

Getting Started:

Parent Meeting Script for Girl Scout Leaders



Girl Scouts®

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PARENT/GUARDIAN MEETING SCRIPT

Overview:

Parent involvement is an integral part of a successful Girl Scout troop. It begins with good communication between the Troop Leader and Assistant Troop Leader and the parents at the initial parent meeting.

In order for parents to fully support the troop they must understand the mission of the organization and the benefits of participation for their daughter.

This script is designed to help you, the Troop Leader/Ass't Troop Leader, and the Troop Consultant define the Girl Scout mission to parents. It also communicates to them that a team effort is necessary to maximize troop experience for their daughter. The script accompanies the sample parent meeting in *The Leader*.

By the end of the meeting, parents will be able to:

- articulate the guiding principles of Girl Scouting
- explain how decision making is promoted in the troop
- sign up to commit to taking on responsibilities in the troop
- understand youth development aspects of Girl Scouting

Set-up

During the parent meeting, while parents are being introduced to Girl Scouting and the youth development aspects of Girl Scouts, a separate meeting can be set up for girls in the troop at the same time. The goal of the meeting is to have girls come up with their own activity ideas for the troop year (with the assistance of an adult). This can be done by having girls cut pictures out of magazines of their favorite activities or in any other age appropriate way. At the appropriate time, the Troop Leader/Ass't Leader can take these ideas back to the parent meeting and demonstrate to them the power of girl choice by sharing the results of their efforts.

*****The script should be customized to meet the specific needs of the troop, including providing specific troop information and procedures.

*****This script is to be used with *The Leader*.

CONTENT/TIME	METHOD	MATERIALS
<p>Start-up Activity Giveaway Game 5 Minutes</p>	<p>As parents arrive, have the Give Away game out with slips of paper. Have participants place jobs on the poster under the position, which they think should do the job. (You might want to make the Give Away into poster size.)</p>	<p>Give Away Game (poster size) Pages 23-30-The Leader</p>
<p>Welcome and Introductions 10 Minutes</p>	<p><u>Leader Notes:</u> Welcome parents and give them a brief biography of the Leader and the Assistant Leader. Begin the “meeting” with the <u>Girl Scout Promise and the Law.</u></p> <p><u>Say to Parents:</u> <i>This parent meeting is a simulation of an actual troop meeting to give you an idea of: 1) how a meeting is conducted, 2) some of the Girl Scout traditions and 3) the reasons for those traditions. We have already done the Start-up activity and the Welcome. While you were waiting for the meeting to begin, we asked you to begin playing the Give Away Game by assigning necessary jobs to people involved in the troop. Start-up activities are activities that are conducted as girls arrive to the troop meeting. This allows them to begin participating in an activity and at the same time, allowing time to have a short conversation with you. Some of the start-up activities we will use in our troop are: _____.</i></p> <p><i>The opening signifies the beginning of the meeting. The Girl Scout Promise and The Girl Scout Law are the organization’s guiding principles. Other openings include flag ceremonies, recitation of poems, etc. Ceremonies build a sense of community among girls. They help girls feel a part of something. Ceremonies empower girls. For example,</i></p>	<p>Girl Scout Promise/Law Handout</p>

CONTENT/TIME	METHOD	MATERIALS
<p>Introductions (Cont.)</p>	<p>flag ceremonies are not only about teaching patriotism, but also allowing girls to take a risk. Standing in front of the other girls performing a part in the ceremony builds self-esteem. Some girls may not get the chance to play a significant role in events at school, church, etc, but our Girl Scouts will have several opportunities to be a leader throughout the year.</p>	
<p>Business Troop Meeting Information 15 Minutes</p>	<p><u>Say to Parents:</u> <i>We are now entering the Business part of the troop meeting. In this part, girls discuss upcoming plans, collect troop dues, brainstorm ideas, etc. Let's now take time to complete the business of our parent meeting:</i></p> <p><i>Our meeting day and time will be _____. The national dues is \$10.00 per girl. Financial assistance is available. The troop dues (or assessment for daisy troops) of \$_____ in addition to what the troop makes from the cookie sale will help fund our projects and activities for the year.</i></p> <p>Ask the group to discuss uniforms and purchasing of materials.</p> <p><i>Safety is a cornerstone of Girl Scouting. Ways that you will help the troop will be: 1) give permission for your daughter to participate in Girl Scouting and provide additional consent for activities that take place outside the scheduled meeting place, require the use of special equipment or cover sensitive issues 2) make arrangements for your daughter to get to and from the meeting in a timely manner 3) follow Girl Scout safety guidelines and encourage their children to do the same 4) participate in parent and guardian meetings 5) Assist the leaders when their daughter has special needs or disabilities.</i></p>	<p>Page 23-30 in The Leader Safety-Wise</p>

CONTENT/TIME	METHOD	MATERIALS
	<p>Show parents sample permission forms.</p> <p><i>Now, let's talk about what Girl Scouting is all about. It is not accidental that a girl grows up positively. Girl Scouts offers possibilities for girls that do not exist in other environments, such as school. Decision making is so crucial to their emotional well being. The more choices and decisions girls make, the stronger they will be able to stand up for moral and family values and the less likely they will be apt to succumb to peer pressure—especially when they are teens.</i></p> <p><i>One of the most important activities we will do as a troop in the business part of the meeting is make decisions, particularly in regards to planning troop activities. For the last 30 minutes the girls have been spending time in an activity that is designed to spark their imagination and allow them to come up with ideas on their own or in pairs as to what they would like to in the troop. They will then create a list of ideas as a group for the troop calendar. Then it is time to narrow their choices as a group by refining their list and selecting which activities to do. Along the way girls will figure out the details with our support.....and of course, they will EARN THEIR WAY through the sale of cookies and magazines. So, you can see, Brownie, Junior and teenage girls gain a lot from learning how to pay for things they want to do.</i></p>	<p>Sample Permission Form (available online www.girlscoutsksmo.org/forms.asp)</p>
<p>Activity/What is Girl Scouting All About? 15 Minutes</p>	<p><i>The activity part of the meeting is where we will spend most of our time doing badge work, learning new skills, service projects, etc.</i></p> <p><i>To help you relate to this part of the meeting, let's do an activity of our own.</i></p>	<p>Have handbooks etc. available for parents to look at Mission Statement Handout, How Do We Accomplish Our Mission handout, and</p>

CONTENT/TIME	METHOD	MATERIALS
<p>What is Girl Scouting? (Cont.)</p>	<p><i>The mission statement of Girl Scouts is to build girls of confidence, courage, and character who make the world a better place.</i></p> <p><i>Girl Scouts is a youth development organization. This means that rather than “serving” youth by keeping them busy with activities, instead, experiences are set up intentionally to fulfill our mission—developing leaders.</i></p> <p><i>These intentional activities fall into Discover, Connect, or Take Action categories. (Review the top half of and the How Do We Accomplish Our Mission handout that defines Discover, Connect, and Take Action Activities.)</i></p> <p><i>Give each parent a few cut outs from the girls’ troop calendar ideas to label as either a Discover, Connect or Take Action type of activity; some may fall into more than one category so there may not be a right/wrong answer. Discuss these as a group.</i></p> <p><i>SAY: Built into all activities are supports and opportunities. For example, the Kaper Chart ensures that the structure of the troop meeting is appropriate and works (explain how the Kaper Chart works); it could help a girl feel she has meaningful involvement with the troop. Girl planning gives girls the sense that their efforts make a difference. Discuss other ways supports and opportunities may play out in Girl Scouting.</i></p> <p><i>Whatever the activity, Girl Scouting is helping girls develop courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.</i></p>	<p>Sample Kaper Chart</p>

CONTENT/TIME	METHOD	MATERIALS
<p>Activity/Give Away Game</p>	<p>Activity: Refer back to the Give Away Game. Take the activities that girls can do and suggest that we allow girls to complete these tasks (age appropriate). This is a good time to explain the Adult/Girl Partnership.</p> <p>Say to Parents: <i>My role as a Leader (Assistant Leader) will be(add your own ideas in regards to the adult/girl partnership).</i> <i>Parent involvement is so important to the troop. Not only does it make the Leader/Ass't Leaders jobs more manageable, but it allows you the opportunity to engage in fun and rewarding activities with your daughter. This is the girls' troop. Your involvement in helping them achieve their goals is crucial. How can you help?</i></p> <p>Ask what tasks each parent commits to taking on. Removing appropriate jobs (on the slips of paper) from the "Leader/Ass't Leader" section on the poster, ask if these jobs could be shifted to someone besides the leader. The appropriate placement may be a girl, parent, etc.</p> <p>This is also a good opportunity to talk about how you will communicate with parents ie. newsletter, etc.</p>	<p>Give Away Game</p> <p>Pages 25-30 in The Leader</p>
<p>Closing</p>	<p>Thank everyone for coming.</p>	

GIRL SCOUT MISSION STATEMENT

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage,
confidence, and character,
who make the world a better place.

THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

➤ **GIRL SCOUT SLOGAN:** “Do a Good Turn Daily.”

➤ **GIRL SCOUT MOTTO:** “Be Prepared.”

How do we accomplish our mission?

We accomplish our mission by providing an environment where girls can *discover, connect, and take action*, a philosophy instituted by the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. (GSUSA) that they call the Leadership Development Model.

Girl Scouting provides activities in which girls can

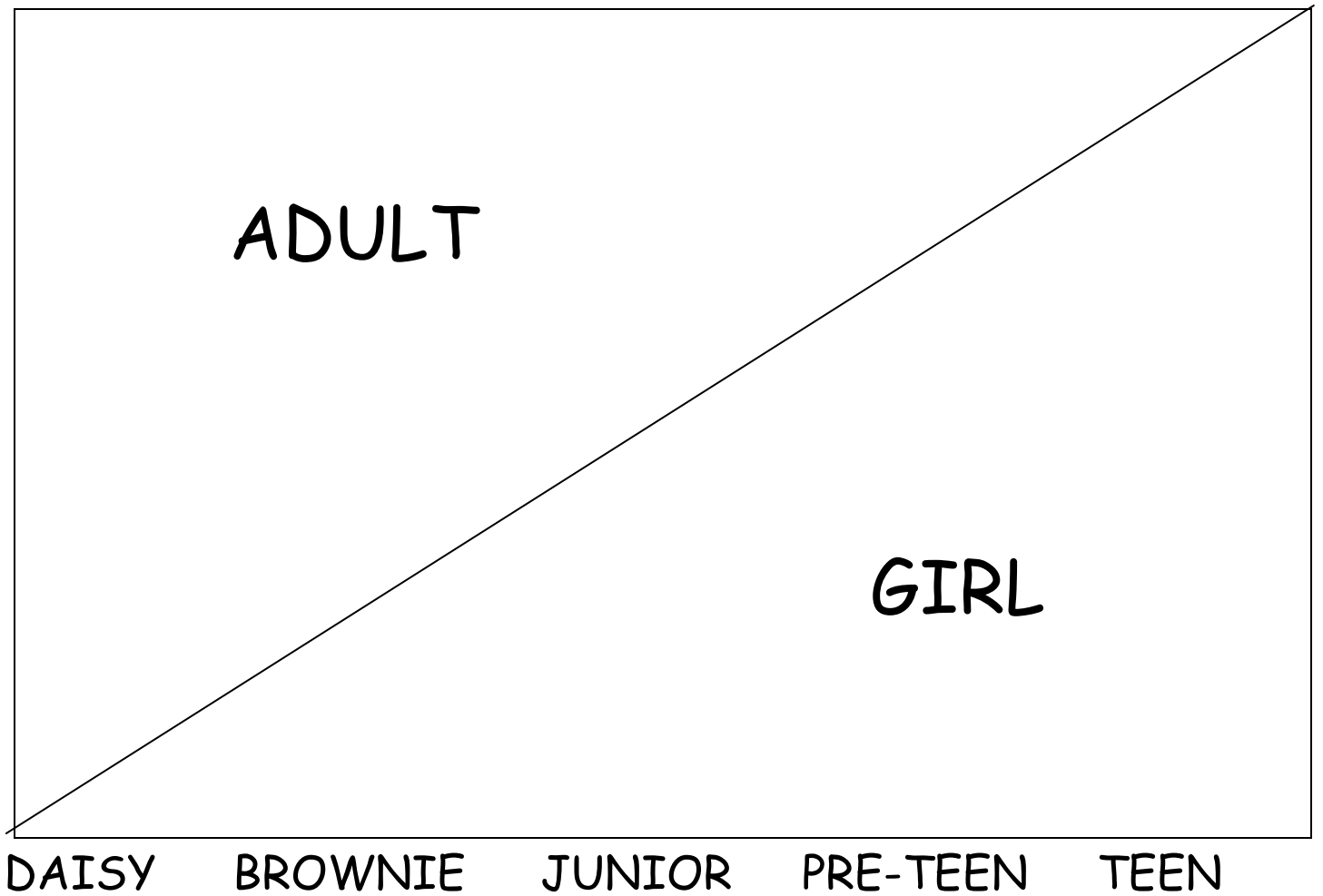
- ↳ *Discover* new knowledge, skills, and values.
- ↳ *Connect* with fellow troop members and the broader community.
- ↳ *Take Action* through service projects and by practicing those things they have discovered.

The following supports and opportunities should be built into every activity to facilitate the most growth for girls during their Discover, Connect, and Take Action activities.

Support and Opportunity	Definition	Ways we can offer this opportunity in GS
A Safe Place	Girls feel comfortable and are able to “be themselves”	
Supportive Relationships	Girls build relationships with adult and peer troop members who she can support and be supported by.	
Meaningful Involvement	Girls utilize adults who will listen, allow them to practice leading, and eventually take on leadership roles.	
Skill-Building	Girls learn and grow from having various experiences.	
Community Involvement	Girls learn about groups outside of her immediate circle and how to make an impact.	

If we assure that the previous elements are in place, girls will grow to have *courage, confidence and character*—the leadership attributes we identify in our mission statement.

GIRL/ADULT PLANNING



GIVEAWAY SORTER

LEADER	TEENS
ASSISTANT LEADER	PARENTS
GIRLS	SERVICE TEAM (Tr. Consultant/Mentor, Service Team Manager, Tr. Organizer/Recruiter)

OPEN BANK ACCOUNT	ATTEND SERVICE UNIT MEETINGS
REGISTER TROOP	TAKE CAMP TRAINING
TAKE FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING	ARRANGE FOR TROOP MEETING PLACE
BUY PINS, TRY-ITS, BADGES, & PETALS	SET TROOP GOALS
DECIDE WHEN READY TO GO CAMPING	PROVIDE SNACK FOR TROOP MEETINGS
IS A PRODUCT SALE MANAGER	PLAN TROOP MEETINGS
KEEP RECORD OF TROOP MONEY	RUN TROOP MEETINGS
KEEP PARENTS INFORMED	TAKE ATTENDANCE
COLLECT AND RECORD DUES	CLEAN UP AFTER MEETINGS

TEACH SONGS AND GAMES	COLLECT PERMISSION SLIPS
KEEP TROOP RECORDS	CHECKS COUNCIL/SERVICE UNIT WEB PAGE FOR GIRL SCOUT IDEAS
ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR TRIPS	PREPARE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS, TRIPS
MAKE OUT PERMISSION SLIPS	MEETS AND CONFERS WITH TROOP CONSULTANT
HELP DELIVER COOKIES	GATHER OR BUY PROGRAM SUPPLIES
ARRANGE FOR CAMPING EQUIPMENT,.....	SOLVE DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS
PREPARE FOR CEREMONIES	CHECK SAFETY-WISE WHILE PLANNING
BUY FOOD AND SUPPLIES FOR COOKOUT OR TROOP CAMPING	PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO EVENTS/FIELD TRIPS
PARTICIPATE IN COOKIE SALE	WORKS WITH GIRLS ON PETAL/TRY-IT/BADGE WORK