

Brownie Girl-Led Experience

All activities in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience build on the three processes – that is, how girls go about doing their activities and how they interact with each other) that makes Girl Scouting unique from school and other extracurricular activities.

Activities are Girl-Led:

“Girl Led” is just what it sounds like –girls play an active part in figuring out the what, where, when, how and why of their activities. Remember – **you want the girls to take a major role in planning and executing this leadership experience.** The girls may first want you to come up with the ideas and plans. But hold your ground! This is the girls’ experience, and they’re up to the challenge. Here’s what girl-led might look like with Brownies.

- Girls brainstorm a list of possibilities.
- Let the girls select from some choices.
- Let girls select activities (trips, crafts, etc.) that can enhance their Girl Scout journey.
- Allow the girls to learn from plans that don't go exactly as planned.

Girls Learn by Doing:

As girls take part in meaningful activities—instead of simply watching them—you assist girls with hands on activities that follow discussion and reflection on their experience. This makes learning far more meaningful, memorable, and long-lasting. **When girls learn by doing, they can better connect their experiences to their own lives, applying their learning experiences to their lives both in and out of Girl Scouting.** Here’s what learning by doing might look like with Brownies:

- Girls would make a TV script of their own about the environment and act it out.
- Girls discuss and reflect what they learned by doing a project.
- Girls evaluate their projects.
- Provide active experiences to reinforce content; like a trip to the recycling center.

Girls engage in Cooperative Learning:

Girls share knowledge, skills, and experiences in an atmosphere of respect and cooperation, working together on a common goal that engages each individual girl's diverse talents. In cooperative learning environments, people learn faster, process information more efficiently, and are better able to retain the information learned. **In your role as a volunteer, you want to structure cooperative-learning activities that will nurture healthy, diverse relationships**, and also give continuous feedback to girls on those learning experiences. To do this with Brownies you can try:

- Provide opportunities for group projects.
- Provide opportunities to create their own team rules.
- Provide guidance as they learn to act as a team.
- Allow time to work out their own solutions to problems before you offer your opinion.

These three processes promote the fun and friendship that, for nearly 100 years, have been integral to Girl Scouting. But they do even more! When girls lead, when they learn by doing, and when they engage in cooperative learning, the fifteen leadership outcomes (or benefits) are far more likely to be understood and achieved.