



Green 2 Troops – Brownie Create and Innovate Badge

Goal: Use your imagination to solve problems and invent something new, without creating trash or using new materials.

Step 1: Solve a Problem

Ask the girls: “What’s something at school, home, or in nature that could be easier, better, or more fun?”

- Each girl draws or writes out a problem.
- Then, they brainstorm 3 ways to solve it — using only items from recycling bins, nature, or the junk drawer.

Examples:

- “My dog’s leash gets tangled” → design a leash clip.
- “I can’t carry snacks and books” → invent a snack-pack pouch from an old T-shirt.
- **No waste tip:** Use scratch paper or old envelopes for sketches.

Step 2: Think It Up

Create an *Idea Board* using reused cardboard.

- Girls sketch or collage their favorite invention idea.
- Optional: Add arrows or speech bubbles explaining how it works.
- **Girl-led twist:** Host an “Eco Shark Tank” — girls present their idea to a panel of troopmates for fun.

Step 3: Make It Real

Time to build! Girls create a prototype using only:

- Recyclables (boxes, containers, paper tubes)
- Clean scrap fabric
- String, paper clips, tape/glue you already have
- Items from nature (sticks, leaves, pinecones — only fallen ones)
- **Rules:** No buying supplies. No glitter. No waste.

Step 4: Improve It

Girls test their invention — does it work? What could be better?

- They make one improvement using what’s left in their material pile.
- Optional reflection: “If everyone reused like this, how would the planet be different?”

Step 5: Share It

Girls create a *mini-presentation, skit, or song* explaining their invention and what problem it solves.

- Record it, perform live, or host a mini troop showcase.
- Girls vote for “Most Helpful,” “Most Creative,” “Most Eco-Friendly.”
- **Optional bonus:** Take photos and make a “Green² Invention Gallery” online or in your meeting space.

Waste-Free Challenge Bonus:

Each girl challenges a family member to invent something using only what’s in the recycling bin at home. They share both creations at the next meeting or over email with the troop.