When you have earned the Clover petal, you will know how to use resources wisely, just like Clover.
Purpose: When girls have earned this petal, they’ll know to use resources wisely.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

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 meeting.
2. Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Use repeat-after-me or say it as a group if girls know it by heart.
3. Sing the Girl Scout Daisy Song. Use repeat-after-me or sing as a group if girls know it by heart.

Activity #1: Story Time

Time Allotment: 15 minutes
Prep Needed:
- Find a book that demonstrates using resources wisely (see Resources section above for ideas).

Materials Needed:
- Book about using resources wisely

Steps:
1. Read a story about using resources wisely (or a book about what happens when you do not use resources wisely) aloud to the girls.
2. Discuss the story. Ask girls questions based on the story you read. Example questions:
   - What was the resource being used in the book?
   - Did the characters use resources wisely? What happened if they did/didn’t use them wisely?
   - Why is it important to use resources wisely?
   - What was your favorite part of the story?

Activity #2: Recycling Challenge

Time Allotment: 15 minutes
Prep Needed:
- Gather materials and supplies
- Spread recyclables around the floor of your meeting room

Materials Needed:
- Various recyclable materials including: paper, plastic bottles, glass bottles, aluminum cans, etc.
- Small recycling bins or a recyclables sorter (note: You can use small trashcans, cardboard boxes, paper grocery bags or even trash bags. Be sure to labels your “bins” with words and pictures so the girls know which one is which.)

Steps:
1. Explain to the girls that a great way to use resources wisely is to recycle items. When you put items in a recycling bin, they are broken down and used to make new items. While they are sometimes recycled into the same kind of item, they may be made into something completely different.
2. Explain that your meeting space has been “polluted” and it’s up to the girls to clean it up. Split the girls into two teams and line up on opposite sides of the room.

3. The teams will compete in a relay race to clean the meeting space. To start, a girl from each team will go pick up one piece of trash and put it in the correct recycling bin. She will then go back to her team and the next girl will go until all the trash is cleaned up. After all the items are picked up, go through all the types of recyclables and make sure they are in the correct container. If they aren’t, have the girls decide as a group where they should go.

**Activity #3: Snack Chat**

**Time Allotment:** 15 minutes

**Steps:**

1. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about.
   - In the story we read, we learned about a natural resource that we conserve. Can you think of other resources we use? How can we use less of them?
   - Does anyone know of an item that can’t be recycled and has to go in the trash? Can you think of a way to re-use it rather than throwing it away?
   - Does everyone have a recycling bin at home?

**Activity #4: Promise Pals**

**Time Allotment:** 10 minutes

**Prep Needed:**
- None

**Materials Needed:**
- None

**Steps:**

1. Split girls into small groups of two to four girls.
2. Have each girl share with her group one thing that she is going to do at home or at school use resources wisely, such as:
   - Recycle items rather than throwing them away
   - Make a craft or gift out of clean “garbage”
   - Use less of a natural resource, like wood, energy or water
3. Have each girl make a promise to the other girls in her group identifying how she will use resources wisely. The girls in the group are now Promise Pals.
4. If possible, have the small groups check in with one another at another troop meeting to make sure they kept their promises.

**Activity #5: Meeting Clover**

**Time Allotment:** 10 minutes

**Prep Needed:**
- Print off copies of Clover coloring sheets.
- Gather materials and supplies.

**Materials Needed:**
- Clover coloring sheets (1 per girl)
- Colored pencils, crayons or markers
Steps:

1. Have girls color their Clover coloring sheets.
2. Girls can write (or have an adult help them write) what they promised to do from Activity #4. This coloring sheet will serve as a reminder of the girl’s promise.

Wrapping Up

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:
   • Optional: Make New Friends printed on poster board

Steps:

1. Instruct girls to get into a Friendship Circle. Have girls 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.”
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.

More to Explore

   • Field Trip Ideas:
     • Visit your local recycling center.
     • Visit a local or state park and talk to the rangers or Parks and Recreation staff about how they use resources wisely.
   • Speaker Ideas
     • Invite a forester to talk about taking care of trees, water and other natural resources.
     • Invite someone who was alive during the Great Depression or World War II to talk about why and how they had to conserve resources during that time.

Suggestions

Do you have any suggestions to improve this activity plan? Do you have ideas for other possible petal and Journey-earning activities? Please email mlavoy@girlscoutsneny.org.