Brownie Bridge to Girl Scout Juniors Ceremony Activity Plan

Purpose: Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout's life. It's a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities. Celebrating this change should be fun, personalized, and memorable for everyone involved.

Planning Guides Link: Celebrating Success

Award Link: Bridge to Juniors Award

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Involve Family and Friends: Participation from family and friends can enrich your troop's Girl Scout experience, both for the girls and for you. Use the suggestions below to make it easier for you to connect with additional support.

• Before the meeting
  • Send a note to families to find those with interest or expertise in the topic. Ask them to lead or support a specific activity/activities, or to lead the meeting.
  • Offer this activity plan as a starting place; point out that they may choose alternative activities using the Customize It! section as a guide. For example: If an activity plan directs girls to sit outside and observe animal habitats, you may choose to go to the zoo and learn about animal habitats there, instead.

• At home:
  • Encourage families to ask questions about their girls’ badge activities. Some examples that work for any badge include: What did you learn? What surprised you? What does it make you think of trying next?

• Throughout the Year:
  • Suggest to the girls and their families ways that they may share or display their Girl Scout accomplishments. Possibilities include a bulletin board, a scrapbook, a special memories box or family sharing time.

Girls Take the Lead: Include girl leadership through long-term planning, short-term meeting prep and specific activities at meetings.

• Long Term Planning
  • If you use “Plan Your Brownie Year”, share this with the girls at the start of the year. Have them ask friends and family to help out with specific meetings or activities. Let the girls brainstorm ways to make the plans their own, such as thinking of related field trip activities. If a girl has experience with a field trip, ask her to be assistant tour guide.
  • If you are adapting the “Plan Your Brownie Year”, get the girls’ input on which badges to choose. Offer just a few choices in each category or timeframe to make decisions easier. Every girl should have at least one badge or journey she’s excited about.

• Short Term Planning
  • Ask a family to help lead a badge. Make sure they have access to activity plans and any resources you might have. Keep additional requested materials to a minimum.
  • Choose two helpers to stay after a meeting for 15 minutes. Give them each an activity to introduce and either instruct or help guide at the next meeting.
  • Before a meeting, ask everyone to vote on some aspect of the activity: draw posters or perform skits, open with a song or game, etc.
• Use a rotating list of helper tasks, called a ‘kaper chart’, to share responsibilities. Examples include acting as emcee of the meeting, leading an opening game, bringing a snack next meeting or taking attendance.

• At the Meeting
  • During the opening, have 1-2 girls share their answers to a get-to-know-you question.
  • Have girls fulfill their kaper chart responsibilities.
  • Try to find something in each activity that you can let girls decide or manage.

**Customize It:** If your group wants to expand work on this badge, or simply try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to earn this award. Encourage girls to help plan a ceremony that is meaningful to them, including skits, songs, dances, photos and stories.

• For additional bridging ceremony ideas, check out River Valleys’ Pinterest page: [http://pinterest.com/girlscoutsrv/girl-scout-celebrations/](http://pinterest.com/girlscoutsrv/girl-scout-celebrations/)

**Tips and Tools**
• Prior to the ceremony, complete the two required bridging steps: Pass It On and Look Ahead. These are found in the [Guide to Bridging](https://girlscoutsrv.box.com/shared/static/ef3qs8n6dwyovci6llx0.pdf) packet or in the Brownie Girls Guide to Girl Scouting
• Invite a Junior troop to attend the ceremony and welcome the Brownie girls into Juniors.
• Ensure that your activities are accessible to everyone. Ask in advance if any special accommodations need to be made. If you have questions regarding specific adaptations, please contact River Valleys at 800-845-0787.

**Resources**
• For more information about planning Bridging Ceremonies, check out the Guide to Bridging packet at: [https://girlscoutsrv.box.com/shared/static/ef3qs8n6dwyovci6llx0.pdf](https://girlscoutsrv.box.com/shared/static/ef3qs8n6dwyovci6llx0.pdf)
• For additional information on other Girl Scout Ceremonies, see the Celebrations and Ceremonies packet here: [https://girlscoutsrv.box.com/shared/static/y9278ea2o4t198dyr3tn.pdf](https://girlscoutsrv.box.com/shared/static/y9278ea2o4t198dyr3tn.pdf)
• See the **Additional Resources Section** at the end of this Activity Plan
Getting Started
Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:
• Optional: Girl Scout Promise and Law printed out on poster board

Steps:
1. Welcome everyone to the Bridging Ceremony.
2. Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Use repeat-after-me or say it as a group if girls know it by heart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girl Scout Promise</th>
<th>Girl Scout Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Sing the Brownie Smile Song. Use repeat-after-me or sing as a group, if girls know it by heart.

The 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 wouldn'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!

Activity #1: Brownie Badge Reflections
Award Connection: Bridge to Junior Award Step 1
Time Allotment: 15 minutes
Prep Needed:
• Rehearse with girls ahead of time

Materials Needed:
• none

Steps:
1. Individually or in pairs, have girls choose one badge or Journey Award earned during their time in Brownies to talk about.
2. Ask girls to prepare something to say about what they did to earn the badge and why they enjoyed it. Encourage them to be creative such as performing skits, songs, poems or creating a photo collage or slideshow.
3. Have girls present what they prepared to friends and family.
Activity #2: Girl Scout Troop Recipe
Award Connection: Bridge to Junior Award
Time Allotment: 15 minutes
Prep Needed:
- Gather materials and supplies

Materials Needed:
- Plain M&Ms
- Rice Chex Cereal
- Pretzel sticks
- Mini Marshmallows
- Peanuts
- Cheerios
- Popcorn
- Goldfish or animal crackers
- Chocolate chips or Banana chips
- Kix cereal
- Raisins
- Bowl and Spoon for mixing
- Recipe

Steps:
1. Have girls read recipe and add ingredients one by one.
   - Girl Scouts come in all colors, from all races around the world. Every Girl Scout is a sister, no matter where she is from, the language she speaks, nor the color of her skin. Girl Scouts is for every girl and every color of the rainbow! (Add M&Ms)
   - We have a Promise and a Law. On our honor, we try to do our best and be fair and square. (Add Chex Cereal)
   - Some of us are tall and some of us are small. When we get together, size doesn’t matter at all! (Add Pretzel sticks and mini marshmallows)
   - When we get together, we seem to make circles. We may sit in circles, play circle games, make a Friendship Circle, or sing about circles. You could say that we are well-rounded! (Add Cheerios)
   - When we are busy planning a project or doing a craft, we pop around until we’re done! (Add popcorn)
   - Girl Scouts respect all living things and try to make the world a better place. The earth is our home and we want to keep it safe for everyone! (Add Goldfish or animal crackers)
   - Girl Scouts are “chips off the old block” since we have been around since 1912! Today we are part of an old tradition and proud to be part of the future. (Add chocolate chips or banana chips)
   - We get a kick out of wearing our uniforms, learning new things, helping others, and being together with our friends! (Add Kix Cereal)
   - Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts are fresh and sweet and new. But now we’re becoming Juniors, which may be more fun because we have more experience than you! (Add raisins)
2. Mix and serve later after activities are finished.

Activity #3: Take My Hand
Award Connection: Bridge to Junior Award
Time Allotment: 20 minutes
Prep Needed:
- Decorate a bridge, stepping stones, or an arch
- Set up bridging area
- Make sure each bridging girl has a Girl Scout Junior uniform or at least her fly-up wings
- Optional: rehearse with girls before ceremony

Materials Needed:
- Bridge, stepping stones, or arch (see Additional Ceremony Resources below)
Take my hand in thanking
Our leader and our guide.
With sincere appreciation
For standing by our side.

Take my hand in eagerness
To be an older scout.
We’re proud to be bridging
Is what we’re going to shout.

Take my hand in helping
Other people that we know.
The more we give to others,
The more that we will grow.

Take my hand in learning
To camp on nature’s ground.
Enjoying trails and campfires
With new friends that we’ve found.

Take my hand in giving
Our knowledge of Girl Scouts
To girls we meet and talk to
Who have so many doubts.

(In Unison)

We give our hands in Promise
To hold our country dear,
And abide the Girl Scout Law
Each day throughout the year!

Steps:
1. Begin with all Girl Scouts standing in front of the bridge.
2. Pair up the bridging Girl Scout Brownies with a) each other b) a Junior Girl Scout or c) a parent or adult guest.
3. Have each pair join hands and say a verse of the Girl Scout Junior Take My Hand bridging poem.

   Take my hand in friendship
   I give to you this day.
   Remember all the good times
   We had along the way.

   Take my hand in helping
   Other people that we know.
The more we give to others,
The more that we will grow.

   Take my hand in learning
   To camp on nature’s ground.
Enjoying trails and campfires
With new friends that we’ve found.

   Take my hand in giving
   Our knowledge of Girl Scouts
To girls we meet and talk to
Who have so many doubts.

   (In Unison)

   We give our hands in Promise
   To hold our country dear,
And abide the Girl Scout Law
Each day throughout the year!

4. After they have recited their verse, have each pair cross the bridge together.
5. Junior Leader or Girl Scout gives girls their Brownie Membership Year Star pin and disk, Brownie Wings, and Bridge to Girl Scout Junior Award.

Wrapping Up and Refreshments

Time Allotment: 20 minutes
Prep Needed:
- Set up refreshments before ceremony

Materials Needed:
- Light refreshments (cookies or cup cakes, punch or lemonade)
- Optional: Make New Friends printed on poster board

Steps:
1. Instruct girls to get into a Friendship Circle and invite their guests to join them. Have girls and guests stand in a circle and cross their right arms over their left, holding hands with the person on each side of them.
2. Sing “Make New Friends.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make New Friends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verse One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, the other is gold.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. After the song, ask everyone to be quiet.
4. Assign one girl to start the friendship squeeze by gently squeezing her neighbor’s hand with her right hand. Then, that girl squeezes with her right hand. One by one, each girl passes the squeeze until it...
travels around the circle. When the squeeze returns to the girl who started, she says “Goodbye Sister Girl Scouts” and the girls unwrap and face outward instead of inward.

5. Optional: Have girls make a wish after their hand has been squeezed and before they pass the squeeze along. Girls can also put their right foot out into the circle when they receive the friendship squeeze, so that everyone can see it travel along the circle.

6. Invite girls and their guests to enjoy light refreshments to celebrate!

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas
  - Hold your ceremony outdoors in a park with a real bridge or archway
  - Join with other bridging Brownie troops to have a larger ceremony

- Speaker Ideas
  - Invite a Junior Girl Scout or Leader to speak at your ceremony

Suggestions

Do you have any suggestions to improve this activity plan? Do you have ideas for other possible badge-earning activities? Please email GirlProgram@girlscoutsrv.org.

Family Follow-Up Email

Use the email below as a template to let families know what girls did at the meeting today. Feel free to add additional information, including:

- When and where you will be meeting next
- What activities you will do at the next meeting
- Family help or assistance that is needed
- Supplies or materials that girls will need to bring to the next meeting
- Reminders about important dates and upcoming activities

Hello Girl Scout Families:

We had a wonderful time today celebrating the end of our second year as Girl Scout Brownies!

We had fun:

- Reflecting on our accomplishments, badges and Journey award as Brownies
- Making a Girl Scout Troop recipe and snack
- Bridging to Girl Scout Juniors

Continue the fun at home:

- Ask your girl to share her favorite memories or activities as a Brownie and find out what she is looking forward to as a Girl Scout Junior.
- Get your Girl Scout to help teach you a poem or recipe she learned.
- Look through the Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting with your new Junior to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your new Junior to Girl Scouts!
Creating a Bridge and Other Props
Small, portable bridges are available for checkout through Girl Scout service centers. Call River Valleys’ 800-845-0787 number and ask to reserve one for your ceremony.

Try making your own bridging ceremony bridge. This example is easy to transport and very small for storage. There is no building or construction needed at all.

Materials:
• 2 yards of rainbow fabric, cut into strips as shown
• 2 daisy garlands (6’ long each), cut into 8 pieces each
• 8 wooden dowels
• 8 plastic tumblers
• 6 lbs. of plaster of paris
• 8 pipe cleaners

This bridge can be used from year to year. Take four of the dowels and cut a few inches off them to make them a little shorter for the ends. Mix the plaster of paris and fill the tumblers about 2/3 full, then insert the dowels when it starts to set. Then use the pipe cleaners to tie the strips of rainbow fabric to the tops of the dowels. Next, tie a bunch of daisies to the dowels using the same pipe cleaners, and put more daisies in the tumblers. This is easy to set up since it is all tied together.

From: http://www.momsminivan.com/extras/bridge.html

For additional ideas, try:
• A park with a small bridge or archway
• Girls can join a circle or horseshoe made up of girls in the next age level.
• Overturn a folding card table so the legs face up. Attach streamers from the floor to one leg, across to the opposite leg, and back to the ground. Repeat on the other side to form the “sides” of the bridge.
• To create a “stream” with “stepping stones” for younger girls, paint a blue stream and several stepping stones on a large, flat piece of cardboard.
• Find even more ideas on ScoutingWeb.com under “Bridging”

Bridging Kits
The River Valleys shop has bridging kits for purchase. Each girl’s kit includes a bridging patch, a membership star and disk for this year, a Girl Scout pencil, a bridging certificate and a skill-building set of badge requirements for the next level. To purchase a kit, visit a River Valleys Shop or shop online.

Alternate Bridging Ceremony Idea
Wings to Fly
Prep needed:
• Make tree branch and nest
• Make wings
• Remind parents and guardians to have Girl Scout Junior vests ready
• Practice the ceremony

Materials needed:
• A large piece of cardboard to paint a tree branch and nest onto
• Bridge, stepping stones, or arch
• Cardboard wings for each girl

Nest: Paint a big nest on a tree branch on one long side of a cardboard refrigerator box. Make it big enough to cover the entire cardboard piece. Brace the “nest” on the ends so it will stand up (a triangle of 2x4s works great).
Wings: Have each girl in the troop create her own “wings” by choosing what kind of bird she would like to be. Wings are worn across the back of each girl, covering the back of their arms, and extending about 6” beyond their fingertips. To wear the wings, the girls put their arms through loops of tape or straps that are attached to the underside of the wings.

- Cut a basic wing outline out of heavy paper. Wings should be about 4 to 6 feet long.
- Each girl paints both sides of her own wings like real birds’ wings or design their own.
- After the paint is dry, cover the underside of the wings with clear contact paper. This adds strength to the wings and keeps paint from rubbing off on clothing (this side will be on the girls’ back).
- Make handle/loops – two pieces of heavy duty tape, one 15” and one 9”.
- Center the shorter piece on the longer piece, sticky sides together. Attach loops on the underside (contact paper side) of each set of wings, at about where the mid-upper arm and wrist will be. At the ceremony, girls can re-tape loops over their arms.
- At the ceremony, tape top of “wings” to the center back of the girls’ Girl Scout vests to hold up the wings.

Ceremony: All the girls duck down behind the “nest” and one-by-one pop-up, say their letter lines and pop down again. (The girls may want to write their own line).

- J – is for jumpy, happy kids who play with friends.
- U – is for united–that our Troop stays together to play games and have fun.
- N – is for nature that we share and care for.
- I – is for important interests that make us more alike than different.
- O– is for overnights that are exciting and super-cali-fragil-istic-exbe-ali-docious!
- R – is for respect for myself and others and the world around me.
- S – is for songs we enjoy and love to sing.

All the Girls stand together and say: Together we make GIRL SCOUT JUNIORS! We are ready to cross the bridge to more exciting adventures! (Girls form a Brownie Ring behind the nest)

Leader:

Two years have passed since you first stood
By the magic pool and learned you could
Do lots of things in a Girl Scout way
And truly live by the words you say.
In commitment to promises and showing your respect
Satisfaction from working together is what you expect.
So Girl Scout Brownies fly on and find
That Girl Scout Juniors are true and kind.
Now we give you Brownie wings,
That you may fly to bigger things!

All: Now it is time to say goodbye. Break the ring and out you fly.

- First girl is GENTLY pushed out of the nest by the second girl, then goes across the bridge and is met by one of her leaders and a Girl Scout Junior who help her take off her wings and Girl Scout Brownie vest, and put on her Girl Scout Junior vest.
- Leader gives her the Girl Scout handshake and her awards.
- Each girl then does the same. The last girl in the nest can be pushed out by the narrating leader OR she can “trip” out of the nest herself.
- New Girl Scout Juniors stand together in front of the stage.

Leader: Please congratulate and welcome Girl Scout Junior Troop ________.