

BROWNIE GIVE BACK BADGE

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they’ll know how businesses help others and how they can do the same thing.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law and sing the Brownie Smile song. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Brownie Smile song lyrics poster
20 minutes	Giving Back Looks Like... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls learn about what it means to give back. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Chart paper <input type="checkbox"/> Plain or construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> Coloring Utensils
25 minutes	Community Improvement Survey and Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls create a survey to give while selling cookies. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Involvement Survey (1 for each girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Information about cookie proceeds <input type="checkbox"/> Poster board <input type="checkbox"/> Markers or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack
15 minutes	Thank You Cards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls create cards to give to their customers. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardstock <input type="checkbox"/> Markers or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Stickers
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster and (optional) and Brownie Smile song lyrics poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and sing the Brownie Smile song.

Activity #1: Giving Back Looks Like...

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Find out about businesses that give back

Materials Needed: Chart paper; plain or construction paper; coloring utensils

Prep Needed:

- Research some local businesses that give back to the community (for example, Target).
- Create an example of a “give back” coupon



1. Ask girls “What does it mean to give back?” Explain that giving back is a way of helping people or supporting causes that you care about. Individuals and businesses can give back to their communities or to specific causes. List some examples you know of businesses that give back to their communities.
2. Tell girls that there are several different ways people and businesses/organizations can give back. For example, the United Way has many volunteers within the community. Target gives money to schools. Other companies may donate items such as food or school supplies to people in need.
3. On a piece of chart paper, draw a line down the middle. On one side write “community” and on another side write “home.” Help the girls brainstorm different ways that they can give back to their community and how they can give back at home.
4. Pass out paper to the girls and let them know that they will be creating a “Give Back Coupon” to give to a family member. This could be something such as a chore they do not normally do (like sweep the floor, sort the laundry, help wash the dishes).
5. Provide time for the girls to create the coupons. If there’s time, allow the girls to share their coupons with everyone.

Activity #2: Community Improvement Survey + Snack Chat

Time: 25 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Set a giving goal; Step 3 – Involve your customers; Step 4 – Practice giving back

Materials Needed: Community Improvement Survey; information about cookie proceeds; poster board; markers or pens; healthy snack

Prep Needed:

- Print copies of Community Improvement Survey (at the end of the activity plan, one per girl).
- Look at the current Cookie Program materials for information about how cookie proceeds are distributed. For additional assistance, contact your troop cookie manager or service unit cookie manager.

1. Now that the girls have learned about giving back, it’s time to think about their own community. While eating snack, ask the girls about how they think their community could be improved and write their ideas on the poster. Think of places to give money from their cookie proceeds, give their time, or give items that are needed.
2. Once the girls have generated a few ideas, have them narrow it down to the top five. This can be done through process of elimination, focusing on what’s realistic or doable, or voting.
3. For each of the top five ideas, have the group determine a goal, such as giving \$100 to the local animal shelter, spending 5 hours cleaning up a park, collecting 25 pounds of food for a food bank, etc.
4. Have the girls write the top five ideas on their surveys under the “Community Improvement Ideas” column.
5. Explain that they will take this sheet with them when they sell cookies in the community. They will ask customers what they think is the most important community improvement idea. They may also ask their family, friends, neighbors, and teachers. Show girls how to make tally marks in the voting column of the survey. Girls can make their first tally mark by choosing for themselves which project they like best.
6. Ask the girls to bring back their surveys to the next meeting and share what their customers said. Tally the votes as a whole to decide what should be the troop’s way to give back to the community.

Activity #3: Thank You Cards

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Tell your cookie customers how they helped

Materials Needed: Cardstock; markers or pens; stickers

Prep Needed:

- Create an example card for the girls.
1. Have girls decorate thank you card to give to their customers when they sell cookies.
 2. Inside of each card, ask girls to write a brief note. Examples include:
 - How they are giving back the community.



- How buying cookies makes the world a better place.
- How being in Girl Scouts improves their community.

Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Practice giving back by volunteering in your local community.
 - Visit a local non-profit organization and learn how they work to make a difference in the community.
 - Participate in a cookie booth as a troop and involve customers in your giving back plans.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite an older Girl Scout troop to share how they have used their troop cookie money to help their community.
 - Invite a representative of an organization to tell the troop how they help people in the community.



Community Improvement Survey

Community Improvement Ideas	Votes

