

What you will need:

- Volunteers
- Activity Leader
- Newsprint, markers, masking tape

Time: 20-30 minutes

Questions? Comments?
Contact the Girl Scout
office nearest you.

Sioux Falls
800.666.2141

Rapid City
800.658.3391

Fargo
877.904.8168

Grand Forks
800.437.4399

Minot
800.279.5306

Bismarck
800.326.4745

www.gsdh.org

PROGRESSION

Progression is the key to the way Girl Scouts learn about the world around them. In practice, progression means using common sense in preparing for experience - one step at a time. The Girl Scout program constantly provides opportunities to ensure progression.

Girls grow and develop skills in every aspect of Girl Scouting. Wherever their experience begins, they will grow, learn and progress through the skills and ideas they have gained. They often begin as Daisies in Kindergarten or first grade. What they learn in these initial years is built on in Brownies, where they become more comfortable and more confident in the way they experience their world. Juniors become more independent and continue to gain skills and experiences that build on what they have done. By the time they become Cadettes, girls learn from finishing their Silver Award and advanced topics and experience. By the time they become Seniors and Ambassadors, they are very independent and self-assured! All the skills and knowledge gained from the previous years can now translate into a Gold Award.



Progression is also important for adults. Whether an adult is learning to take a group on a hike, staying overnight in a program center or preparing a meal over an outdoor stove, some basic safety considerations require that she/he be trained to take part in the planning and implementation of the adventure while maintaining girl-led environment. In turn, adults then teach girls the necessary steps of successful planning.

When Girl Scout Daisies begin their first troop/group meeting, they are taking their first steps down the path to mastering the skills and abilities in planning and preparing for their next activity. The Girl Scout Product Sales program, as well as, the Financial Literacy Badges provide girls with age-appropriate activities to develop good financial skills:

- Daisies begin the pathway to financial literacy by learning about money, what it looks like and how to spend it.
- As they progress to Brownies, they learn about *managing* their money.
- As they grow, learn and mature through the Product Sales program and work on age-appropriate Financial Literacy badges, they develop skills in earning credit and creating a credit history.
- They ultimately learn how to become financially sound and able to manage their money.

Girls learn through experience. If we teach them to be good planners as Daisies, they move to Juniors and are able to plan simple ceremonies. As Seniors and Ambassadors, they plan trips all over the world. By going through the process of planning and developing good decision-making skills, girls gain valuable experiences they will reflect on when they get to college and beyond.

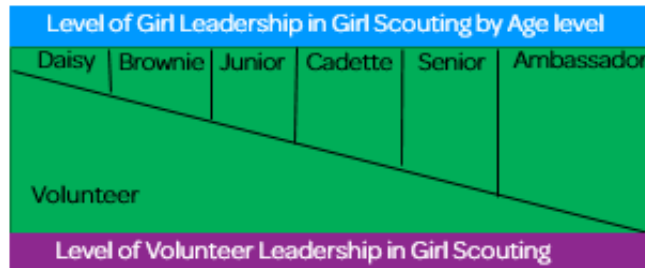
Sometimes, including girls in the decision-making process can be long and drawn out. It can take weeks to make simple decisions. Planning their first camping trip can take months but it is the **process** they are working through that is critical to their development. Regardless of the age level of the girls when we begin to teach them to effectively plan an event, they need to progress through the *same* steps. Older girls will move more quickly through the steps and stages but they will need to experience each step along the way.

As girls have success with the decision-making process, the leader is able to step back and allow the girls to make the decisions. This also allows the leader to progress from being a leader to becoming an advisor, where input and feedback changes.

Allowing the girls to make mistakes and learn from them along the way, as long as there are not safety issues, helps them to grow and mature and become self-reliant, confident young women.

Adult Progression

As the leader, your goal should be to act increasingly as a facilitator, enabling girls to experience more opportunities for planning, decision-making, leadership and, yes, even guided failure. In this respect, the role of the adult becomes more of an advisor role versus direct leadership. Consider the diagram below:



As seen in the diagram, as girls develop confidence and skills, they will increase their leadership of their Girl Scout experience. As they increase their leadership skills, the role of the adult will shift into that of a valued advisor. This does not mean the adult volunteer is less important. It should instead be seen that the program and your hard work is working and building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Therefore, as girls get older, take a step back and allow the girls to take the lead—you will be amazed at what they do!

Outdoor Progression

There is also a progression related to activities in the outdoors. As girls mature, they are able to participate in more advanced outdoor activities. Please refer to the diagram attached at the end of this packet for more information.

ACTIVITY

Planning using a step-by-step approach provides a “full picture” of what is needed to have a *complete* experience.

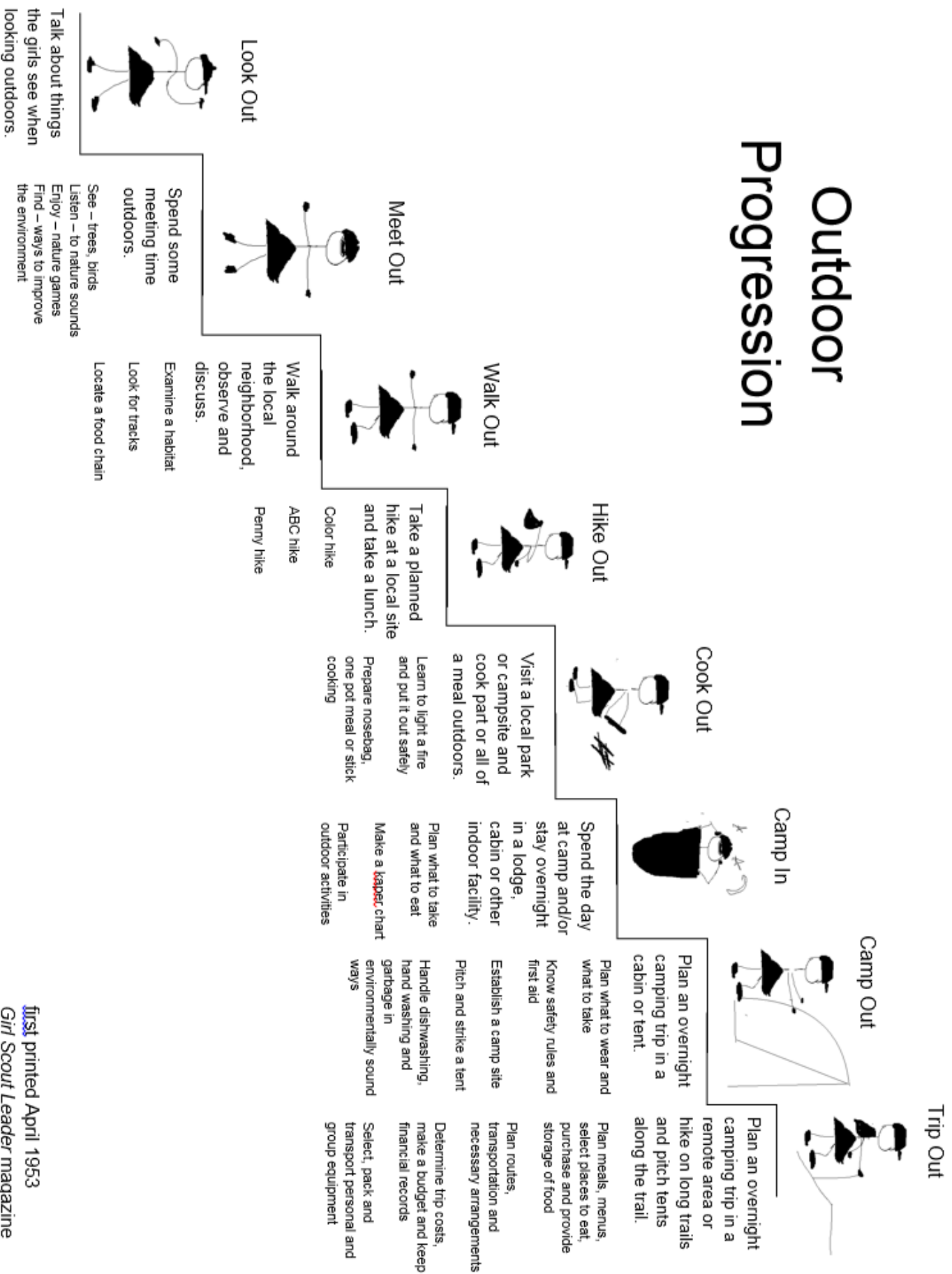
1. Divide the group into teams of four or five.
2. Brainstorm skills that are learned progressively—do we begin by writing a book or do we need to learn other skills first? (For example, making cookies, writing, cooking etc.)
3. Each group will pick a skill from “the list” they generated. Have each group create the steps it takes to learn that skill from beginning to end. What steps are needed to be able to perform that skill correctly?
4. Review—Can you complete the skill using your defined steps? Do you need to add or clarify any steps?
5. Share with the group and reflect. Questions to consider are:
 1. For the skill you chose, what troubles did you run into in your process?
 2. What steps or skills needed to be learned before you proceed?
 3. What types of considerations do you need to make when planning your Girl Scout activities for girls?

Please note: If you have a small group, you could work through one skill they choose and discuss the steps that would be necessary to successfully complete that skill.

Specific activity needs:

- Paper/easel pads
- Markers/pens
- Masking tape

Outdoor Progression



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