

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois

Guidelines for Troop/Group Observation

When observing girls:

- What evidence do you see that girls are enjoying themselves?
- Are all the girls taking part in troop/group activities?
- What evidence do you see of girls developing skills and assuming leadership roles?
- Are girls getting along with each other?
- Does the facility accommodate the size of the group?
- Do girls use their handbooks?

When observing leaders:

- Was an activity available for the first girl to do?
- Are the leaders in uniform?
- How can you tell if the leaders enjoy working with the girls?
- Do the leaders work in partnership with girls?
- How does the leader show that she understands the needs of the girls?
- How do the leaders divide responsibility?
- What methods does the leader employ to keep the group attentive?

When observing troop government:

- Is there a system of troop government being used? If so, what model?
- If the patrol system is being used, what is happening in the patrol meeting? Does the patrol leader listen to her patrol?
- Is there a troop/group treasurer? What does she do?
- Does the troop/group have a budget?
- What evidence do you find of long-term planning?

When observing program activities:

- Do the girls know when the meeting officially starts and ends? How do they know?
- How do the girls know which activities will take place? At the end of the meeting, are plans made for the next meeting?
- Is the program well-balanced? Do girls do a variety of activities? Are all four program goals emphasized?
- Do any of the activities call for problem solving?
- What do the leaders use to stimulate girls' interest in new activities?
- Are girls aware of the Girl Scout Promise and Law and do they practice them?
- What does the meeting place look like after the girls leave?