Games for Life

Skill Builders
1. Read the chapter "Getting Started" in Games for Girl Scouts. Learn games from three different countries (one of which can be the U.S.A.) and teach them to a group of younger girls.
2. Learn about games that can be used as "ice-breakers" for groups of people coming together for the first time. Facilitate an appropriate ice-breaker in a group you are a part of, other than your own troop.
3. Develop file of games for different age groups that can be used for child care, travel, or group activities. Include indoor and outdoor games, and small group and large-group games. Include games that can be adapted for differing abilities.
4. Find out about games that do each of the following: increase physical strength, develop mental capabilities, and build character. Teach at least two of these games to others.
5. What are the elements of a competitive or educational board game? Brainstorm a list with a friend. Use the list as a springboard for developing a board game for use with peers. Create the game yourself or with a "team."
6. Learn how to play a game of strategy, such as bridge or chess.
7. Learn at least five singing games or five jump-rope games and be able to teach them to others.

Technology
1. Learn to play a variety of educational, interactive computer or electronic games and share them with younger girls.
2. Compare a game that is played in a non-tech version and in a tech version, such as chess and computer chess. Play both versions. What are the pros and cons of each version? Has technology changed the way games are played?
3. Read two magazines that evaluate computer games and on-line games from the Internet. Note the criteria used, and compare the published evaluations with those made by friends who have played these games.
4. Make a list of computer games you would recommend based upon criteria such as degree of difficulty, educational value, fun, and artwork. Share your list with others.
5. Create a computer game that can be played by one or more people. Field-test it with at least four people, evaluate the feedback, and make changes.

Service Projects
1. Develop and host a "games day" for families, younger girls, or senior citizens that introduces a variety of games in different formats.
2. Create a box in which you can store board games, like a large treasure chest, that can be used in a homeless shelter, women's shelter, retirement center, nursing home, or day-care setting. Include games appropriate to the setting and age levels you are serving.
3. Develop at least two instructional games for a community center or troop house that can be used by adults or leaders when working with younger girls or by the younger girls themselves when exploring a contemporary issue. Be sure to work with your council program, director, service unit director, or older girl adviser before trying out the games with girls.

Career Exploration
1. Examine some careers that involve games directly or indirectly: youth leader, referee, computer programmer, toy manufacturer, game developer, sporting goods and games retailer. Arrange to interview job-shadow an individual whose career you are interested in. Find out what training and experience are necessary for the job.
2. Explore some professional or interest-based organizations that are in existence because of games, such as a local chess club or an on-line computer. Find them through research in the library. Look for special publications, magazines, or computer bulletin boards having to do with games. Choose one organization to explore in depth or develop a list or resource file for your library, resource center, or school.
3. As a parent or simply as an adult you will undoubtedly have to make some decisions about games on the market for children. Develop criteria for evaluating children's games that include safety, educational value, ease of playing, and fun. Make recommendations to parents or kids through a display or special program.

And Beyond

CONSIDER BECOMING A CADETTE OR SENIOR GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM AIDE WITH A CONCENTRATION IN GAMES. Consult the resource books Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting and Games for Girl Scouting. If you like to play games, on boards or outdoors, try these related interest projects:
- Leadership
- On the Playing Field
- On the Court
- Computer in Everyday Life
- A World of Understanding
- Dolls and Sense
- Math, Maps, and More

Explore ways to play games with all ages, in Child Care, Generations Hand in Hand, Family Living, and Understanding Yourself and Others.