

Brownie Behaviors and Group Dynamics

One of the greatest challenges in leading a troop is effectively managing the behavior of the girls. Today, we'll discuss the typical behaviors of Girl Scout Brownies (grades 2-3).

Energy Levels and Sociability

Girls at the Brownie age level have lots of energy and need to run, walk, and play outside. These girls are social and enjoy working in groups, so help them team up in small or large groups for projects and activities. Brownies also love to act in plays, create music, and dance—your troop may want to create their own play, or even tell a story through dance or creative movement!

Fine Motor Skills

Brownies are continuing to develop their fine motor skills and can tie shoes, use basic tools, and even begin to sew. Girls at this age may need some assistance using scissors or threading needles, but you can encourage them to express themselves and their creativity by making things with their hands.

Cognition Levels

Brownies are concrete thinkers and focused on the here and now. You can do more than just read to the girls—try asking questions to gauge their understanding, or allow them to role-play.

Numbers

Brownies are becoming comfortable with basic number concepts, time, money, and distance. This means offering support only when needed. Allow the girls to set schedules for meetings or performances, and count out the money needed for activities.

Following Directions

Brownies know how to follow rules, listen well, and appreciate the recognition of a job well done. Be sure to acknowledge when the girls have listened or followed directions well as this will increase their motivation for listening and following rules next time.

Girls at this age do need clear directions and structure; they like knowing what to expect. Try only offering one direction at a time. You can also have the girls create the schedule and flow of your meetings, and share it right from the start of the year.

Leadership

Brownies want to help others and appreciate being given individual responsibilities for a task. Let your Brownies lead by letting them help with and direct activities whenever possible. Allow the girls to make decisions about individual roles and responsibilities as a group.

Girl-Led for Brownies (Grade 2-3)

As the troop leader of a Brownie troop, you will take a moderator role and help girls make informed choices. You'll want to let the girls plan as much as possible, giving them the freedom to solve problems on their own. If girls are not making mistakes they're not doing the planning. When the girls ask to do something that you don't know how to do, find another adult who can help the girls make it happen. With these suggestions, always keep in mind health and safety guidelines and step in when you feel it is necessary.

Girls at the Brownie Age

Girls that are Brownie age can generate ideas for activities that they want to do. Sometimes their brainstorming can get silly, but that's part of the fun! One girl may say, "let's go to the moon" which might inspire a memorable stargazing trip. The Brownie ring (troop government for Brownies) is an excellent way for your troop to have discussions and make decisions.

Girl-led Examples

Here some ways to ensure girls are taking the lead in your Brownie troop:

- ☀ Encourage girls to be creative and add their own flair to projects and activities.
- ☀ Let the girls try new things and make mistakes trying them.
- ☀ Let the girls do the talking with meeting guests, their troop mates, other troops, or the service unit.
- ☀ Ask thoughtful questions instead of just providing answers.
- ☀ Let girls decide between multiple options.