

BUYING POWER SENIOR BADGE



MATERIALS

Computer
Pencil and Paper

BADGE GOAL

When you earn your Buying Power Senior Badge, you will have a better understanding of how to shop smart. You will learn how to weigh the costs of a big purchase, and make a plan to start saving.

DISCLAIMER

High School Girl Scout Resources is a personal project and is not directly affiliated with any official Girl Scouts organization, and we do not claim to be.

BUYING POWER SENIOR BADGE

Step 1: Compare costs and options

To start this badge, you will have to choose a "big purchase" to focus on (for the sake of this badge, it will be easiest to choose an object). Once you choose your product, fill out the chart on page 3 to compare your different options.

Step 2: Conduct consumer research

Something great about online shopping is how easy it is to find review of different products. Spend some time reading the reviews of different products. See if there are similarities in the reviews you look at that make you stay away from a certain brand. You can also watch video reviews that go into more depth. Additionally, see if anyone you know owns the product you are thinking of buying so you can get a review from someone you trust.

Step 3: Calculate the long-term costs

For this step, ask yourself a few questions: Will this purchase benefit me in the future? How long will this purchase/object last for?

Step 4: Investigate ways to find better deals

Compare the prices of your chosen object at different stores or from different brands. For this step, you can research online, or go shopping in person (you may find a price difference in online vs. in-person shopping). Once you choose a brand or store, see if they offer a rewards program or coupons.

Step 5: Create a savings plan for a big purchase you'd like to make

In order to make a good savings plan, you need to take into consideration how much money you are "making" right now. Do you have an allowance? A job? Decide how long you want to spend saving up for your product. Use the sheet on page 3 to help keep track of your savings.

SECOND-HAND VS. NEW

Another option that can save lots of money is buying second-hand. There are plenty of online second-hand shops, and you can find just about anything. Second-hand shopping not only can help save money, but it is good for the environment!

MORE BADGE RESOURCES

To learn more about High School Girl Scout Resources, visit:

Resources, visit:

<http://bit.ly/hsgsresources>

BUYING POWER SENIOR BADGE SAVINGS PLAN

I want to save up to buy _____ because _____.

In order to save up for it, I have to **compare costs and options**. In order to do this, I am going to compare the following brands/stores:

Brand/Store Name	Price	Notes

(repeat table for as many brands/stores as you are comparing)

Now that I have chosen where I will be purchasing the item from, I have to make a **savings plan**.

Each week I make \$_____ and I plan to set aside \$_____ in order to make my purchase. If I stick to my savings plan, it should take me _____ weeks to save up.