

# 1<sup>st</sup> Month Of Troop Meetings



## **Girls have learned about Girl Scouts (The Promise, Law, what a Girl Scout is and what a Girl Scout can do)**

The Girl Scout Promise and Law are what the Girl Scout organization is founded on. It is important that girls and leaders alike begin to identify with and understand the goals of the organization, and the values it is instilling. In learning the promise and law, girls begin to see how they are part of a community larger than just their troop.



## **Girls have learned a Girl Scout Song**

Learning Girl Scout songs is just **FUN!** The girls will not want to stop at just one. There are vast resources for Girl Scout songs; older troops, other Girl Scout leaders, the internet, and the Girl Scout Resource Center.

**\*Refer to the attached song reference sheet for website resources.**



## **Girls have discussed and made troop rules and consequences**

Girl/adult partnerships are one of the driving forces behind the Girl Scout program. Leading the girls in a discussion about what they want the troop rules and consequences to be gives them a sense of ownership. Girls who feel a sense of ownership are more likely to abide by the rules set for troop behavior, especially if they are enforced. Of course, as the leader, you should participate in this discussion letting the girls know what is important to you. These rules should then be posted at every Girl Scout meeting, and reviewed before participating in activities outside of the troop setting.



## ***All girls are registered and health histories are on file***

- All girls registered \_\_\_\_\_ Date
- All health histories are on file \_\_\_\_\_ Date

By your second meeting, all girls placed in your troop should be registered. Additional girls joining the troop should be registered by attendance at their second meeting. Girls are only covered by Girl Scout insurance once they become registered. The blue health histories should be on file at every troop meeting and taken with you whenever leaving the troop meeting setting. For example if you take a trip and the girls are divided into two cars, the health histories must be with the car that the individual girl is in. **The Girl Scout Center does not need copies of the health histories.** Some troop leaders ask parents to attach a picture of the girl in the event that one might be needed. This is not necessary, but a good idea.



## **Meetings follow some sort of structure**

Although, the Girl Scout program is designed to be non-formal, some established structure to the meetings is highly recommended. Structure helps to provide an environment in which each girl feels welcome and safe.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Month Of Troop Meetings



## Girls have made and begun to use a kaper chart

**\*For kaper jobs, and inventive design ideas, refer to the section on troop organization in this booklet.**



## Begin to explain and plan Investiture and Rededication Ceremony

Investiture/Rededication Ceremony \_\_\_\_\_ Date

Investiture is a ceremony to welcome new members into Girl Scouting for the first time. The ceremony can be for girls or adults and should be the first time that the Girl Scout membership pin is worn. If there are girls or adults in your troop that have been Girl Scouts before, then a rededication ceremony could also be included. The ceremony is usually held at the beginning of each Girl Scout year, and can be performed in many ways. Because this is a special time for the girls, the ceremony should represent them, and how they feel about Girl Scouts.

**\*For more information on ceremonies and how to perform them, refer to CEREMONIES IN GIRL SCOUTING and/or your Age Level Leaders' Guide. These books are available through the Girl Scout Regional Offices.**



## Checking account has been set up

Checking account opened \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bank

**\*For more information on setting up your troop checking account, refer to troop organization in this booklet or section D in the *Volunteer Resource Guide*.**



## Girls have started talking about troop government

The different forms of troop government are used for various reasons, planning and voting being among the most common. Troop government also offers leadership opportunities to the girls in your troop, while keeping them on task. Girl Scouts is a program of progression. Most generally girls do not begin to use one of the three models of troop government - Patrol, Executive Board, and Town Meeting - until their third year of Brownies, or their first year of Juniors. Younger Girl Scouts (Daisies and Brownies) usually sit in a circle when planning and making decisions.

**\*Information on the forms of troop government may be found in the age-level handbooks.**



## Begin to work on teambuilding skills

Every troop is bound to experience a time when the girls are not working together or have formed cliques. The sooner you get the troop into a frame of mind that they are a team, the chances of this occurring are lower and the easier it will be when these concerns arise. Leaders use a variety of techniques to mix girls up in their troops in order to avoid cliques. The most common is to have the girls split into patrols (groups) for different activities. Leaders choose to mix the girls up in many ways: by color of clothing, birth date, first letter of last name. There are many resources out there to help build these skills among your girls.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Month of Troop Meetings



## **Finish planning Investiture, purchase all necessary materials (certificates and pins)**

- All necessary materials for your investiture ceremony have been purchased

By the end of the month the troop should be ready to hold their Investiture ceremony. This would be a great time for the girls to be introduced to the Girl Scout Store. Do not forget to invite parents to the ceremony, this is a wonderful opportunity for them to see the program in action, and how it is benefiting their daughter.



## **Troop has decided on a form of troop government**

Troop government decided on \_\_\_\_\_ Type



## **Girls have decided what major activities they would like to participate in.**

The earlier the troop decides what they would like to do for the year, the better off they will be when they start to plan. These activities could range from badge work to trips the troop will take.



## **Begin to discuss budgeting with the troop**

If the girls are going to talk about the activities they would like to participate in for the year, they will also need to start talking about how they will pay for these activities. If your troop will be participating in the cookie sale, this would be the perfect time for them to discuss procedures and their goals for the sale.

**\*For more information on troop money-earning, and how it fits into the Girl Scout program, refer to Unit 3 of this booklet.**



## **Record Keeping**

- Individual record sheet has been started for each girl

**\*For more information on the individual record sheets, refer to Unit 3 of this booklet.**



## **Parents are, or have been, asked to participate in some way**

**\*Refer to troop organization for more information on what a parent meeting should entail.**



## Personalities and Planning

- Girls have decided what they would like to do for the year

At some point within the first couple of meetings you should discuss with the girls activities they would like to participate in throughout the year and what their expectations are. **Keep in mind when planning activities you should work in intervals of 3-6 months.** This is a good time for the girls to learn about compromise and teamwork. It is very important during the first few meetings to take notice of the different personalities that make up your troop. This will be especially beneficial when the girls and you are planning activities for the coming year. Knowing the personalities you are facing may help when facilitating discussion.



## Girls have made a decision about uniforms and age level resource books

- Girls have decided what uniform components the troop will wear
- Girls have decided what program resources they will be using

Purchasing uniforms and age-level manuals is not mandatory. This should be a decision made by the girls in the troop. Some troops decide to purchase all the components of the uniform, some decide only to purchase a vest or a sash, and some decide to make their own shirts. Whatever is decided should be communicated with a parent/guardian. Many troops choose to participate in money-earning activities to buy their uniforms, and others plan to participate in the calendar and/or cookie sale in order to raise funds for their uniforms.