

Brownies

The Leader in charge of a Brownie Guide Pack is called a Brown Owl and she is assisted by other Leaders called Tawny Owl, Snowy Owl, Grey Owl, etc.



MOTTO:
**LEND A
HAND.**

Promise

I Promise to do my best, to do my duty to my God* and my country, To help those at home every day and to obey the Brownie Guide Law.

*The word "God" can be replaced by the word "faith" according to one's spiritual beliefs.

Brownie Guides have fun while learning to help others, enjoying the out of doors, playing games, doing crafts and singing. They learn new skills while pursuing interest badges. They go on day trips to places of interest and for weekends away on Pack Holiday and sometimes camping.

Ages :
**7 - 10
years**



Brownie Guide Law:

A Brownie Guide thinks of others before herself and does a Good Turn every day.

The Brownie Journey is a three year programme. The Brownies are like Detectives and each year the Brownies will earn a new Journey badge - Detect, Investigate and Explore



The Brownie Pack is made up of Sixes - a group of usually 6 girls who play and do things together or with other Sixes in the Pack. Each Six has a Sixer and a Secunder who help to run the Six. The Sixes have special names such as Pixies, Elves, Gnomes. Each Six has its own emblem and song which is sung at the start of each meeting.



Brownie Uniform:

Yellow sweatshirt or polo shirt with the IGG logo.
Navy tracksuit bottoms or navy culottes with Brownie Guide crest.
Navy badge sash, navy neckerchief and navy woggle (strip of leather to hold the neckerchief in place)



THE BROWNIE GUIDE STORY

There was once a family who lived in a small house beside a wood. The family didn't have much money and the Mum and Dad both worked very hard.

Their two children, Aoife and Sean, never helped around the house and it used to make their parents sad. They never tidied their rooms, walked the dog, cleared the dinner table or helped in any way. As long as they were having fun, nothing else mattered.

One evening, after a very tiring day, their Mum sighed. 'Oh dear, things were really different when I was a girl and we had a Brownie.'

'A Brownie?' Aoife asked. 'What's a Brownie, Mum?'

'A Brownie is a small creature who comes to the house before anyone gets up to do all the jobs,' she explained. 'She gets the breakfast ready, tidies up the toys, walks the dog and cleans the house. But no one ever sees her. She's invisible. But we haven't had a Brownie in the house for a long time. It's such a pity; when she was with us, everyone was happy and the house ran like clockwork. She was kind and helped us so much.'

'I wish we had a Brownie now,' Sean said. 'She could do all our jobs for us.' This was a joke as Aoife and Sean never helped out around the house at all.

'Where can we find a Brownie, Mum?' Aoife asked. She thought having a Brownie sounded like a great idea.

'You'll have to ask the wise Brown Owl,' said Mum. 'She lives in the oak tree at the bottom of the garden and she knows all about the Brownies. But she only comes out at night. Stand by the cherry tree and you'll find a special path.'

So after dark, Aoife and Sean asked their Mum if they could go into the garden to find the wise Brown Owl. They walked to the end of the garden, stood at the cherry tree and looked around.

'Where's this special path?' Sean asked.

Aoife pointed at the ground. 'There!' A small path was winding away from them, through the trees.

They followed the path and it stopped in front of a large oak tree. They heard a loud hooting above them. They were pretty scared but they walked towards the sound. A large Brown Owl was sitting on a branch, looking down at them.

'Brown Owl,' Aoife said nervously. 'We need to ask you a question. Where can we find a Brownie? Our house is a mess and we need a Brownie to help our Mum and Dad.'

The Brown Owl thought for a moment. 'You see that pond?' she said. 'When the moon is bright, stand in front of it, turn around three times and say: "Twist me and turn me and show me the elf, I looked in the water and there saw . . ."'

To get the last word of the rhyme, look into the water. You will see the Brownie and her name will fill the end of the rhyme. Then you will have your Brownie.'

They thanked the owl and waited for the moon to come up. When it shone brightly, Aoife did as the owl had told her, while Sean watched.

Aoife turned three times and said:

'Twist me and turn me and show me the elf,
I looked in the water and there saw . . .'

She looked in the water and saw – her own reflection. She looked again – still nothing but her own reflection.

Aoife thought that the owl had tricked them so she went back to speak to her.

'Brown Owl,' she said. 'There was no one in the pool except myself.'

'Exactly,' said the owl. Her golden eyes twinkled.

Aoife was confused. She said the rhyme over again, in case she'd got it wrong:

'Twist me and turn me and show me the elf,
I looked in the water and there saw . . . myself. But I'm not a Brownie.'

The Owl said 'But you can be if you try. You're a very strong and clever girl. You can help your Mum and Dad around the house. You can tidy your room, set the table, wash up, walk the dog, all kinds of things to help. And, like a Brownie, you could do it before they get up in the morning. Think how happy your parents would be.'

Aoife and Sean decided to do just that – they got up early the following morning and did lots of jobs around the house. When their Mum and Dad went downstairs, all the jobs had been done and they were so happy.

'Oh, we have a Brownie again!' they said. 'How wonderful.'

For weeks the children did all the jobs every morning. One morning their Mum got up early and found Aoife and Sean setting the breakfast table.

'So you're the Brownies,' she said. 'I'm so proud of you both, my very own Brownies.'

Aoife and Sean both smiled. Their Mum looked so happy it had all been worth it. They continued helping round the house, and making their parents the happiest parents in the whole of Ireland.

Long ago, people really did believe in Brownies – little people who helped them tidy their houses before everyone woke up. Nowadays some lucky parents still have Brownies to help them at home!

This version of the Brownie story has been rewritten by Sarah Webb (Author and IGG Leader.)