



# Brownie Crafts

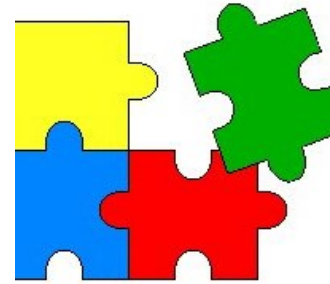
Brownies generally enjoy creating, so give them the chance to let their creativity shine. Brownies are capable of completing more complex and/or time consuming crafts, but keep in mind the constraints of your troop meeting place, the length of the meeting, and transporting/storage of unfinished or completed projects and equipment. The most common items (scissors, crayons, glue, pencils, paper, etc.) can be kept in a troop supply box. You can ask families to donate items, or have a “Troop Crafts Shower” or a party where girls bring presents of craft supplies for the troop.



## Tips for teaching crafts to Brownies:

- Be sure to include any safety instructions that are necessary for the activity. You are working with Brownies, so don't assume too much.
- Give adequate instructions for the activity. Keep these instructions simple. If the activity is simple, little instruction may be necessary; however, if it is very involved or is a new activity, give the instructions twice and then ask if there are any questions. For extremely complicated activities it may be necessary to break the instructions into sections and teach one section at a time.
- Have enough equipment and supplies on hand. At most, two girls can share supplies. More than that and they tend to get frustrated at having to wait and the activity is less enjoyable.
- Stick with projects that can be completed in about 15 to 30 minutes or less, and be sure that the craft is suitable for the abilities of the Brownies you are working with. If the project is too difficult, they will become frustrated. If it is too simple, they may become bored.
- Allow enough time for the activity. Remember that different girls work at different speeds and most girls will take longer to make a craft than you can make it yourself. Having something extra to do for those who finish early is also a good idea or you could have them help the girls who have not finished yet.
- If necessary, prepare the meeting location for the craft activity. Covering surfaces for messy projects will make clean-up much easier. If supplies can be divided in advance it is easier to hand them out.
- Do the activity yourself before introducing it to the girls. This way, you will be able to identify the pitfalls and problems that may occur with a particular craft. You can also adjust, if necessary, the directions to make the project easier.
- Do not be tempted to "fix" a girl's project for her if the outcome does not meet your standard. Doing so could make her feel like what she did was inadequate.
- These are just a few possible crafts for Brownie Girl Scouts. There are hundreds more on various websites. Check out [Pinterest](#), [Google](#), [Yahoo](#), [YouTube](#), [ScoutingWeb](#) and many more.

## Sample Brownie Crafts



### “This is Me” Puzzle

Materials:

- Copies of the blank puzzle (included) printed on card stock
- Scissors
- crayons, markers, colored pencils

Instructions:

Start this activity by talking with the girls about who they are and how to show the world who they are. Their strengths and things they like to do. Maybe give examples of how you see yourself and your favorite things. Give each girl a blank puzzle and instruct her to make a picture of who she is. This doesn't have to be a portrait or even a picture of a girl. This could be a picture of her favorite things, her favorite activities, her favorite colors. Just a snapshot of her. Once they finish coloring and decorating, have them carefully cut out their puzzle pieces, mix them up, then put their puzzle back together. Ask them to talk about their puzzle and who they are. This will be a good get-acquainted activity.

### Paper beads

Most of us have a little stash of leftover decorative paper from projects and parties. But before you put your scraps in the recycling bin, take a look at what you can do with them. These colorful beads can be made from any paper – junk mail, magazine pages, used giftwrap or leftover stationery papers – and they're so easy.

Materials:

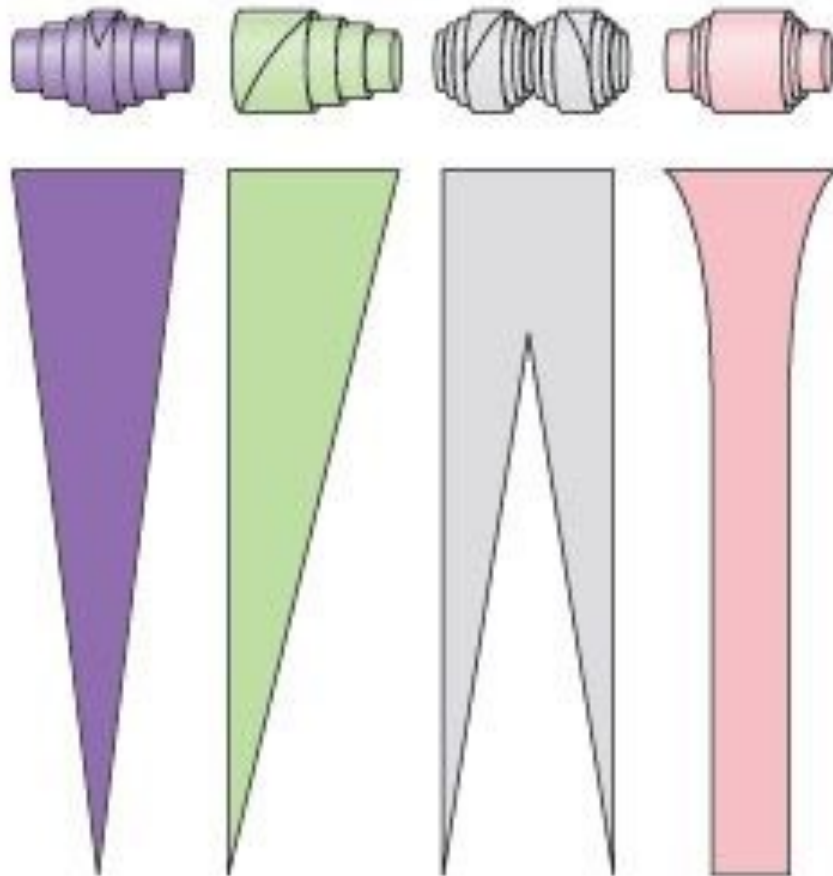
- Paper (old wrapping paper, magazines, junk mail)
- Ruler and pencil
- Scissors
- Wooden skewers
- Glue stick
- Disposable plates or plastic container
- Yarn



Instructions:

1. Use Bead Templates (below) to choose the shape of your paper strips.
2. Use the ruler to draw the strips on the back of your paper.

3. Cut them out.
4. Begin by rolling the thick edge firmly around a skewer. Then run the glue stick along the remainder of the triangle and continue wrapping the paper around the skewer until you reach the end.
5. Make sure the paper is wrapped tightly on itself and the end is glued down really well.
6. Continue to roll beads this way until you have covered most of the skewer. Then rest skewer ends on the edges of a plastic plate or container with beads not touching plastic to allow glue to dry.
7. When beads are completely dry, slip them from skewer and string together as desired on yarn and tie the ends together to make a necklace or bracelet depending on how many beads you make.



## Snow Globes from Recycled Baby Food Jars

### Materials:

- Clean, dry, baby food jars with lids
- Small plastic objects to put in the jar like forest animals, trees, people
- Water
- Low Temp Hot glue gun
- Glitter
- Liquid glycerin. (available at most drug stores)

### Instructions:

1. Start by having an adult help the girls hot glue the small objects to the inside of the baby food jar lid.
2. Fill the jar about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way full with water.
3. Add the glitter. (as much as you like)
4. Add 2 tsp. glycerin.
5. Close the jar tightly. (the objects will be upside down)
6. Seal generously with hot glue. (adult help if needed here as well)
7. Let the glue dry, and when it is turned over, you have your own snow globe.



