

Junior: Detective

Hey Girl Scout! Stories, movies, and television are full of amazing detectives solving mysteries and bringing criminals to justice. Their jobs are important, exciting, and take serious skills—skills you can try in this badge. Grab your magnifying glass and dive into the science of detecting! When you have earned this badge, you'll know how to follow clues and discover facts like a real detective!

Step 1: Power of Observation

1. One of a detective's most important skills is the ability to watch people and situations very closely. You are going to practice your observation skills with a little help from an adult or friend.
2. Pick any room in your house and take one minute to get a really good look at the room.
3. Leave the room and have your helper take five items out of the room. When you return see if you can identify what was taken.
4. Leave the room again and this time have your helper add five different items to the room and see if you can spot what was added!

Supplies:

1. Objects to add to the room

Step 2: Communicate in Code

1. Sometimes detectives, spies, or special agents can't talk to one another because of distance or the chance of being found out. They have to use other ways to get messages to each other.
2. Create your own code to send secret messages to your friends. Start by writing out the letters of the alphabet.
3. Under each letter draw a picture or symbol. This will be your dictionary so you can remember the code and teach it to your friends!

Supplies:

1. Paper
2. Pen or Pencil

Step 3: Fingerprint for Fun

1. Fingerprinting is used to find criminals and identify missing or injured persons. Take prints using an ink pad. Remember to roll your finger from one side to the other. Make sure to press the finger hard to get a good print, be careful not to smudge. If you don't have ink, no problem! You can use the pencil method.
2. Use a pencil to color on a piece of paper. Roll your finger from one side to the other on the pencil marks, and then stick a piece of transparent tape on your finger. Then remove the tape and see your print!
3. Make your own identity card by inking your finger print on to an index card (if you used the pencil method stick your fingerprint on the index card.)
4. Label the patterns in your fingerprint and list details about you others might not know!
5. Make identity cards with your friends and family and use them to play detective! Use the cards as clues to guess the identity!

Supplies:

1. Ink
2. Index card
3. Pencil
4. Tape

Step 4: Try out detective Science

1. Detectives use cutting-edge science to figure out what happened, who did it, and sometimes even to find the motive! Use your detective science skill to decipher the clues!
2. Have an adult crush up a few different kinds of Candy and put each on a different plate.
3. Use a magnifying glass to identify what kind of candy is crushed up!

Supplies

1. Magnifying glass
2. Different types of Candy
3. A few different plates

Step 5: Follow the clues to solve a real mystery

1. Now that there's evidence you can make a great detective, put your skills in action! Play a round of CLUE with your family or with an adults help head online and find a few different mysteries to solve!

Some suggested sights are: FBI KIDS

Supplies:

1. Clue Board Game or Computer