



## SAMPLE: FIRST FOUR JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT MEETINGS

### Objective

The goal of your first four Junior Girl Scout meetings is to renew old friendships and to forge new ones. Returning girls and adults will welcome new members. The troop will establish a pattern of girl/adult partnership which will carry through the year. Girls will also plan for their investiture and rededication ceremony.

### Introduction

What follows are basic outlines for your first four Junior Girl Scout meetings. They are designed to help you get started, and can be changed or modified to fit the needs and interests of the girls.

### Resources

Suggestions include but are not limited to the following:

- *Agent of Change* Journey Book
- GSUSA's Journey 1 Girl Scout Junior Page  
[http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your\\_world/junior.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your_world/junior.asp)
- Junior Facilitator Set
- The girls
- Your ideas
- Other adults in your troop
- The internet

### Helpful Hints

- Use themes to help organize your activities
- Keep track of girls' comments and ideas from throughout the meetings – they have good ideas!
- Work with the adults in your troop; get them involved
- As girls progress through Girl Scouting, they are to take a more active role in making decisions. Junior Girl Scouts are able to grab hold of this concept when deciding on the troop's future.



## MEETING ONE

**Theme:** Getting to Know Each Other

### START-UP ACTIVITY

#### Jumpin' Jivin' Junior Books (part 1)

Materials

- White paper
- Pencils, pens, colored pencils, markers
- Anything else fun with which to decorate the pages

Instructions

- As the girls arrive, give them each several sheets of white paper
- Fold the sheets in half, forming a book
- The girls should chat with each other, finding out interesting things about each other (favorite shows, pets, siblings, hobbies, etc)
- As they chat, they should write down what they learn about each other on the pages
- They can also collect signatures, quotes, etc
- These books will be used in other activities in other meetings, so make sure they leave some pages blank

### OPENING

#### Introductions

- Introduce yourself and your co-leaders
- Have each girl introduce herself – name, grade, favorite something (animal, ice cream, color, etc)
- Have any adults who are present introduce themselves as well

#### Quiet Sign

Most girls should just need a reminder of the Quiet Sign.

- When the leader raises her hand (either regularly, or with the Girl Scout symbol), it is a sign that she needs the group's quiet attention.
- When the girls see the leader's Quiet Sign, they should raise their hands as well, and be quiet.
- "When the hand goes up, the mouth goes shut."
- Explain why it's important that the girls give their attention – important announcement, next instruction, too noisy, emergency, etc

#### How to Open Troop Meetings

This is the first decision your troop will make for the year. You could start with a traditional Flag Ceremony and recite the Girl Scout Promise. Or a few returning members could lead the group in a favorite opening activity from previous years. Or you could do something completely new and/or different. It's up to you and the girls.



### **Make New Friends Song**

Teach the girls the following song. If they know it, teach them to sing it in a round.

*Make new friends, but keep the old.  
One is silver and the other gold.  
A circle's round. It has no end.  
That's how long I want to be your friend.*

## **BUSINESS**

### **Get-to-Know-You Game – Link**

Materials: room to move around

Instructions

- Set Up: one girl stands at one end of the area while the rest of the girls stand in a line or a bunch opposite her
- The girl standing by herself will introduce herself and say something unique about herself (i.e. “My name is Bethany and I play soccer,” or “My name is Taneesha and I have a little sister.”)
- If someone in the group has that “unique something” in common with the first girl, she will yell, “LINK!” and run to join arms with the first girl. It is okay if multiple people have that “unique something” in common, but only one girl can link arms at a time.
- The girl who linked will stay “linked” with the first girl as she introduces herself and says something unique about herself. Again, if someone shares that “unique something,” she will yell, “LINK!” and run to join arms with the second girl.
- Keep repeating these steps until all the girls have introduced themselves and linked arms with each other.
- The last girl will have to say things about herself until she has something in common with the first girl – they will link arms so that the group forms a circle.
- Moral of the Story – no matter where you came from, whether this is your first year in Girl Scouts or your 50<sup>th</sup>, if you had friends in the troop or are new to the group, you have at least one thing in common with at least one other person here; we are all linked together. We will work together this year to achieve goals and form relationships. This was just our first step!

### **Troop Government**

Discuss troop government options and select a form of troop government. Use the *Agent of Change* Journey Book and the Junior Facilitator Set for reference. If appropriate, elect officers.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Brainstorming**

Talk about what the girls would like to do during the Girl Scout year. Bring resources for the girls’ reference: copies of the *Agent of Change* Journey Book, service project ideas, Junior badge materials, council patch programs, etc. If the troop is large, assign a committee to look over different resources and report back to the group with recommendations. Discuss and keep track of the ideas (perhaps use a large piece of paper for all to see). Vote on one activity to start the year.



## **Girl Scout Law Relay**

### **Materials**

- Large index cards with one part of the Girl Scout Law written on each card (10 cards total) – make a couple sets
- Space to move around
- Space to assemble the cards – a table top or a wall (use masking tape) or a bulletin board (with push pins)
- Designate a starting line

### **Instructions**

- Mix the cards up within each set ; place them face down at the starting line
- Divide the troop up into two or three teams
- The first girl picks up a card and runs it to the assembly area for her team. She places the card there, and runs back to her team.
- Next player takes a card, runs up, places it in the proper place (in relation to the first card), runs back.
- Each girl in turns adds another card until all the cards have made it to the assembly area. If a girl feels a card is in the incorrect spot, she can change it during her turn.
- The first team to construct the Girl Scout Law in the correct sequence wins the game.

## **CLEAN-UP**

Girl Scouts always leave the place looking better than how they found it. Ask each girl to be responsible for her own place and her own supplies. Or, you could assign easy kapers (sweeping, collecting trash, pushing in chairs, etc).

## **CLOSING**

### **How to Close Troop Meetings**

As a troop, decide how you would like to close troop meetings (just like you did with opening troop meetings). You could do a traditional Friendship Circle, or you could ask a few of the returning members to lead the group in a favorite closing activity from previous years. Or you could do something completely different! Whatever you choose today should work for the rest of the troop year.



## MEETING TWO

**Theme:** Getting Started

### START-UP ACTIVITY

#### Jumpin' Jivin' Junior Books (part 2)

Materials

- The books the girls started at the last meeting
- Pens, pencils, colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc.
- Fun decorations for the pages
- Magazines
- Glue

Instructions

- As they arrive, give the girls their books from the first meeting.
- Write the Girl Scout Promise on one of the blank pages.
- Write the Girl Scout Law on another of the blank pages.
- Have the girls make visual representations of how they follow the Promise and Law. They could draw pictures, write sentences, or use magazines to make a collage... be creative!

### OPENING

Open the meeting based on your decision from the last meeting.

### BUSINESS

#### Troop Dues

Using the troop government system you decided upon at the last meeting, start a discussion about troop dues. The following questions should be helpful:

- What are troop dues?
- What will we need money for? (Remind them of their ideas for activities)
- How much money will we need to do those things?
- How else can we build our troop treasury?
- What is a reasonable amount to collect at each meeting?
- How can the girls earn their dues?

### ACTIVITIES

#### Kaper Chart

With the girls, discuss responsibility and how the girls can participate in planning and conducting troop meetings. Introduce a Kaper Chart (if you already have one made, great; if not, work with the girls to develop it and have it ready for the next meeting). A Kaper Chart for Junior meetings could include Opening Leader, Closing Leader, Attendance Taker, Dues Collector, Song Leader, and (of course), clean up kapers. Talk together about what jobs would be appropriate for this troop and decide how to make the Kaper Chart.



### **Journey Activities – The Power of One Award**

The *Agent of Change* Journey has three awards: The Power of One Award, The Power of Team Award, and The Power of Community Award. Start working on The Power of One Award tonight, so that each girl can receive a fully-earned recognition at the investiture and rededication ceremony. Please see the *Agent of Change* Journey Book for specific activities.

### **CLEAN-UP**

Based on your earlier discussion, clean up your area.

### **CLOSING**

Close the meeting based on your decision from the last meeting.



## MEETING THREE

**Theme:** Junior Girl Scouts

### START-UP ACTIVITY

#### Jumpin' Jivin' Junior Books (part 3)

Materials

- The books the girls started at the last meeting
- Pens, pencils, colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc.
- Fun decorations
- Magazines
- Glue
- Colored construction paper
- Camera

Instructions

- As they arrive, give the girls their books from the first meeting.
- Use the construction paper to make a cover for the Junior books.
- Use the decorations and magazines, etc to make the cover unique and creative.
- Adult Responsibility: Regarding the camera – take a group picture! Try to have the photo developed and a copy printed for each girl. Bring this to the next meeting.

### OPENING

Open the meeting based on your decision from the first meeting.

### BUSINESS

#### Investiture and Rededication Ceremony

It is time to start thinking about this ceremony. Explain to the girls what it is and what it involves.

- Decide on decorations (you should make them at the next meeting)
- Discuss who to invite and what the invitations should include
- Brainstorm about songs, games, activities, or poems to include

#### Ceremony Invitations

Materials

- Paper
- Pencils, colored pencils, markers, etc
- Other materials appropriate for invitations (stickers, stencils, etc)

Instructions

- Have the girls make invitations for the ceremony you're planning
- Allow the girls to make several each

### ACTIVITIES

#### Journey Activity – The Power of One Award

Please see the *Agent of Change* Journey Book for specific activities.



***Junior Smile Song***

*I've got something in my pocket  
That's what I used to say  
We spent our time so aimlessly  
At home, at school, at play.  
Now every day is special  
We're searching, who am I?  
We can only find that out  
If you let us have a try!*

**CLEAN-UP**

Use the Kaper Chart to clean up.

**CLOSING**

Close the meeting based on your decision from the first meeting.



## MEETING FOUR

**Theme:** Getting Ready for the Investiture and Rededication Ceremony

### START-UP ACTIVITY

#### Jumpin' Jivin' Junior Books (part 4)

##### Materials

- The books the girls started at the last meeting
- Pens, pencils, colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc.
- Glue
- The copies of the group photo

##### Instructions

- As the girls arrive, give them their books.
- Also give each of them a copy of the group photo.
- Glue the photo onto a blank page. Somewhere near the photo, have the girls write the names of all the girls in their troop (in the photo), and the troop number and date.
- Let them decorate it as they see fit.

### OPENING

Open the meeting based on your decision from the first meeting.

### BUSINESS

#### Planning the Investiture and Rededication Ceremony

Explain that you'll use this meeting to get ready for the investiture and rededication ceremony. Help everyone understand that every idea is a good idea.

- Choose songs, games, or other activities to use at the ceremony. Remind the girls of the songs they've learned at meetings already.
- Choose a snack to serve at the ceremony. Simple refreshments should be served at the ceremony's end. Teach the girls that they will serve their guests before they serve themselves.
- Explain what will happen at the ceremony.
  - Flag Ceremony with Pledge of Allegiance and Girl Scout Promise
  - Sing Junior song(s) and/or play Junior game(s) or read/recite Junior poem(s)
  - Recognition
    - Leader explains to guests that the girls have been learning about the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and explains the *Agent of Change* Journey
    - Leader presents each girl with her first recognition, The Power of One Award
  - Investiture and Rededication
    - New Juniors will receive their Junior Girl Scout pin; Girl Scout handshake
    - Returning Juniors will receive their (optional) rededication patch; Girl Scout handshake
  - Refreshments
  - Clean-Up
  - Closing Activity; invite guests to join



### **Practice the Ceremony**

Do a quick “dry run” of the ceremony, so that everyone is familiar with how the ceremony will work.

### **ACTIVITIES**

#### **Journey Activity – The Power of One Award**

Please see the *Agent of Change* Journey Book for specific activities.

### **Decorations**

Make the decorations you decided upon at the last meeting. Be sure to bring the appropriate materials.

### **CLEAN-UP**

Use the Kaper Chart to clean up.

### **CLOSING**

Close the meeting based on your decision from the first meeting.