

Brownie My Family Story Badge



The *My Family Story* badge will give Brownies an opportunity to have a better understanding of what traditions are, learn more about the communities they belong to and about what makes these communities special. They will also learn more about their own family story.

Time needed to complete this badge: Between and 1.5 hours and 2 hours

Supplies needed: white paper, a pencil, art supplies (markers, colored pencils), optional art supplies (old magazines and paint), a copy of the coat of arms sheet (page 3) or a poster board/cardboard

1. Family Portrait!

There are so many different types of families! Who is included in your family? Take a moment to showcase your creative side and create a picture of your family. You can draw your picture, or make a collage using photos. You can also paint or use colored pencils if you have them available. Remember, Girl Scouts use our resources wisely so try to exhaust the supplies that you have at home first!

Discussion questions during or after this step: What is the difference between your immediate family and your extended family? Who lives with you in your home? Who are the family members that live outside of your home? BONUS: Discuss what each family title means (grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin - including first and second cousin, etc.) to make sure all Girl Scouts can distinguish the titles of the people in their family and what side of the family they are from.

2. Family Traditions

A tradition is a custom, belief, or practice that has been passed down from one-generation to another. It is also a special item or activity that is practiced by members of the same community. Traditions practiced within a community are often a source of pride and promote unity among members.

For this step, discuss with immediate (and extended family if possible) about your family traditions. What holidays do you all celebrate? What are special things you look forward to doing during those holidays? If you had to explain to a friend that does not celebrate that holiday, what would you say to describe what you all do during this special day? If working with family or with your troop, go around a circle and share one tradition with the group.

BONUS #1: Remake a traditional family dish.

BONUS #2: Discuss some of the traditions that we have as Girl Scouts and make/do one of these traditions. Some Girl Scout examples include: making SWAPS, GORP, camp songs, creating a camp name, etc. What is your favorite Girl Scout tradition?

3. Community Chat!

Communities are groups of people that share traditions. Speak with the Girl Scouts about the communities that they belong to and what types of traditions are practiced or observed in those communities. Focus on the traditions in your neighborhood, school, etc.

4. Book Cover

Visit your local library or look at the books you may have at home. If your family had a book to describe who you all were, what would be the title of the book? What information would you add to the book including your family traditions, where you live, favorite foods, etc.?

On a piece of white paper, create the book cover for your family book. When you are finished with your book cover, share and explain the book cover to family members and/or a Girl Scout friend.

5. Family Show and Tell

Show and Tell is a wonderful activity that allows individuals to not only share something about themselves or about something that they learned, it also gives Girl Scouts the opportunity to practice their public speaking skills!

There are two ways that you can have Show and Tell for this badge:

- Option 1 - Ask everyone in your home to find something that reminds them of your family. Maybe it is a souvenir from a trip or a fun day out? Maybe there it is a favorite fruit from the kitchen that everyone loves? Maybe there is an item that tells a great story or is an inside joke that you all share? Encourage everyone to grab 1 or 2 items and take turns explaining why the item is special and how it represents your family.
- Option 2 - With your troop or group of Girl Scout friends, bring in an item from home that represents your family. Take turns explaining why the item is special.

6. Family Crest

Family crests are a great way to visually show what your family represents and what is important to you all.

Check out this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Oj8UosCcuU

It provides instructions on how to make a personal crest. Use this same idea to create a crest for your family. On the next page is a template for your crest.

BONUS: Consider making a larger version of your family crest on cardboard or poster paper. Decorate your crest and place it somewhere special in your home.

6. Extra Optional Bonus

With adult permission, conduct family interviews of immediate and extended family members. Ask them questions about when they were younger or have them retell some of their favorite family stories. Be your family's historian! These interviews will be valuable and appreciated by your entire family!

Congratulations! You earned your Brownie Family Story Badge! 😊

