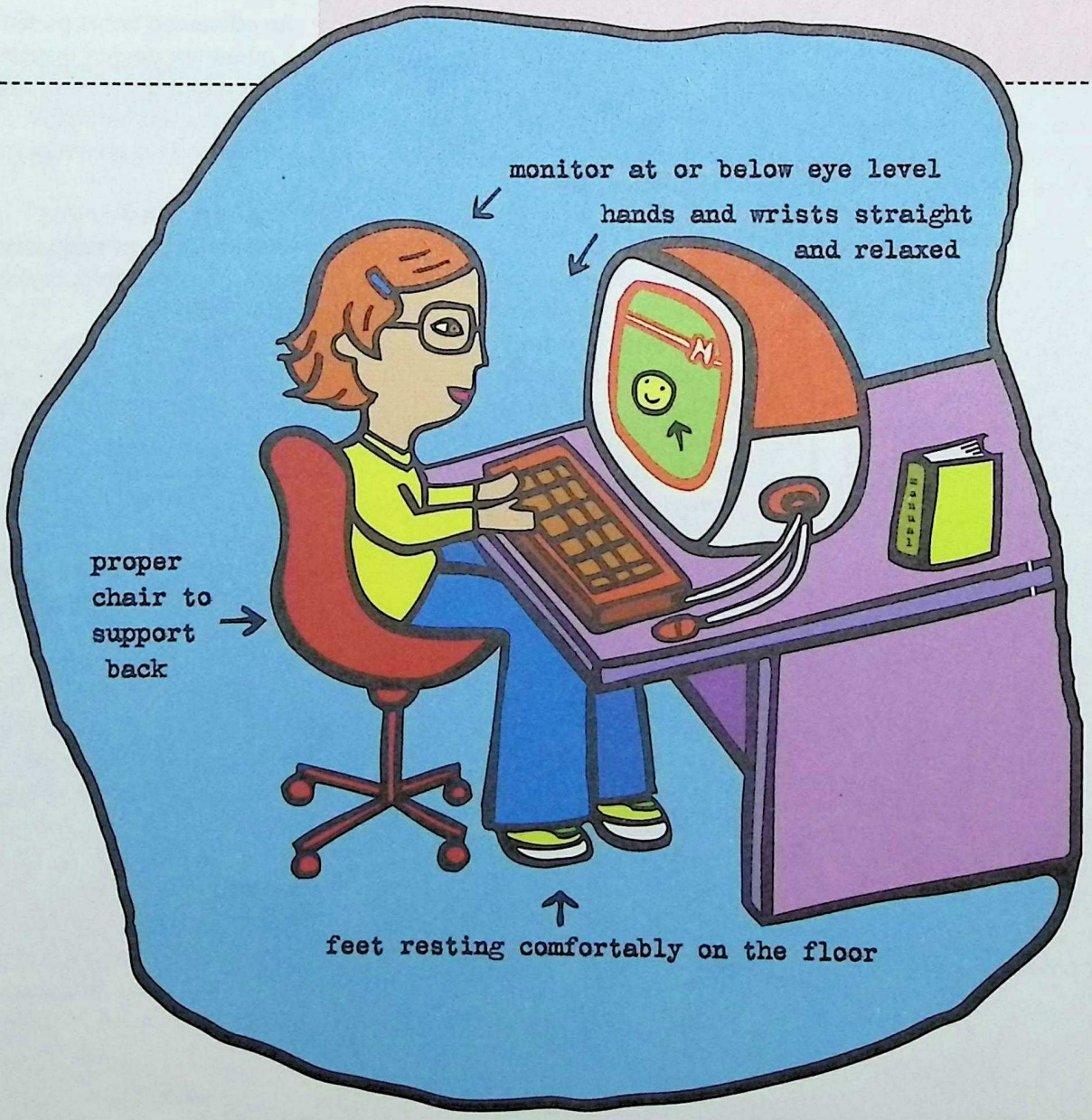
Computer Fun

The computer is a great tool for doing schoolwork and hobbies. Computers help you work faster and "smarter." Knowing how to use a computer is essential in most jobs now and into the future. This badge will help you prepare.





1. Get Set Up

If you have a computer at home, this is a must! Read about how to "stay tuned up" in the "Explore and Discover" chapter of your *Junior Girl Scout Handbook.* Evaluate your computer ergonomics. Create a healthier work environment for yourself and for others who use the computer. Read the Online Safety Pledge in the "How to Stay Safe" chapter of the handbook and make sure you and your family sign it.

2. Just the Basics

Learn how to do basic computer operations. Demonstrate your ability to do the following: create a document using a word-processing program, save a document, add numbers or bullets to a list, use the spell-check function, print out stored information.

3. Computer Artist

You can be an artist using the computer. Use graphics or photo software to do one of the following:

- Create an illustration or design that can be saved and inserted into a document or used as a screensaver.
- Learn to rotate, crop, size, sharpen, and brighten a photo from a scanned or digital file.

After you have your picture, you could use it as a screensaver, illustrate something you have written, or use it in a larger product, such as a quilt or memory book.

4. Desktop Publishing

Create a newsletter on your computer. Include a theme, a banner headline, columns, text wrapping, clip art or pictures, boxed text, and page numbers. Save it and print it for others to read.

5. Fun and Games

Help put on a demonstration of computer games and software for your troop or a group of younger girls. Select the games or software for content, the age of the participants, educational value, and enjoyment.



6. Review the Products

Be a computer software reviewer. Pick out at least two software programs to review that were written for kids. Compare your evaluation with that of the experts in a software review magazine. How are the reviews the same as or different from yours? Would you use reviews to help choose software? Why or why not?

7. Get Practical

Use a software program to do something that will save you time, teach you something, or get organized. Check out additional ideas for this activity in the section about getting connected in the "Explore and Discover" chapter of your *Junior Girl Scout Handbook.*

8. What's Available?

Visit a computer store. Compare different kinds of personal computing systems. Ask someone to help you determine the basic options for a family computer, including printers and other hardware. Don't forget to compare the costs. Decide which system would be the best for you.

OR

Read at least three computer magazines. Decide what information would be helpful to your family if you were going to purchase, upgrade, or expand the usefulness of a computer.

9. On the Job

Interview four different people and find out how they use computers in their jobs.

10. Comparison Shopping

Find out about the different products that people use to conduct business, stay connected, or hook up to the Internet when they are away from their offices.