

Family Engagement

Fast Fundamentals



Overview

Girl Scouting provides the best opportunities for girls when families step up and play an active part in the troop. Without meaningful support from parents and caregivers, it's difficult for a troop to be all it can be. Plus, girls feel a special sense of pride when their families take part and show interest in the things they're doing! Asking or getting families to pitch in and play an active role in the troop while also enhancing the experience for their own daughter, can be tricky for many volunteers. It does not have to be this way! Whether you're a new or returning troop it's valuable for all troops to start the year off with a parent meeting. After your troop's initial parent meeting, the activities listed are ways you can best keep parents and caregivers involved with the troop

Pearl of Wisdom

Family Promise:

On my honor,

*I will try to support my Girl Scout and her troop
to help girls lead at all times
and to always keep it fun!*



Activity 1: Make Family Part of the Formula

Instructions:

Divide the group into small groups, give each group an event listed below. Have each group discuss and share how families can be involved in events.

- World Thinking Day
- Fishing Derby
- Girl Scouts Birthday
- Field Day
- Bridging
- Badge
- Community Service



Activity 2: Make the Ask

Instructions:

Discuss with participants the following topics involving how to make the ask to get families involved and what techniques have worked in the past.

- Make the ask(s)
- The main reason people do not take action is because they were never asked to in the first place. That is why hearing one out of three Girl Scout parents say no one had communicated expectations around involvement with their girl's troop is so troubling.
- Parents may have many talents, but they are certainly not mind readers! If you are nervous about getting turned down, don't be. Sure, a few parents might be unable to lend a hand, but the helpers you do get will be worth their weight in gold. And just because someone was not available a month or two ago does not mean they will not be free to help now. Loop back, follow up, and ask again!
- Make sense of "why." Explain that not only does the whole troop benefit with extra help from parents and caregivers, but also that girls feel a special sense of pride in seeing their own family member step up and take a leadership role.
- Getting involved can strengthen the caregiver/girl bond and is a meaningful way to show daughters that they are a priority in their parents' lives. Everybody's got a full plate these days, so instead of starting parent conversations with a list of tasks or responsibilities they could take on (which can be intimidating!), ask caregivers how much time each week they might be able to dedicate to the troop, then go from there.
- For instance, if a troop mom or dad has 15 minutes each week to spare, they could organize and manage the calendar for troop snacks and carpool. If a grandparent has one to two hours, they could assist with leading the troop through a specific badge on a topic they are already comfortable with.
- For more ways parents and other caregivers can help when faced with a tricky schedule, check out the Family Resources tab in the Volunteer Tool Kit.

Activity 3: Debrief with Girls at Home

Instructions:

It's important to know what your Girl Scout is experiencing. You can get involved by helping her debrief her experiences at home.

Debriefing is reflecting upon:

- What they did
- What challenges they worked through
- Helping them connect what they learned.

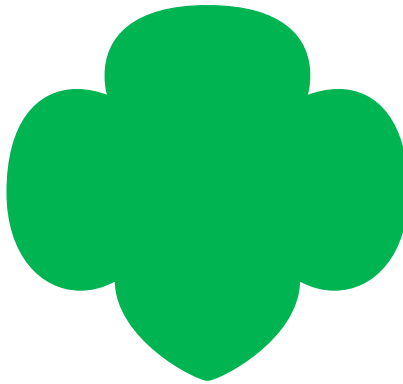
You can ask them questions about their experience like:

- What did you like?
- Was this easy or hard? Why? If you did it again what would you change?



S'more Info

Experience Girl Scouts as a Family with the Family Adventure Patch!	Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Badges	Girl Scouts USA Family Connection
 <p>gswoblog.org > Search Experience Girl Scouts as a Family with the Family Adventure Patch!</p>	 <p>gswoweb.org/badges</p>	 <p>girlscouts.org/family > Family Connection > Click "Download Now"</p>



888.350.5090 | gswoweb.org
customercare@gswoweb.org



In Partnership With:

