

TIPS, TRICKS, AND MORE

Tips, Tricks, and More

For All Girl Scouts
Daisy Girl Scout Tips, Tricks, and More
Brownie Girl Scout Tips, Tricks, and More
Junior Girl Scout Tips, Tricks, and More
STUDIO 2B_{sm}

FOR ALL GIRL SCOUTS

Service Projects

It is always a good time for a service project. Some ideas for the upcoming fall season include: raking leaves, visiting seniors, and helping with a Thanksgiving dinner at a local community center or shelter. Cards can be made for military personnel stationed at home in the United States or overseas, or you may also choose to make cards for those who serve in your own community. Stretch your imagination for ideas. Girls of all ages have so many opportunities to give back to their community in the form of service.

This is just a sampling of ideas for autumn. Resources for more ideas include other Girl Scout leaders, newspapers, community Web sites, and the Girl Scout VISTA Web sites. Have fun and enjoy autumn!

DAISY GIRL SCOUT TIPS, TRICKS, AND MORE

Animal Games

These nature-themed games can be played indoors or out.



Noah's Ark

The goal is for each Girl Scout to find your mate amid the herd of cavorting beasts and birds on Noah's Ark. Begin by counting the number of girls in your group. Then, make a list of animals half as long as the list of the number of girls.

Write the name of each animal on two 3" x 5" cards. When you finish there should be as many cards in your hand as there are players in the group – one card for each player. If you have an odd number of players, write the name of one of the animals on three cards, making a threesome to accommodate the extra player.

Shuffle the cards and pass them out. Each girl reads her card and becomes the animal whose name is on the card, keeping her identity a secret. Now collect the cards again.

On signal, the players all begin acting out the sounds, shapes, and typical movements of their animals, with the intention of attracting their mates. The action is hilarious when all the animals begin baying, croaking, screeching, whistling, strutting, flapping, leaping, and posing. They can make all the noise they want, but talking is prohibited – each animal must attract its counterpart solely by the authenticity of her behavior. The game ends in happy reunions and much laughter.



Bat and Moth

Have the group form a circle 10-15 feet across. Choose one girl to be the bat, then have her come to the center of the circle and blindfold her. Designate three to five other girls as moths and ask them also to come to the center of the circle. The bat tries to catch the moths.

Whenever the bat calls out "Bat!" the moths call back "Moth!" Tell the moths: "Every time you hear the bat call out 'Bat!' it's her radar signal hitting you. She sends it out to see if there's anything out there. Her cry bounces off you and returns to her like a radar signal. The return signal is the word 'Moth!' that you shout. Now she knows moths are near – and she's ready to eat!"

The bat tracks down and tags the moths by listening to their responses. It takes good concentration to be a successful bat. Add some excitement by bring two bats into the circle at once.

From *Sharing Nature with Children* by Joseph Cornell



Paper Plate Masks

Paper plates and a bit of playfulness are all it takes to carry out this project.

You'll need:

- Paper plates
 - Heavy string or ribbon
 - Crayons or markers
 - Feathers, fake fure, yarn, or other trim (use your imagination!)
 - Children's blunt-edged scissors
1. Instruct girls to draw any type of face they want on a paper plate.
 2. Cut out the eyes.
 3. Poke a small hole into each side of the paper plate and tie a piece of string to each. Help girls put their masks on by tying the string ends securely around the head.

From [The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders](#) (available in our council shop)

BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT TIPS, TRICKS, AND MORE

No-Sew Cloth Coasters

Here are some no-sew cloth coasters that are fun to make. They also make great gifts! These coasters can be filled with a blend of spices, and they emit a pleasant fragrance when you place a hot cup on them. Here's how to assemble a set of four.

Materials list:

- Fabric
- Scissors
- ¼ yard of printed fabric
- ¼ yard of tightly woven muslin
- 9- by 12-inch piece of felt (for padding and heat absorption)
- Tacky glue.

Mix together in a small bowl:

- 2 tablespoons of ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons of ground cloves
- 2 teaspoons of ground nutmeg

Directions:

1. Cut out eight 5-inch squares from the printed fabric, four 4-inch squares from the felt, and eight 4-inch squares from the muslin.
2. Place 4 printed fabric squares right side down on the table. Top each one first with a felt square, then with a muslin square.
3. Sprinkle a spoonful of the spice mixture on the center of each muslin square, and apply glue along the edges of the muslin. Top with another muslin square, lightly pressing the edges together so they will hold.
4. Apply glue to the edges of the printed fabric that extend beyond the muslin. Top with another printed fabric square, again lightly pressing the edges together. Let the glue dry, and the coasters are ready to use.

From *Family Fun Magazine*, November 2001, page 33.

Ready, Set, Go! ...

Ready, Set, Go! is a kit with a full year of planned activities for Brownie Girl Scout groups! Just open the folders and for the planned program. Activities for winter include: *I Care* and *The Night Sky*.

- *I Care*...be a secret pal to someone. Think of nice things you can do for your secret pal and follow through on those ideas.
- *The Night Sky*...go stargazing with someone who knows the planets and stars. Try to find the North Star, the Big Dipper, the Milky Way, and other constellations.

Ready, Set, Go! is available for purchase at the Girl Scout shops.

Nature Activities



Create-a-Bug

Use easy-to-find natural materials and make your own bugs. They can be either their natural color or painted, and hung on a mobile, or in a window. Try creating your own fantastic bug, or follow nature's design.

Here's how...

Materials needed:

Maple tree seeds
Sticks from trees
Ginko tree leaves
Other seeds, leaves, twigs, and more as nature provides
All-purpose glue
String (optional)
Paint (optional)

 **Dragonflies**

- Use straight sticks, 3-4 inches long, and 4 maple tree seeds.
- Very small seeds or beads can be glued on one end of the stick for eyes.
- With green eyes, red bodies and gold wings, dragonflies make excellent holiday tree ornaments.

S.Bailey, 1995

 **Butterflies**

- Find ginkgo leaves with a notch in the center.
- Find a straight stick equal to, or shorter than, the length of the leaves.
- Glue two leaves of equal size on either side of the stick.
- The wings can be glued flat or at an angle to each other.
- Leaf stems can be used for antennae.

S.Bailey, 1995

 **Caterpillars**

- Use straight or wiggly sticks.
- Paint in outrageous colors.

From <http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/ythfacts/allyr/ornament.htm>

Bug Food

These delicious treats only look like bugs. Try them – they're fun and easy to make.



Ants on a Log

- Slice stalks of celery.
- Spread peanut butter in the groove.
- Sprinkle with raisins.

Variations: Aphids-on-a-log (sunflower seeds); gnats-on-a-log (currents)



Bee Bread

1 cup corn syrup
1 1/4 cup powdered sugar
1 cup peanut butter
1 1/4 cup powdered milk

- Combine ingredients
- Roll into 1-2" balls.
- Roll the balls in powdered sugar to keep them from sticking together.



Dirty Worms

1 bag chocolate chips
1 bag peanut butter or butterscotch chips
2 cans chow mein noodles

- Melt chips in the microwave, or in a pan over a low flame.
- Stir in chow mein noodles until well-coated.
- Spread on wax paper or aluminum foil to harden.
- Break into serving-size pieces.



Bug Juice

Mix a yellow drink (citrus pop or lemonade) with a blue one (Kool-aid). The result will be a radioactive shade of green.

JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT TIPS, TRICKS, AND MORE

Forces of Nature

While walking in the rain, have the girls observe what happens to the raindrops after they hit the ground. First they make everything wet. Then, as it rains more and more, puddles form. Where are puddles the biggest? Why are they larger there than in other places? Can the girls find a small stream that has been formed by the puddles? Follow the stream and watch it grow.

This experiment is from the Junior Girl Scout badge *Science in Everyday Life* and shows how water can erode soil and even rocks. After all, the Grand Canyon began with a stream of water.



Build a “mountain” with soil outdoors or observe a pile of earth at a construction site over a period of time. What are some of the patterns of erosion that develop?



Experiment with water flow as a force of erosion at the beach, in a sandbox, or at a “stream table” in a science museum. What are some of the patterns that develop? Can you change them by diverting the water?



Make a Rainbow

When the sun comes out after a rainstorm, look for a rainbow in the opposite direction from the sun. If the sun is in the west, the rainbow will be in the east. A rainbow is not really shaped like an arc. It’s actually a circle, but we can only see part of it. The rest is hidden behind the horizon.

You can create a rainbow in a bowl. Just pour a little whole milk into a bowl and add 1 drop each of blue, green, red, and yellow food colorings. Coat the end of a toothpick with a drop of dishwashing liquid and dip it into the bowl. Instantly the different food colorings will swirl around, creating a kaleidoscope of rainbow colors.

Taken from *Family Fun* magazine, April 2002, page 17.

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Jeans Sit-Up

It's an old Girl Scout tradition that Girl Scouts make sit-upons - practical pads that make sitting on the ground or on a log a lot more comfortable. Instructions on how to make a traditional sit-upon: two pieces of waterproof material laced together with newspaper or, if you're lucky, foam padding in the middle. The girls might like to make this unique sit-upon out of an old pair of jeans.

You need:

Sewing machine or a sturdy needle and strong thread

Vinyl fabric or old jeans

Polyester fiberfill

Something for a belt, such as rope, ribbon, or a long piece of leather

Instructions:

- Cut the legs off an old pair of jeans about 1" from crotch. Turn inside-out and stitch the leg holes closed.
- Turn right-side out. Stitch along top of the waistband. You may have to skip over the belt loops and glue those areas.
- Open the zipper and fill with polyester fiberfill. Close the zipper.
- Thread your belt through the loops. Tie in front. Feed back through the front loops to the side and tie the ends together to make a handle.

(From <http://makingfriends.com/situpon.htm>)

More Activities!

Visit studio2b.org or reference the large collection of [STUDIO 2B_{sm} Focus Books](#) for ideas!