

# Virtual Troop Meeting

## VIRTUAL MEETING PLAN: CADETTE FINDING COMMON GROUND

*Find out how people in democratic governments make trade-offs, giving up some things they favor to gain support for others.*



### PREPARE

This guide is designed to be used alongside GSUSA's Civic Engagement badge materials. Buy or download:

- [Badge Requirement Digital Download](#)
- [Volunteer Toolkit](#) meeting scripts and resources (Free)

### TECHNOLOGY

Girls will need to have an internet connection and device (computer, smartphone, tablet) to join a video chat/conference service to participate in troop meetings. Encourage everyone to leave their cameras on and mute themselves while the leader is sharing. Google Hangouts and [Zoom](#) are popular. Zoom offers the first 40 minutes free. For girl safety, we recommend you do not publicly post or share recorded meetings outside your troop.

### SUPPLIES

Some Girl Scout activities may require families to be resourceful. If it's cloudy out, you may need to wait another day. If a material isn't available, get creative with what you can find around the house. Send parents a list of supplies to gather before beginning the first badge meeting.

### LOCATION

The Cadette Finding Common Ground badge steps work well in a small, indoor area with a desk. They can be done in a small yard, or on your sidewalk. Remember to stay the recommended "social distance" away from people who aren't in your household. If you can't get outside, you'll need to get creative!

### STRUCTURE

Designed for 3 virtual meetings, 30+ minutes/each, plus badge work at home between meetings.

- Reflect: Talk about activity since previous meeting
- Topic: Introduce the topic with a short activity
- Question: Lead a short discussion, inviting girl ideas and questions about the topic.

- Activity Intro: Explain the badge activity for girls to complete before the next meeting. Follow up with an email to the family that includes instructions.
- Close: Virtual friendship circle.  
What is a virtual friendship circle? You get to design one together as a troop!

### *VIRTUAL MEETING 1: Acknowledging our Differences*

- Promise & Law
- Topic Intro

Your group is going to discuss how everyone has differences and unique opinions. You are going to learn to openly discuss those difference while being mindful of your peers and why their opinions are important to them.

- Discussion Questions

Have you ever struggled with a relationship with a friend, family member, or someone else because you had a difference of opinion? Do you feel that you both understood WHY the other person felt so strongly about the issue?

- Activity: For option “Difference of opinion” ask the everyone to share their favorite food, movie, and song. As a group have conversations about those differences. Have everyone listen to someone else’s favorite song- ideally a genre different than their own. (Allow approx. 5 minutes.) Once everyone is done ask the group to share two things about the song they listened that they liked.

- For option: “Try them all!” Use all of the methods for different decisions throughout the activity. When you have your post-activity discussion, compare the methods. Did you have a favorite? Is everyone’s favorite method the same?

- DECISION METHODS:

**Majority Rules.** Poll your group. Ask everyone in the group for their top 3 options. Write down the two most popular options, then take a vote. The option with the most votes, wins!

**Consensus of compromise.** Your brother wants burgers. You want pizza. You could order a cheeseburger pizza. Or you could agree to have cheeseburgers this time if you have pizza next time. But you both like tacos. Could you have those instead? Discuss the issue until you arrive at a decision everyone can accept.

**Pick at random.** Have everyone write their choice on a slip of paper. Put them in a hat, and choose one at random. You could also flip a coin or draw straws.

- Close

Reflect on what you did in the meeting.

Remind girls to continue thinking about ways that they can come to decisions in way that everyone feels comfortable with.

Virtual Friendship Circle

### *VIRTUAL MEETING 2: Exploring debate and compromise*

- Promise & Law
- Reflect

Did you think of any other ways that group decisions so that everyone feels that it is fair?

- Topic  
Understanding how to reach compromise

- Questions

Can you think of a time when you felt your ideas were ignored?

For more FUN: Listen to the story She Persisted:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFJkBSbJe18>

Discuss as a group times your ideas and thoughts have been ignored or disregarded. How did it make you feel?

What are some effective strategies for reaching compromise? Can you demonstrate what that conversation might look like?

- Activity Intro

Your group is going to observe a debate and assess how that affects their ideas about reaching compromise.

For option “Understand a famous debate in American history”. It might be one of the debates between suffragists and elected officials in the early 1900’s, or a debate between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Find out why the debate proved historic and who was considered the winner, and why. What was the common ground in the opposing positions?

- For more FUN: Come to your Cadette meeting ready to re-enact the debate—perhaps in costume and with snacks from the time period (you might find a great recipe while working on your New Cuisines badge!)

- Close

Reflect on what you did in the meeting.

Talk about the week’s activity and answer any last questions.

Tell girls to “think of a situation in which you and a family member or friend had to compromise to be able to work or live together. Use that as a situation, or interview an older family member about a compromise that helped shape your family. If you can imagine a more positive outcome, open up the discussion, and try finding common ground.” (Step 4) Plan to share at the next meeting.

- Virtual Friendship Circle

### *VIRTUAL MEETING 3: Reaching Compromise*

- Promise & Law

- Reflect

When was a time you had to compromise with a family member or friend?

- Topic

How to reach a compromise.

Share about the compromise you discussed with your family member. Was there a certain strategy you used to decide? How did both of you feel after making a compromise?

- Questions

Ask them if they are familiar with mediation and what it means.

Activity: For option “Suggest solutions for a current international conflict.” What are the positions on both sides? Pretend they’ve come to you help them negotiate a peace treaty. (A treaty is a formal agreement between two or more states.) On your own or with friends, decide what you think is the common ground, and develop a one-page proposal for a “treaty.” Share it with your history or social studies teacher.

For more FUN: Have each girl in your Cadette group develop a treaty proposal for the same conflict. How do your treaties differ? How are they the same? Where did you all see common ground?

Close

Reflect on what you did in the meeting.

Talk about the week’s activity and answer any last questions

Virtual Friendship Circle

At your next virtual meeting, have girls share and reflect on how learning about reaching common ground with others has affected they way they think about conflict. Have they found any of the skills helpful while at home?

Congratulations, your Girl Scout Cadettes have earned their Finding Common Ground badge!

Alternate Adult Facilitator Guide:

Steps:

1. Get to know someone different than you
2. Make decisions in a group
3. Explore Civil Debate
4. Understand a compromise
5. Find common ground through mediation

Purpose: When I've earned this badge, I'll know strategies for bringing people together to find common ground.

Girl Supplies:

- Internet Connection
- Device with a camera & microphone (laptop, phone, tablet, etc.)
- Favorite item during shelter-in-place (I.e. Book, toy, game, snack, etc.)
- Pen or other writing utensil
- Paper
- Snack(s)

Total Time:

Activity	Time	Facilitator Supplies	Girl Supplies	Facilitation Description
Introductions	10 minutes	One item that has been helping them through the shelter-in-place	An item that brings them joy during the shelter-in-place.	Ask the girl to share their name, city, and to share (on camera) one item that has made them happier during their time at home (I.e. favorite toy, book, snack, etc.)
Step 1	10 minutes	NA	Access to music streaming platform (Spotify, Youtube, etc.)	For option "Difference of opinion" ask the everyone to share their favorite food, movie, and song. As a group have conversations about those differences. Have everyone listen to someone else's favorite song- ideally a genre different than their own. (Allow approx. 5 minutes.) Once everyone is done

				ask the group to share two things about the song they listened that they liked.
Step 2	15 minutes		Pen, Paper	<p>For option “Try them all!” Use all of the methods for different decisions throughout the activity. When you have your post-activity discussion, compare the methods. Did you have a favorite? Is everyone’s favorite method the same?</p> <p><b>DECISION METHODS:</b></p> <p><b>Majority Rules.</b> Poll your group. Ask everyone in the group for their top 3 options. Write down the two most popular options, then take a vote. The option with the most votes, wins!</p> <p><b>Consensus of compromise.</b> Your brother wants burgers. You want pizza. You could order a cheeseburger pizza. Or you could agree to have cheeseburgers this time if you have pizza next time. But you both like tacos. Could you have those instead?</p> <p>Discuss the issue</p>

				<p>until you arrive at a decision everyone can accept.</p> <p><b>Pick at random.</b></p> <p>Have everyone write their choice on a slip of paper. Put them in a hat, and choose one at random. You could also flip a coin or draw straws.</p>
Snack Break	10 minutes	Snack	Snack	
Step 3	30-45 minutes		Pen, paper	<p>For option “ Understand a famous debate in American history.” It might be one of the debates between suffragists and elected officials in the early 1900’s, or a debate between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Find out why the debate proved historic and who was considered the winner, and why. What was the common ground in the opposing positions?</p> <p>For more FUN: Come to your Cadette meeting ready to re-enact the debate— perhaps in costume and with snacks from the time period (you might find a great recipe while working on</p>

				your New Cuisines badge!)
Step 4	20 minutes (girls do this activity on their own time)	NA	NA	For option “A family or friendship compromise.” Think of a situation in which you and a family member or friend had to compromise to be able to work or live together. Use that as a situation, or interview an older family member about a compromise that helped shape your family. If you can imagine a more positive outcome, open up the discussion, and try finding common ground.
Step 5	20 minutes	Samples	Paper and writing utensil	For option “Suggest solutions for a current international conflict.” What are the positions on both sides? Pretend they’ve come to you help them negotiate a peace treaty. (A treaty is a formal agreement between two or more states.) On your own or with friends, decide what you think is the common ground, and develop a one-page proposal for a “treaty.” Share it



				<p>with your history or social studies teacher.</p> <p>For more FUN: Have each girl in your Cadette group develop a treaty proposal for the same conflict. How do your treaties differ? How are they the same? Where did you all see common ground?</p>
Debrief	15 minutes	NA	NA	<p>Ask everyone what is the most important thing they learned about compromise during the badge activities. Go through the 3 Debrief questions about action steps for each community.</p>