



Daisy Good Neighbor Badge

In this badge program you and your Daisy Girl Scout will find out what it means to be part of a community by being a good neighbor.

1. Draw your neighborhood

Materials needed: paper and pencil/pen/maker

- a. Draw what your neighborhood looks like
 - Do you live in on a street?
 - Do you live in an apartment?
 - Do you live on a farm?
 - What do your neighbors look like? Draw them too

2. What does it mean to be a good neighbor?

- a. Have a conversation about this together.
 - What does it mean to your Daisy?
 - What does it mean to you?
 - You family?

3. Community

- a. Groups of people are called Communities
 - What communities are you a part of?
 - Daisy troop
 - School
 - City/Town
 - Sports team
 - Dance class
 - What else can you think of?

4. Good Citizen at School

- a. Using the Good Citizen at School handout attached
 - Have your Daisy fill in themselves and how they are a good citizen
 - Remind them that they are a part of a community at school & they all have to work together to make the school a nice place to be.

- They can continue filling in the circles with how they are good citizens at school
- Use these as talking points together on how to make the world a better place

5. Good Neighbor Snack Mix

- a. Using various things in your pantry make a snack mix
- b. As you mix the cereal talk about how each item adds a different flavor just like the people in the communities.

6. Color your state

- a. Have the girls color their state on the attached map
- b. Have a conversation about the difference between the state and the Country
- c. Talk about how states are good neighbors
- d. What other states have you visited?
- e. How are they each different
- f. Color the states you have visited.
- g. What food is your state known for?
 - Have a treat that is from YOUR state.
 - What is the history of this food?
 - Where can it be found?
 - Is it seasonal?

7. Make a model of your town

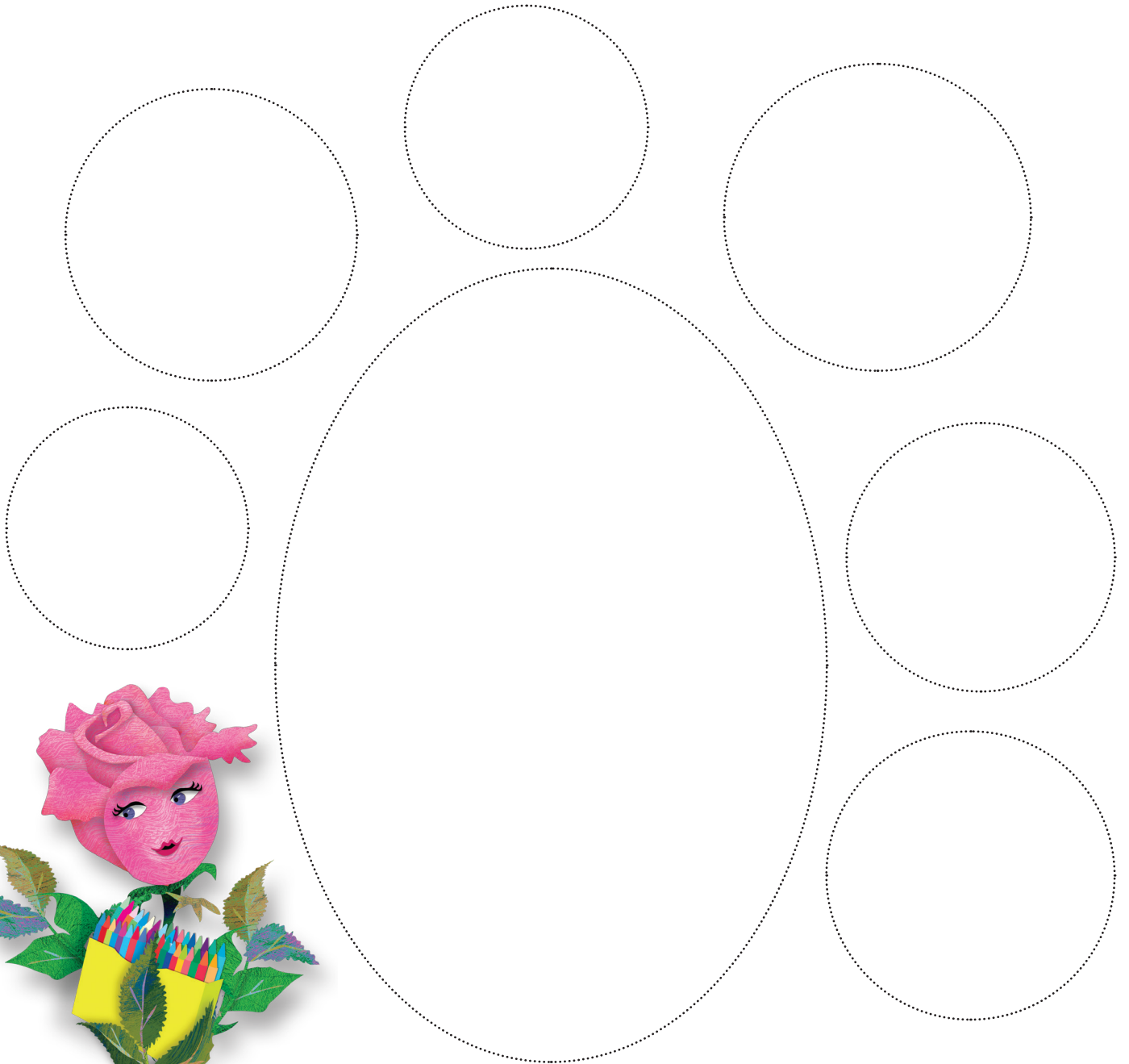
- a. Using various boxes, tubes, and craft supplies at home (or on paper) make a model of your town
 - Is there a Post Office?
 - Where is the Police Department?
 - Don't forget your super market?
 - What makes your town special make sure to include it

8. Wrap up

- a. Talk about what they liked best about earning the Good Neighbor Badge
- b. What types of things do the people in your town, state, and beyond do to be good neighbors?
- c. How will YOU continue to be a good neighbor?

How I'm a Good Citizen at School

Draw a picture of yourself in the middle of the page. In the circles around your picture, write or draw the different ways you're a good citizen at school.



That's me!

Civics in Action for Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors

We strengthen our democracy when civically engaged kids become civically engaged adults. That's where Girl Scouts comes in! From the very beginning, civic engagement has been part of our DNA. We build girls of courage, confidence, and character who become engaged citizens and change the world.

As you're working on the Citizen badges with your girls, you may want to share more information about our democracy and how it works.

ACTIVITIES

Visit Mayor's Office

Want to show girls government in action? Take a field trip to the mayor's office and have girls interview them (or a staff member).

Before your visit, tell your girls a few basic facts about your mayor. When were they elected? How long have they served? Girls should know enough to ask questions directly and leave understanding the following:

- The office of mayor is a local version of the executive branch.
- The mayor is elected by the people of the city or town, usually using a ballot.
- Not all mayors have term limits (what, if any, are your mayor's term limits?).
- A mayor's basic duties depend on the size of the city and structure of local government; what are your mayor's top three duties?

Visit City Hall

What goes on in your city hall? Some city halls are large buildings that include courts. Some are much smaller and only include a few offices for police or administrators. In most cases, city council meetings are held at city hall. If you can plan a troop visit right before a city council meeting, your girls may have the opportunity to ask some questions and watch meeting preparation. Before the visit, tell your girls a few basic facts about your city hall. Girls should know enough to ask questions directly to a staff member of city hall and leave understanding the following:

- When was the city hall built?
- What types of departments or offices are in the city hall?
- How many city council members are there?
- What, if any, are the council members' term limits?
- What are the three basic duties of the city council? How often does it meet?

Start a Petition for the Community

Is there a local issue that your girls are passionate about? Whether it's space for a community garden, permission to paint a mural, maintenance for the local playground, or fixed lights on main street, a petition is a great way for girls to experience how the governmental process turns a request into an action.

Local governments receive petitions all the time—that means action might not happen right away, if at all. Your girls should work to have their petition heard and adopted, but if it doesn't happen, that's totally fine. The first goal of this activity is to see how the process works. If it passes, great! Have girls ask why it passed. If it doesn't, great! Have girls ask why it didn't! Then see if making changes and trying again will work.

Here are a few things for your girls to consider when starting their first petition:

- Know who to petition: is it the city council or the mayor's office?
- How many signatures does a petition need to be considered by the local government?
- How can the petition can be submitted? Ink on paper? Digital signatures?
- Starting with a small, popular issue (like fixing lights) will make it simpler for your girls to gather signatures.

GLOSSARY

Elections: A group decision-making process in which a population chooses one or more individuals to represent them in public office. Mayors, council members, senators, and (of course) presidents are all elected.

Vote: A vote is a show of support for a person or even an action. Votes are often cast with ballots, but votes in congress are usually made with a simple “yay” or “nay.”

Legislative branch: The part of government made up of senators or congresspeople—they are in charge of writing the laws.

Judicial branch: The branch made up of judges who are either elected or appointed (“appointed” means they're given the job by an elected official). They interpret the laws written by the legislative branch.

Executive branch: The executive branch is an elected person who enforces the law, such as a governor or president. They do this with help from government departments. The departments are in charge of things like national parks, roads, and food.

Checks and balances: These keep each branch of government from getting too powerful. Each branch has a little bit of power over each of the others. For example, if the executive branch enforces something incorrectly, the judicial branch is in charge of “checking” the executive branch by explaining more clearly what the law means.

Petition: A written request asking the government to take action on something people care about, usually signed by lots of people.