

Parent Meeting Outline

PARENTS -- GIRLS -- GIRL SCOUTING -- FUN

(It all goes together if you start the year out right with a parent's meeting!)

YOU WILL NEED:

1. Girl and Adult Registration Forms, Health History Form for each girl
2. Handbook(s) your troop will be using
3. Your Leader's Manual and other reference books parents might like to see
4. Girl Scout Catalog
5. Troop Meeting Planning Calendar
6. Financial Responsibility Form

WHAT YOU SHOULD INCLUDE IN YOUR MEETING:

1. Introduce yourself and other Girl Scout adults present. You might also wish to let each parent introduce himself/herself.
2. Tell a little about Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and Girl Scouts of North East Ohio.
3. Explain some possible troop projects - patches and badges the troop might earn. You may wish to tell them about some of the many events that happen during the year. Pass out Troop meeting Planning Calendar
4. Parents will want to know about uniforms and handbooks. Remember, uniforms are optional! Parents will need to know the troop number, the type of insignia needed and where it is worn. Parents can purchase uniforms, handbooks, and insignia from the Council Store.
5. Explain the registration process. To be a Girl Scout you must register annually. The registration year is October 1st through September 30th. The GSUSA membership dues are \$12.00. Families support the troop through paying troop dues and both the troop and the council are supported by proceeds from product sale programs and contributions to Annual Giving - Gifts for Girls.
6. Have parents complete the Girl Registration form. Encourage parents to join. Have parents who wish to join complete the Adult registration Form and pay the \$12.00 GSUSA membership dues. Remember- no girl or adult will be denied membership due to inability to pay. Our council has a fund to assist those who truly cannot afford to pay.
7. Answer questions about troop meeting place and time. Discuss troop dues and other methods of troop financing. Explain that a permission slip must be signed before a girl may participate in any activity.
8. You might wish to end with a discussion of what goals the parents have for the troop for the year and for their ideas of the growth they'd like to see in their daughter. It's always a good idea to start on the same wavelength. If they have expectations that are beyond what you feel you'll be able to provide, it's usually best to talk about that up front and solicit additional parent help. Go in with the expectation that every parent needs to be involved with the troop at some time during the year - and don't be apologetic about!

Discuss what kind of help is needed for your troop. Prior to the meeting you should sit down and determine what help you need to ask for. Be specific and then get commitments from people for these specific jobs at your meeting. Once again, be specific and ask for commitments!

ONCE THE PARENTS MEETING IS OVER KEEP THE COMMUNICATION FLOWING...
INFORMED PARENTS ARE USUALLY INVOLVED AND HAPPY PARENTS!

1. Schedule parents for the help they have offered - give them lots of advance notice.
2. Plan troop activities to which parents are invited.
3. Distribute information about council-sponsored events and camping opportunities.
4. Sending home a monthly calendar of events or a newsletter is very helpful and a recommended practice.

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, character, and confidence who make the world a better place

Real Girls. Real Leadership