

SHORT & SNAPPY: Parent Participation in Troops

What is a Short and Snappy?

- It's a short interactive group discussion provided at a Service Unit (SU) meeting for volunteers to share at the troop level.
- Any Service Unit team member, interested volunteer, or learning facilitator may guide a Short and Snappy (S&S).
- Ideas for presentation: One person can facilitate to a group, or small groups can present an assigned section to the room.

Objectives

- Volunteers will learn tips for urging parents to become more involved, as well as roles they can fulfill.
- Supply volunteers with information to distribute to parents to get them involved.

Everyone Can Help

A Girl Scout troop has different role needs and time requirements to fit all kinds of schedules! Talk to your parents about some of the following, or create your own roles based on your troop's needs!

- Co-leader
- Treasurer
- Product Manager
- Event Coordinator
- Service Project Coordinator
- Driver/Chaperone
- First-Aid Parent
- Phone Tree Chair
- Snack Coordinator
- Badge Coordinator
- Meeting Helper
- Camp Parent
- Photographer
- Highest Award Coordinator

Resources

- [Family Connection Guide](#)
- [Girl Scout Activity Zone](#)
- [Cookie Entrepreneur Family Pin](#)

Getting Caregivers Involved

Girl Scouts is a special, safe place where girls can discover who they are--and what better way to do that than with the support of their families?

Letting caregivers know that it doesn't take a lot to be involved in their Girl Scout's experiences can set their minds at ease, and the benefits for their child are exponential. Here are some tips to help encourage their involvement:

- Have them encourage their girl to share what they learned after each meeting. Talking about the lesson helps the information stick, and it boosts the girl's confidence on being the "expert."
- Encourage them to tackle Girl Scout activities at home!
- Teach them about the Cookie Entrepreneur Family Pin, and work with them and their Girl Scout to achieve it.
- Encourage them to check out family camping options at Camp Torqua or to join a troop camping trip as a volunteer.
- Host a parent meeting and let them know where support is needed! Parents can help in all sorts of ways-- organizing weekly carpools, taking photos, organizing cookie booths, or leading special badge activities... everyone has a unique skill set that could be utilized with good communication and teamwork!

Activity

Have items from the list in a large container or bag. Take out each item in order and explain what each represents. Then say: "As you can see, this is a lot for one person to handle. To make this troop a good experience for the girls, I need help." Pick up an item and say "Who can help us by ___?" As each person volunteers, the leader should eventually be left with the doll (and maybe the handbook).

Item:

Doll
Journey Book
Juice Box
Checkbook
First Aid Kit
Cookie Box
Toy Car
Phone
Scissors
Sleeping Bag

Represents:

The Girls
Program
Refreshments
Treasury
Certified First Aider
Product sales
Transportation
Communication/phone tree
Crafts
Camping