

Girl Scouts of Rhode Island, Inc.

G.O. GIRL! (GET ORGANIZED)

GSUSA Web Site

Interest Project Award

Complete the steps below to earn this Interest Project. These steps have been taken/adapted from those listed in the requirements for the G.O. GIRL! Interest Project Award.

ACTIVITY #1 - REQUIRED

Your first step toward being organized is to clear your space of clutter. Identify one section of your personal space that's cluttered (a desk, a closet, a bureau, backpack, purse, etc.). How can you better use your space? Sort clutter into three piles; keep, recycle, or trash/donate. Remove piles two and three. Rearrange the original space with the "keep" pile items. You should now have a significantly better, more organized, and functional space.

ACTIVITY #2 - LEARN

Being organized is half the battle for being prepared; planning ahead is the other half. Using old magazines, catalogs, drawings, etc. plan & organize what you'd bring with you if you were going to: a) A one-day school trip to a theme park.

B) One week at the beach in summer. Make a collage with the pictures of what you would bring, frame it and hang it in your room.

ACTIVITY #3 - DO

Organize items you use for a specific activity (hobby, craft projects, sports activities, putting on make-up). Gather all the items together and make one of the following room organizers for your room.

Book Keepers A cute solution for storing books, magazines, CD's
Materials: Empty, large laundry-soap box or cereal box, Colored paper or contact paper, Glue, Felt, Pencil, Scissors, Markers, stickers or colored tape

Directions: With scissors, cut off the top half of the box and discard it. Then cut the bottom portion of the box in half vertically to create two open-face cases.

Use a pencil to trace around the sides and back of each case onto a piece of colored paper, contact paper, wallpaper, etc. Cut out the paper tracings and glue them onto the outsides of the cases. Then cut out felt pieces to cover the undersides of the cases and glue them on. Now decorate the cases to suit their individual tastes with stickers, colored tape, glitter glue or original drawings



Hairstyling Station This window-style mirror features a colorful plastic window box just right for storing brushes, mousse and any other accessories you need to style your hair. There are even hooks for hanging necklaces and bracelets.

Materials: 2 decorative bent-wire hooks with screws to attach them to the mirror frame, Window-style mirror (sold at many department stores), 1/2-inch screws, Plastic shower caddy (the type with suction cups on back), Hot glue gun, assorted silk flowers, butterflies, etc.

Directions: First, attach the hooks to the upper corners of the mirror frame by drilling starter holes in the wood and then screwing the hooks in place. Next, transform the shower caddy into a window box by removing the suction cups from the back. Then pre-drill a couple of screw holes in the lower portion of the mirror frame that will match up with two of the holes in the back of the caddy. Turn the screws into the holes until the heads stick out of the wood a quarter of an inch. Then hang the caddy from the screw heads. For a finishing touch, hot-glue the silk flowers, feather butterflies and silk dragonflies to the mirror frame. Finally, hang the mirror on a wall.



Sports Star Memory Board This winning bulletin board provides a place of honor for the season's memorabilia--a cork Hall of Fame, if you will.

Materials: Sports T-shirt or uniform jersey, Craft knife, cork panels (at local office supply store or old cork board), Double-sided carpet tape,

Thumbtacks or push pins

Directions: Choose an old sports T-shirt or uniform jersey, trace its outline on a large piece of cardboard, and cut out the shape with a craft knife. Cover the entire cardboard shape with cork panels, using double-sided carpet tape to secure the cork. The cork won't fit exactly, so trim the excess with a craft knife or scissors. Then use the scrap pieces and more tape to fill in the sleeves.

Next, decide which side of the jersey you'd like to display and cut the shirt down the middle of the other side. Stretch the jersey taut around the cork form and use thumbtacks and more carpet tape to affix the cut opening to the back of the cardboard. Pin your memorabilia with on with push pins.



ACTIVITY #4 - SHARE

Develop a list of personal organizing strategies that you can use to reduce your family's level of stress. Or make a chart for your troop/group that would help it to operate more efficiently. Include actions that could help save time, conserve space, eliminate waste, eliminate clutter, etc. Using the strategies below, make a poster or chart that applies to your family, troop and/or group. Display your chart

in a place that can be seen by all. First, know your enemy! There are as many reasons for clutter as there are clutterers. Take aim on a clutter problem by going to the root of the problem: your own clutter personality. Do any of these clutter voices strike a chord? Find out what "personality" exists in your environment and follow the steps listed to tame your clutter.

The Hoarder: "This might come in hand someday!"

Deep down, Hoarders fear that they'll never have the resources they need if they let go of any possession, no matter how worn, useless or superfluous.

Hoarders need to remind themselves that resources will always be available. Where can a Hoarder look outside the home for a substitute Hoard?

Reassure yourself! Stuff will be with us always. Think of the off-site treasure troves as attenuated household storage areas. Dare to dump it!

The Deferrer: "I'll think about that tomorrow!"

Those of the deferral mindset are guilty of the great set-aside. Bills, notices, old newspapers, items that need cleaning or repair, and household projects are all set aside to be dealt with another day. The Deferrer will leave dinner dishes in the sink, wet laundry in the washer, and dropped fruit underneath the backyard apple tree. Deferrers need to be reminded that tomorrow has no more time or energy than today--and that deferring decisions drags down each new day with yesterday's unfinished business. Apply the best remedy: Action. For Deferrers, simply making a start creates the momentum needed to finish the job.

The Rebel: "I don't wanna and you can't make me!"

Somehow, it's all Mom's fault. Rebels were forced to pick up after themselves as children; as adults, they're still expressing the mute and stubborn determination of a four-year-old who refuses to pick up his toys. No, the Rebel won't put his or her clothes in the hamper, cereal bowl in the dishwasher, or car in the garage. Rebels need to remind themselves that the war is over. They don't live with Mom anymore--and their own family deserves an adult on the job, not a sulky child. Tell that inner Rebel, "It's okay--I'm the parent now, and I want a house that's nice to live in. By switching places with the old authority figure, the Rebel can find a way out of "I don't wanna!"

The Perfectionist: "Next week, I'll organize everything ... perfectly!"

Perfectionists are wonderful people, but they live in an all-or-nothing world. Perfectionism forms an inner barrier to cutting clutter because the Perfectionist can't abide doing a less-than-perfect job. For example, plastic food containers may be overflowing their cabinet, but the Perfectionist Clutterer won't scrub them to rights until he or she can purchase the perfect shelf paper, lid holder organizer, and color-coded labels. Perfectionist Clutterers need to remind themselves of the 20-80 rule: 20% of every job takes care of 80% of the problem, while fixing the remaining 20% will gobble 80% of the job. By giving themselves permission to do only 20%, Perfectionist Clutterers get off the dime and get going. It is perfectly fine to tell the inner Perfectionist, "Today, I'll do the important 20% of that job: sorting, stacking and organizing those food containers. Later, I'll do the other 80%, buying organizers and putting down shelf paper. If later never comes? Well, you've outwitted your inner Perfectionist Clutterer...congratulations!"

The Sentimentalist: "Oh, the little darling!"

Sentimentalists never met a memento they didn't like--or keep. There's so much to remember that the truly endearing items get lost in a flood. The Sentimental Clutterer needs to reduce the mass of mementos by changing mindset from an indiscriminate "Awwww!" to a more selective stance. A Sentimental Clutterer can corral each child's school papers into a single box by selecting one best drawing, theme or project each month. Other ideas include scrap booking the very best. Sort it out, choose the best, keep the memories and dump the rest!

ACTIVITY # 5 - YOUR OWN ACTIVITY

Organizing Clutter, room makeovers and de-stressing activities are all great ideas to help you develop "Your Own Activity". Here are two activities to get you started.

Create A Homework Center: One of the best ways to be successful in school is to be prepared for any assignment that comes your way. It's a good idea to keep an inventory of supplies on hand, so you'll be ready when it counts. Begin with a lightweight rolling plastic drawer cart, or even a large cardboard box that you have decorated. Keep the supplies close at hand. Stock the homework center with these essentials to help you stay focused and organized.

Timer - at homework time they help with persistence and taking needed breaks.

Electric Pencil Sharpener - make it easy to get back to the task.

Calculator - use in addition to your own math skills - not in place of...

Reference Books - a dictionary and thesaurus. This is where your computer comes in handy, since you can click to great reference sources in a sec.

Radio/Tape/CD Player - many people find it easier to concentrate with some background music

Supplies: Writing paper, pencils, markers, folders, tape, compass, protractor, hole punch, 3 Computer discs, 3-ring binder, Colored pencils, Colored pens, Eraser, Glue stick, Graph paper, Hand sanitize, Highlighters, Markers, Organizer/planner, Paper clips, Pens/pencils, Pencil sharpener, Pocket dictionary, Pocket folders, Poster paper, Ream of computer paper, Scissors, Spiral notebook, Stapler, tissues

Organize Your Jigsaw Puzzles - Make your own puzzle mat. This one-seam easy-sew puzzle allows puzzles to be worked at will, then rolled up and stowed away between play sessions. It's crafted from a short length of craft felt and a recycled gift wrap roller.



Materials and Supplies: 1 yard 72-inch wide craft felt fabric, (one yard makes two Puzzlers); thread to match, recycled cardboard gift wrap roller, 28 to 32 inches long, 2 9"-10" hook-and-loop straps to secure mat, sewing machine, pins, scissors or rotary cutter, hot glue gun with glue sticks

Instructions: First, using the gift wrap roller as a guide, cut one rectangle of craft felt. The narrow end should measure the length of the roller; the longer end should measure that length plus 5 inches, to create the roller pocket. Use a rotary cutter and ruler for best results. From the scraps, cut two 4-inch by 5-inch rectangles to cover roller ends. Next, place roller along the shorter side of the large rectangle. Fold the felt over the roller to create a pocket, and pin to secure. Carefully remove the roller. Using sewing machine, sew a straight seam down the length of the roller pocket. Backstitch at the beginning and end of the seam. Align small rectangles around the edges of the roller, and trim to fit exactly. Use the hot glue gun to glue the small rectangle around the outside of the roller. Carefully fold the rectangle to the inside of the roller and secure with hot glue. Carefully slide roller back into the pocket. Felt will stretch, so be gentle! Roll mat onto roller and secure with hook-and-loop straps.

REFLECTION: Discuss, share or write in your journal what being organized had done to help you de-stress!

