

Finding Common Ground with Your Cadette Girl Scout



A Guide for Parents and Caregivers



Finding Common
Ground badge

As a Cadette, your daughter can earn the Finding Common Ground badge on her own or with her troop. In the process, she'll learn strategies that can help bring people with different beliefs together to make decisions about our world. But beyond that, she'll gain skills to help her solve conflicts in a respectful and peaceful manner.

Seeing Things Differently

It's helpful for your daughter to recognize why the world—just like her classroom, her Girl Scout troop, and even her own family—is made up of people who have a wide range of opinions and ideas. Talk with her about how the experiences we've had, people we've met, and places we've been shape the way we see the world. And because our lives are unique, our perspectives on different issues can be, too.

Encourage her to try to see things from another's perspective. She doesn't have to agree, but it can be helpful to understand where they're coming from. By sharing the "why" behind different beliefs and practicing empathy, we expand our understanding of a situation; find common ground; and discover new, innovative solutions together.



DID YOU KNOW?

Around age 13, your girl's mental ability to understand another person's perspective will start growing steadily. Before then, she may need your help!

BADGE SPOTLIGHT!

Explore Civil Debate

To earn this badge, your girl will need to analyze a debate.

Help her get in the spirit by asking her about a time when she and another member of her community disagreed on an issue. Did she get a chance to explain her opinions and feelings without being interrupted or called names? How did that make her feel? Does she think others should have their feelings heard and taken seriously as well? What can people gain from listening to one another? What might be lost when we don't?

Consider these questions together, then discuss the idea of compromise. Can there be situations in which both sides come out on top? Can she think of a time that happened in real life?

SHE'S EARNED IT!

Purchase your daughter's **Finding Common Ground badge**, then add it to her vest or sash so she can wear it with pride.