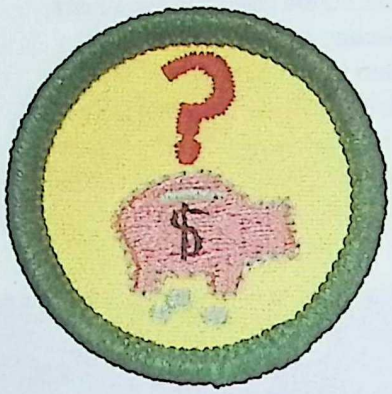
Money Sense

Learning about earning, saving, and spending can help you make your money grow. The activities in this badge will help you get the most out of the money you have—both now and in the future.



Troop or Group Budget

Income

Dues	
Product Sales	
Money-Earning Projects	
Contributions (from parents, sponsors, etc.)	
Money from Last Year	
Others	
Total Income	

Expenses

Supplies	
Transportation	
Fees (for example, for admissions)	
Refreshments (food and drinks)	
Awards	
Others	
Total Expenses	

1. Troop Budget

With your troop, develop a troop budget. Include your expenses, such as equipment, supplies, and the cost of trips and other activities. Also include your income, or sources of money, such as troop dues, proceeds from cookie sales, and money earned through special projects. Then plan for a fun activity. Determine the cost, and figure out how long it will take to earn the money. See the section about managing money in the "Adventures in Girl Scouting" chapter in your *Junior Girl Scout Handbook* for information.

2. Best Investments

Find out about the different ways to invest and save money. Learn about three of the following:

- Mutual funds
- Money market accounts
- Certificates of deposit
- Saving accounts
- U.S. savings bonds
- Stocks
- Corporate bonds



3. Invest Together

With a group of friends, form an "investment club." Ask an adult for advice. Choose two different stocks or mutual funds. With "pretend" amounts of money, invest equal amounts of money in each. Follow your investments for three months, and then compare how they did.

4. Cash or Credit

Sometimes people prefer to use a credit card instead of cash when they buy something. Talk to a banker, an accountant, a financial planner, or another knowledgeable adult about how credit cards work. What are credit card interest rates? Find out how long it would take you to pay for a $250 bicycle if you used a credit card that charged 9 percent interest, 12 percent interest, and 18 percent interest. An adult can help you with the calculations.



5. Ups and Downs of the Market

With the help of an adult, follow a stock as it is reported in the newspaper or online for a month. Pretend you own 100 shares of that stock. Have you made a profit? If so, how much? If not, how much did you lose? Think about why you would or would not buy stock in this company, and explain your ideas to your troop or group.



6. Careers in Finance

Find out about jobs in the finance industry. Invite someone who works in one of the following jobs to talk about her work. Ask her to explain what her day is like, the training necessary for her job, and what advice she has for someone interested in this type of job:

- Accountant
- Financial planner
- Bookkeeper
- Financial analyst
- Insurance agent
- Stockbroker
- Credit counselor
- Portfolio or mutual fund manager

7. Shop Smart

Learn about comparison shopping by spending an afternoon at a nearby mall. In small groups, head for the mall to check for best buys. Be sure to bring a calculator and a notebook. Try to compare the same brand or similar items in various stores. Look for sales, coupon items, discontinued merchandise, and seconds (items with minor flaws). Were there big differences in prices at different stores?



8. Reality Check

How much money do you think it takes for an adult or family to live today? With the help of your family, write down all the types of expenses you can think of, including rent or mortgage payments, heat, taxes, electricity, cable television, insurance, phone, water, car payments, food, clothes, entertainment, and gifts. How much would you need to earn to pay these bills?

9. Money Doesn't Always Matter

Talk about some good things in life that money can't buy, and make a scrapbook of pictures or drawings of these things. Then have fun for free—take a nature walk, attend free community events, visit a city council meeting, go window shopping with sister troops, or have a picnic.

10. How Much Is a Dollar Worth?

That depends on where you are in the world. If you travel to a foreign country, most likely you will have to exchange your American dollars into the currency used by that particular country. In China, it's *yuan*; in Mexico, it's *pesos*; in Italy, it's *lira*; and in India, it's *rupees*. If someone says there is a "good exchange rate," it means you get more for your dollar. Pick two countries and, with the help of an adult, check the newspaper and keep track of the exchange rates for the American dollar in those countries for one month.