

SHORT & SNAPPY: Falling into Finance Preparations



What is a Short and Snappy?

- It's a short interactive group discussion provided at a Service Unit meeting
- 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 about setting up their bank account and budgeting for their year.
- Supply volunteers with resources to use for learning more about troop finances.

Additional Resources

- [gsLearn: 416 \(GSofSI Council\) Troop & SU Finances](#)
- [Troop Finance Tracking Spreadsheet](#)
- [Troop Finances Page](#)
- [Financial Forms](#)

Troop Finances Activity

Gather your girls and have them dream up adventures they would like to take in Girl Scouts--no dream is too big or small! Categorize those based on three categories: 1) inexpensive ideas to do right away, 2) moderately expensive ideas they will need to work towards, and 3) very expensive adventures that will require lots of planning. Then, use the [Troop Budget Planning Worksheet](#) (found in the gsLearn Course) to plan with your girls the troop's budget for the year. Work with them to plan the troop's adventures, as well as to set goals for earning the funds to cover those trips. Use the worksheet to plan Product Program goals, additional money-earning, and even troop dues for each girl for the year!

Elements/Activities

There are a few things related to finances that you will want to begin as soon as you can to gear up for the new membership year:

- Set up a troop account (talk with your Service Unit Treasurer and use the [Troop Bank Account Form](#))
- Submit your [ACH Form](#) to Council
- Set up your troop with CHECKredi (optional)
- Set up your Cheddar Up account (optional)
- Begin using your Finance Tracking Spreadsheet as soon as you have your account open (optional)

The Basics:

- Your troop will need a bank account ASAP to start earning funds for their adventures. All money should flow through the account so there is a record. Check with your Service Unit Treasurer about preferred banking in your area.
- Your troop account is considered a subordinate account of GSofSI. You will need to set up an ACH form so that council is able to debit and credit funds to your account (during Product Program seasons, for example).
- CHECKredi is a free service that helps protect your funds! Visit the Financial Forms link to learn more.
- Cheddar Up is also a free service you can use to collect payments from your caregivers. (Please note other third party vendors are prohibited.) Visit our Troop Finances page or gsLearn course for more information.
- Using the Finance Tracking Spreadsheet through the year will help organize your account activity and make your Financial Report a breeze!