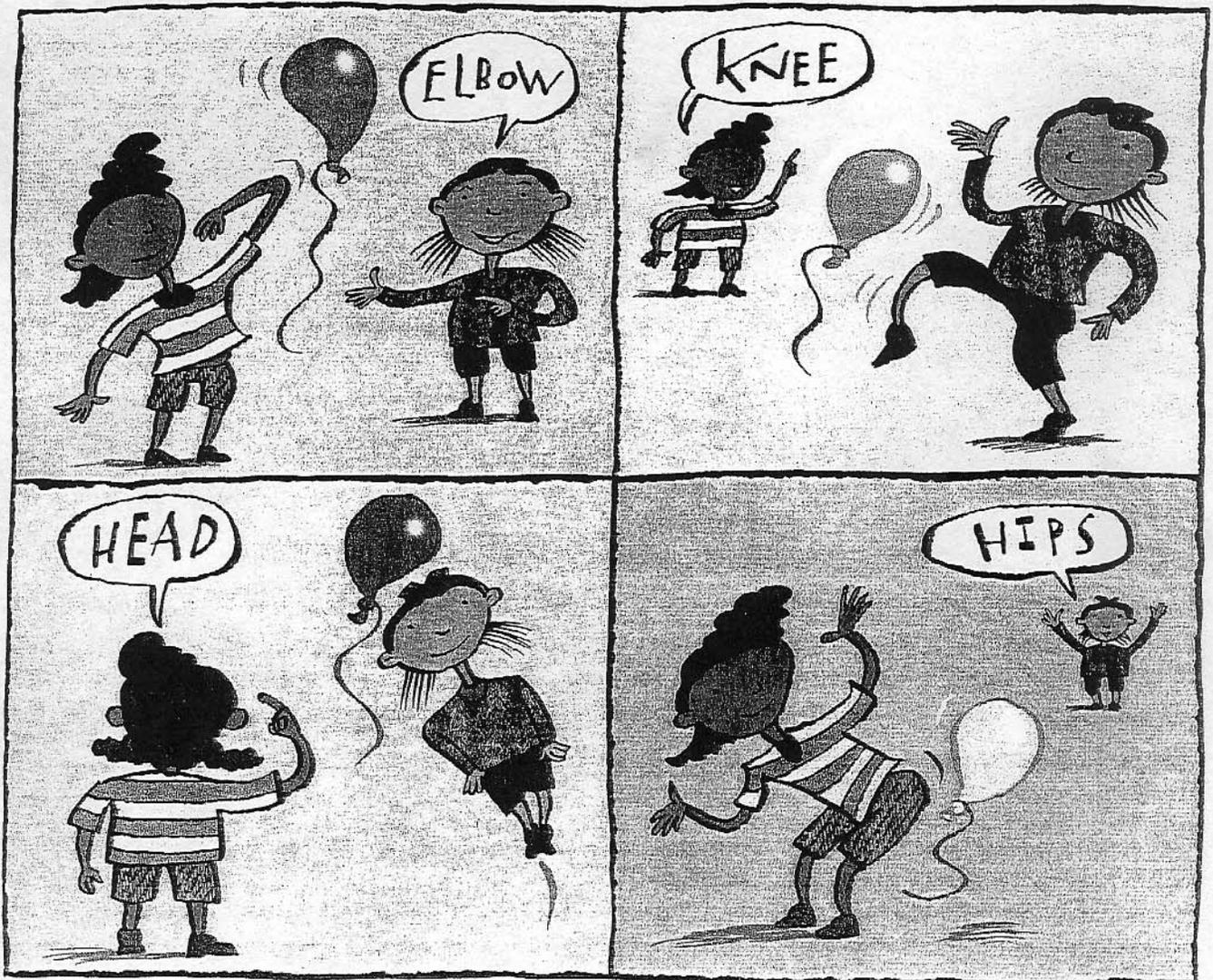
You will need:

- A balloon.
- A friend.

Facing your friend, you must try to keep the balloon in the air. Start by using your hands. Then one at a time, each of you calls out the name of a different part of your body. For example, if someone calls out “upper leg,” you may only use your upper leg to keep the balloon in the air.

## 5. Muscle Reaction

Place one of your arms straight down by your side. Ask a friend to hold your arm down while you try as hard as you can to lift it. Count to 20, trying as hard as you can to lift your arm. After you have counted to 20, your friend can let go. Stand still and let your arm relax. What does your arm do? Why do you think this happens?



You're invited to our Investiture Ceremony!



Made especially for you by:

Girl Scouts.



The Girl Scouts of troop  
would like to invite you to  
attend our Investiture  
Ceremony!

When? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Refreshments will be served. Please make  
sure the girls are on time! See you there!



Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon Low was the founder of Girl Scouting in the U.S.A. She was born on October 31, 1860 in Savannah, Georgia to a very prominent family -just a few months before the Civil War began. She was named for her grandmother, but was given the nickname "Daisy" soon after she was born. As a child she was very fond of animals, she loved drawing, and other artistic subjects, but she had trouble with mathematics and spelling.

On December 21, 1886, when she was 26 years old, Daisy Gordon married Willy Low. He was charming and handsome and from a very prominent family. At the time, she had already lost some of her hearing in one ear, and as she was leaving the ceremony, a grain of rice landed in her good ear and the doctor who removed it punctured her eardrum. Eventually, she became almost totally deaf. After a few months, she went to live in England with her husband. Their happiness together did not last and Daisy and Willy had agreed to divorce. Before proceedings were finalized, Willy became very ill and died in 1905.

Daisy met General Sir Robert Baden-Powell in 1910. He had founded the Boy Scouts and was a British military hero. Daisy looked to Sir Robert as an inspiration. She decided to help with the Girl Guides that his sister Miss Agnes Baden-Powell was forming of the nearly 6 thousand girls who registered when Sir Robert formed the Boy Scouts.

Daisy was 50 years old when she moved back to the U.S. to start Girl Scouts. Her niece, who was also named Daisy Gordon, was the first Girl Scout in the United States. She assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. With the goal of bringing girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air, Girl Scouts hiked, played basketball, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid. She found a joy and a purpose in life in the organization of Girl Scouts and worked relentlessly for many years establishing a solid foundation for the movement. She personally donated, secured, and financed much of the Girl Scouting program needs in the United States for the first few years and her generosity was also felt overseas. She spent time at camps and knew many of the girls well. Although she never had any children of her own, many all over the world loved her.

Daisy Low died on January 18, 1927 at home in Savannah after a long illness with cancer. She was buried in her Girl Scout uniform beside her parents in Laurel Grove Cemetery. In the breast pocket of her uniform was a folded telegram she received while she was ill that read "You are not only the first Girl Scout, you are the best Girl Scout of them all."