



Junior Gardener- Virtual Meeting Plan

Find out how to make your own garden, no matter where you live.

1. Visit a garden
2. Explore garden design
3. Learn how to choose garden plants
4. Experiment with seeds
5. Grow your own garden

When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to help plants and flowers grow.

Activities Overview:

1. Exploring garden or virtual garden and noting observations
2. Talking about observed gardens.
3. Drawing or collaging a "dream garden."
4. Researching garden types and sharing discoveries.
5. Make a meal or snack using only foods that can be found in a garden.
6. Planting seeds or vegetable tops to grow.
7. Reflecting on how "dream garden" changed throughout the project.

Before Meeting 1:

1. Send the Meeting 1 Email Template (found at the end of document) to the Parents/Guardians.
2. Before the first meeting, each girl should explore a garden. This can be a garden at a local park, a garden in her yard, a garden of houseplants, or a virtual garden like the one [here](#). She should write down or draw different aspects of the garden that she notices or likes.

Meeting 1:

1. Open with the Promise and Law
2. Ask each girl to talk about the different observations she made when observing the garden. Note any similarities or differences, and encourage girls to hold their drawings or pictures up to the webcam.
3. Each girl chooses an alternative style of garden to research for the next meeting. She can create a slideshow, share a youtube video with the group, or just talk about what she discovered. Focus on the types of plants that go in each garden and why.
 - a. Hydroponic garden
 - b. Native plant garden
 - c. Victory Garden
 - d. Pollinator Garden
 - e. Community Garden
 - f. Zen garden
 - g. Anything else the girls come up with!
4. At the next meeting, the girls will plant their own "gardens." Work with them to choose one or two things to plant at home, and make sure they have a list of supplies they need to bring to the next

meeting. [Here](#) is a list of vegetables that can be grown from kitchen scraps and [here](#) is a video with even more guidance.

5. Drawing or collaging a “dream garden.” Girls can use the coloring or collage supplies they brought to design their own gardens. This is a great time for the girls to work, show each other their projects, and enjoy socializing. While the Troop Leader should stay connected and observe, they don’t need to be actively involved while the girls create.
6. At the end of the meeting, challenge the girls to create a recipe for a meal or snack with ingredients that could all be found in a garden. Ask them to try making their recipe and send the Troop Leader a photo before the next meeting. Remind the girls to bring their “garden” supplies to the next call!

Before Meeting 2:

1. Send Meeting 2 Email Template (Found at the end of document).
2. Watch [this video](#) to learn about planting different seeds and vegetables:
3. The girls will research the alternative gardens that they chose during Meeting 1.
4. The girls will make a snack or meal using only foods that could be found in a garden and send a picture to the Troop Leader.
5. The girls will bring supplies to plant their “gardens.”

Meeting 2:

1. Open with the Promise and Law
2. Share photos of the girls snacks/meals via screen share.
3. Give each girl a few minutes to present on her garden type. Have the girls discuss each option and which they would prefer to have in their own home/garden.
 - a. Discuss the different types of plants you would have in each garden type.
4. Ask the girls to compare their ideal gardens from the first meeting with their ideal garden now. Is it the same? Different? Why?
5. Plant whatever the girls chose to plant. Enlist parent help if needed. Discuss care tips with the girls. Make a plan to track their plants’ growth and remind the girls that this is a learning experience, so they shouldn’t be disappointed if nothing grows on the first try.

Email Templates:

Meeting 1 Email Template:

Hello!

Our troop will be working on the Junior Gardener Badge at the next meeting on **DATE, TIME**. Here is the link to access the meeting: **INSERT LINK**

Before the meeting, your Girl Scout should find a garden- whether that’s in her backyard, at a community park, or even a garden of houseplants! If you can’t find a garden, try taking a virtual tour of the United States Botanical Gardens here: <https://www.usbg.gov/take-virtual-tour>

She can write down or draw the flowers or plants she likes, the shape of the garden, and any other interesting thing she might want to add to a garden one day. She can also look up the different types of plants she finds in the garden. Some questions to answer include:

- What kind of plant is this?
- What kind of sunlight does this plant need?
- How often does this plant need water?
- Is this plant edible?

Some materials she should have on hand for the call are:

- Paper
- Crayons/Colored pencils OR collage materials (glue, tape, scissors, old magazines)
- Computer or phone with internet

I look forward to talking to you soon!

NAME

Meeting 2 Email Template:

Hello,

Our troop is continuing to work on the Junior Gardener Badge at the next meeting on **DATE, TIME**. Here is the link to access the meeting: **INSERT LINK**

Before the next meeting, your Girl Scout will research a type of garden to share with the troop. Below are the selected garden types:

- **GIRL NAME- GARDEN TYPE**
- **GIRL NAME- GARDEN TYPE**

She will also create a recipe for a snack or meal using only products that could be grown in a garden and share a picture of the food with the group.

We will be planting our own “gardens” at the next meeting. The girls decided to try to grow **XYZ** at home. Please have the following supplies for the next call so we can plant our gardens together:

- **XYZ**
- **ZYX**

Talk to you soon,

NAME