

Making Games

You can have fun without a computer, a deck of cards, or even a ball. Games are everywhere when you use your imagination to create them! Try this badge, and you and your friends will never be bored again.

Steps:

1. Try a scavenger hunt
2. Make up a mystery game
3. Create a party game
4. Change the rules
5. Invent a whole new sport

Purpose: When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to create new games and share them with others.

Step 1: Try a scavenger hunt

Scavenger hunts are a great way to have fun with your friends or get to know new people. In this step, make your own! First decide what you'll look for. Then go on your search. Use the guide attached to help make your scavenger hunt.

Choices—Do One:

- **Find it!** Make a scavenger hunt of at least 10 things to find. It could be in your neighborhood, at home, or in your back yard. For example, if your hunt is at home, you could find leaves, a feather, or a water source. Now find them!
 - Checkout this family's at home scavenger hunt:
<https://youtu.be/GvgabDdDzxk>
- **See it!** Make a scavenger hunt of at least 10 things to see. Choose 10 times that can be found where your game is going to be played. If you're taking a walk around your neighborhood, your list might include things like a mailbox, a fire hydrant, or even a neighbor. Make your list, then play.
- **Touch it!** Make a scavenger hunt of at least 10 things to feel. Your list could include things that feel fuzzy, soft, hard, squishy, and anything else you can think of. Then, go find them.
 - For more fun: Go international, like Brownies did in 1951. Have a treasure hunt in your home or neighborhood to see how many things you can find that came from another country. (Examples: a glass made in china, a rug made in Persia, or art made in France.)

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Step 2: Make up a mystery game

Mysteries turn simple games into adventures. Sharpen your detective skills in this step.

Choices—Do One:

- **Get a clue!** Turn your family members into detectives by leading them on a mystery hunt from clue card to clue card. For example, if the hunt is at your house, the first card could read, “Help me, I’m freezing.” That would lead to the freezer, where another clue card awaits. The last clue could lead to a prize.
- **Mystery box!** Find a large box and have an adult help cut a hole big enough for your hand to fit through. Then place 12 objects in the box and have your family write down what they think each object is just by touching it. Whoever gets the most right answers wins!
 - To see an example, watch this video of kids guessing what’s in a mystery box: <https://youtu.be/wnZHkU5kRxU>
- **Who’s who?** Write the names of famous people on small pieces of paper. Put them in a hat and draw one. Without looking at your paper, tape the paper to your forehead. Now, ask your family yes or no questions to figure out who you are.
 - This game is just like the classic Heads Up phone game. Check it out in this video: <https://youtu.be/e2-QjiRW1Ms>

Step 3: Create a party game

Cake. Presents. Games. All these things make birthday parties fun. In this step, your challenge is to create a new game for people to play at a party.

Choices—Do One:

- **Pin the tail on...?** In Pin the Tail on the Donkey, blindfolded players try to pin a paper tail on a poster of a donkey. Create your own by drawing a picture of a big sheet of paper and taping it to the wall. Then create what you want to pin to it and start playing. Try picking a new matching pair for your game—maybe Brownie Elf and her hat, a nose and a teddy bear, or an octopus and eight legs.
 - Here’s a video on how to create your own: <https://youtu.be/TZ19PB1SWzo>
- **Heat things up.** To play Hot Potato, players sit in a circle and pass around a potato (or another item) while music plays. Whoever is holding the potato when the music stops is “out.” The game goes until only one person is left. Think up a new game that uses an object and music.
 - For more fun: Make up a fun thing for players who are “out” to do, like be cheerleaders.

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- **Race day.** In a relay race, players on two teams compete by taking turns running the same distance. Create a new kind of relay. Maybe each team gets only one pair of shoes, so players must switch them off at each turn. Or instead of running, everyone tries to get a Girl Scout cookie from their forehead to their mouth without using their hands.
 - Watch this example of the cookie relay: <https://youtu.be/mreIDYqZ0yc>

Step 4: Change the rules

Take a game with rules you already know and add one new rule to make it feel like a whole new adventure. Of course, your new rule should make the game more fun, too.

Choices—Do One:

- **You're it.** In TV Tag, players name a TV show when they're tagged. In Freeze Tag, they stand frozen in place when they're tagged. Make your own version of Tag by adding a rule. Maybe players twirl three times and say a tongue twister when they're tagged.
 - For more fun: Can you figure out rules to make Tag a team sport?
- **Duck, Duck, "Moo"-se.** Duck, Duck, Goose is a simple game: everyone sits in a circle, and one person walks around the circle tapping people and saying "duck". When the person says "goose" instead, the tapped person jumps up and chases her. Change the game by using sounds instead of animals. You could try "quack, quack, MOO!"
 - If you've never played before check out this quick instructional video on how to play Duck, Duck, Goose: <https://youtu.be/gWNZMziSI4k>
- **Hop to it.** To play Hopscotch, you draw squares from 1 to 10 and hop your way upward without touching any lines. But what if instead of numbers, you had to hop from animal to animal? Or what if you had to do a new action- like spin or sit- in each square? Make up your own rules and then try it out!
 - Here's a quick video on how regular hopscotch is played: <https://youtu.be/9ikg9qnWrDU>

Step 5: Invent a whole new sport

Make the rules, pick the number of players, and select the kinds of balls or equipment to use. You can even give your new sport a name.

Choices—Do One:

- **Queen of the court.** Create a new basketball-court sport that doesn't use a basketball. You might want to use different only a certain area of the court or

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perhaps just the hoop. Maybe your game could involve throwing tennis balls or different objects you have at home at the backboard for points.

- For more fun: Create your own kind of court. Think of what you have available to you and get creative!
- **Field of dreams.** Soccer fields have clearly marked sidelines, huge goals, and a sea of grass to play on. Dream up the wildest game you can that can be played in a large grassy area. (or even just your backyard) Maybe it includes one on your hands and no equipment or maybe five different types of balls.
 - To get you inspired here is a video of fun games to play in your backyard: <https://youtu.be/T50vzv4TuVE>
- **The new ball park.** Come up with a new game that uses a baseball diamond. For example, you could start with players kicking an old volleyball and then running straight to second base.
 - Tip: If you don't have access to a baseball field you can always set one up in your backyard. Just use objects you can find around your house to mark each base and set them up in a diamond shape.

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Making up a game for a friend's birthday party.
- Using my imagination to make fun new rules for a board game on family night.
- Cheering people up by creating a game to play.

Tips on teaching a game:

1. Get the players in position for the game. Tell them if you want teams or circles. Have them count off for teams or take hands to form a circle. Tell where teams should line up.
2. Explain what you want the players to do. Let some players try the action so the others can watch and ask questions.
3. Tell the players how the game starts, how it ends, and who wins.
4. Have a clearly marked starting point and goal or finish line.

Tips for making a game:

Decide—

1. What the action or questions will be.
2. How the game will start and end.
3. What will be needed—equipment, judges, a start or finish line.
4. How everyone will have fun, whether they win or lose.

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More to explore:

- Make a game even better by thinking of a way to change the rules to make a game for a group of friends who use wheelchairs or walkers.
- Play a story like Brownies did in 1963. Have you ever played Sleeping Beauty or Alice in Wonderland or other favorite stories? Has your group ever acted out the story of the brownies? Act out one of these, or a story you make up yourself.

Page from the past: dressing up!

You can always dress up to make your game even more fun. With a scarf around you, you can be a butterfly or a tall, tall tree, a dancing wave or a mountain high, a fairy queen or a star in the sky. – Brownie Girl Scout Handbook, 1963

Words worth knowing:

- Scavenge: means to search for something

How to make a scavenger hunt:

- Pick a place to search and tell players where it's okay to go.
- Make a list of items you might find there. Include:
 - Easy ones
 - Hard ones
 - Items of different sizes
 - Items harder to see
 - Items you have to think about, like "something that changes when a season changes" (aka leaves)
- Decide on a time limit and a signal for players to come back.
- Give players a bag to collect their items in.
- If you have a large group, split into teams.
- Make the rules, like:
 - Find items in any order
 - Meet up in one place and see what everyone else found
 - Team can win for "most interesting item" or "most items found"