OBJECTIVE
To form a cohesive group in which the girls can utilize their leadership skills to plan and implement program following the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) with minimal adult guidance.

INTRODUCTION
What follows are basic outlines for your first four Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador 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:
- The girls
- Your ideas
- Other adults in your troop
- The internet

HELPFUL HINTS
- 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
MEETING 1

START-UP ACTIVITY

Introduction Bingo
- Each girl is given a sheet of paper which she folds four times to create 16 squares. This will be the bingo card.
- She walks around the room collecting signatures in each of the squares until all are filled. If there are fewer than 16 girls in the troop, leader names can be used as well as Girl Scout terms such as “discover”, “connect”, “take action”, Promise, Law, etc.
- Each girl writes her name on a slip of paper and drops it into a paper bag or container. Be sure any additional words used are also written on slips of paper and placed in the container.
- Girls take turns pulling out names. When a name is called, the girl introduces herself and tells her favorite Girl Scout activity or, if she is new to Girl Scouting, the reason she decided to join. If a term is called, either a girl or a volunteer can help define the term.
- All the girls cross off that name or term on their bingo cards. The first person to get four squares in a row crossed off is the winner and will be the discussion leader for the meeting. Continue until all names have been called.

OPENING

Ask two returning Girl Scouts to plan an opening. Suggest they choose something that will be familiar to most of the girls such as the Girl Scout Promise and Law, a flag ceremony, a song, etc.

BUSINESS

Troop Government
- Girls discuss the practicality of different forms of troop government. For details see the Girl Scout Cadette, Senior, and/or Ambassador hand books and resources. The girls then choose the system that will work best for their troop. Perhaps they will choose the Patrol System if the troop is large; the Executive Board System; or the less formal Town Meeting System. Officers may be elected / appointed based upon the system chosen. Choose opening and closing leaders for the next meeting.

ACTIVITIES

Clean Out the Attic
- On a large sheet of poster board, draw a house with twelve rooms marked with the months of the year and a very large attic. Give each girl several post-it notes and access to Girl Scout handbooks and publications, Interest Project Patches for Girls Ages 11-17, Journey books, service project ideas, Silver and Gold award steps, trip ideas, and school and Girl Scout calendars.
- Ask the girls to write on the post-it notes things they would like to do this year, using the above resources and their own ideas. Place the notes in the attic space.
- As a troop, discuss the ideas and sort them into “rooms” based upon the most practical month of the year in which to do each activity. Ask each girl to choose an activity or two to research - resources needed, cost, time involved (short term or long term).

Song Fest
- Sing some favorite Girl Scout songs.
**CLEAN-UP**
Each girl is responsible for helping to leave the meeting place cleaner than it was when they arrived.

**CLOSING**
Choose one or two girls to lead a favorite closing activity.
MEETING 2

START-UP ACTIVITY
Gab Fest
» Post a discussion starter (such as “Wow! What a day I had!”) or simply encourage the girls to chat about whatever is on their minds.

OPENING
Girls selected at the first meeting, now lead the opening of their choice.

BUSINESS

Troop Budget
» Girls report on the cost of the activities they researched. Enter the figures in a tentative troop budget which also includes approximate cost of recognitions, basic supplies, possible service unit or council events, and a cushion for unexpected expenses.
» Discuss sources of troop income - fall product sale, cookie sale, and other possible fundraisers. Figure approximate income from each.
» Determine an appropriate amount for dues. Remember that the troop does not need to pay the entire cost of trips and special events.
» Dues will be collected at the next meeting.
» Select girls to lead opening and closing.

ACTIVITIES

The Muffin is Ready
» Divide the girls into small teams. Give them three minutes to brainstorm all the steps that go into making a muffin (preheat the oven, get out the pans, shop for ingredients, etc.), write the steps on post-it notes, and put them in order. The last card should read, “The muffin is ready”.
» Ask one team to place its post-its in order on the wall. Ask the other teams if there is anything they would like to change or add.
» Summarize the importance of covering all details and putting them in the correct order when making a muffin. It is equally important to cover all details when planning activities for the troop.

What Comes Next?
» Vote on an activity from those which were placed in the room for the current month (reference the “Clean-out the Attic poster” from meeting #1). Ask for a committee of girl volunteers to work with the leaders in planning to start the activity at the next meeting. During the course of the year, every girl will have a chance to be on a leadership committee.

CLEAN-UP
All work together.

CLOSING
Selected girls lead; or as per troop Kaper Chart.
MEETING 3

START-UP ACTIVITY
Girl Scout History Quiz
Provide materials relating to Girl Scout History (from the internet, council resource library, grade-level Handbooks). Give the girls copies of the attached pages. The answers to the quiz are:

1. 2  5. 1  9. 1  13. 1
2. 1  6. 3  10. 1  14. 3
3. 2  7. 1  11. 3  15. 2
4. 3  8. 2  12. 2  16. 1

OPENING
Selected girls lead.

BUSINESS
Attendance and dues.

Select girls to plan start up, opening, and closing.

ACTIVITIES
Begin Selected Activity
» Plan Investiture/Rededication
» Girls can brainstorm ideas and select by voting. Since older girl troops tend to continue adding new girls each year, why not start a tradition? One possibility would be to make a large felt banner. Each year, the new girls add their handprints to the banner. See Let’s Celebrate: Girl Scout Ceremonies and the internet for other suggestions. Decide whether to invite guests and select a date.

CLEAN-UP
All girls participate.

CLOSING
Selected girls lead; or as per troop Kaper Chart.
Girl Scout History Quiz

1. Juliette Gordon Low first learned about a program just for girls in:
   1. Scotland
   2. England
   3. Ireland

2. Juliette Low sold these to raise money to start the first troop.
   1. Her pearls
   2. Her paintings
   3. Her needlework

3. The first organization started by Juliette Low was called:
   1. Girl Scouts
   2. Girl Guides
   3. Scouting

4. The first Girl Scout was:
   1. Juliette’s best friend’s daughter, Betsy Pape
   2. Juliette’s cousin, Judith Low
   3. Juliette’s niece, Daisy Gordon

5. The first national office of the Girl Scouts was located in:
   1. Washington, DC
   2. Savannah, GA
   3. New York City

6. The first uniforms for girls were:
   1. Green
   2. Khaki
   3. Blue

7. To play basketball outdoors, Girl Scouts had to:
   1. Draw curtains around the court so the public could not see their bloomers.
   2. Make their own court so they wouldn’t be in the way of the boys.
   3. Get permission from the city to play in public.

8. Adults in charge of the first Girl Scout troops were called:
   1. Leaders
   2. Captains
   3. Commissioners

9. The first handbook was called:
   1. How Girls Can Help Their Country
   2. Girl Scout Handbook
   3. Worlds to Explore

10. The first Brownie Girl Scouts were girls ages:
    1. 7 - 9
    2. 6 - 9
    3. 6 - 10

11. A special interest group created in 1934 for girls who sailed boats. It was called:
    1. Sea Scouts
    2. Mermaids
    3. Mariners

12. The first commercially made Girl Scout cookies were sold in:
    1. Savannah, GA
    2. Philadelphia, PA
    3. New York City

13. In 1919, girls 18 years and older were known as:
    1. Citizen Scouts
    2. Senior Scouts
    3. Older Scouts

14. The only US First Lady to also be the official president of the Girl Scouts was:
    1. Eleanor Roosevelt
    2. Bess Truman
    3. Lou Henry Hoover

15. GSUSA made the first motion picture produced by a public service organization. It was originally called:
    1. Follow Me Girls
    2. The Golden Eaglet
    3. The Little Sisters of Uncle Sam

16. One requirement to earn the Girl Scout War Service Award in 1918 was to:
    1. Knit two pounds of wool for the Red Cross
    2. Roll bandages
    3. Practice air raid drills with younger girls
MEETING 4

Theme: Getting Ready for the Investiture and Rededication Ceremony

START-UP ACTIVITY
Selected girls lead.

OPENING
Selected girls lead.

BUSINESS
Attendance and dues

Select girls to plan start up, opening and closing.
  » At this point, almost the entire troop meeting is girl-led.

ACTIVITIES
Continue Selected Activity

Practice for Investiture/Rededication.

CLEAN-UP
All girls participate.

CLOSING
Selected girls lead; or as per troop Kaper Chart.

Many thanks to Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania