

## Short and Snappy – Teaching Songs



### Objective

To help volunteers build confidence in teaching Girl Scout songs to girls, volunteers, and groups.

### Length

20 minutes

### Materials Needed

Positive Attitudes

### Information to Share (spend 5 minutes on this section)

Songs are a fun way to pass on Girl Scout traditions and get girls and adults involved in activities. Since the beginning of Girl Scouts, girls and their leaders have been writing, singing, and playing songs that celebrate sisterhood and the fundamental ideals of Girl Scouting.

Whether your favorite Girl Scout memory is from the last day of summer camp, a meaningful troop ceremony, or a special event, chances are, music was part of it. Music is woven through the fabric of Girl Scouting; it is a tangible display of our fundamental ideals. Rounds exemplify working together, singing games or action songs are fun for groups, and international songs bridge language barriers to cement the truth of universal sisterhood.

### How to Teach a Girl Scout Song

1. Sing the song once through for the group. Introduce the song by telling where it is from and explaining its history.
2. Teach the song phrase by phrase. Sing a phrase, and have the group sing it back to you.
3. Then join phrases and sing the verse and chorus. If long, teach a few verses, then repeat.
4. Sing the song all together. If singing a round, a song with parts, or a descant, make sure each group knows its part well before putting the parts together. If you are singing a song with parts, have a leader who knows each part. Use simple hand motions to keep the tempo.

### Additional Tips:

1. Before starting a song, give the starting note, and hum the melody (or use a musical instrument). If you get it wrong, stop and start over.
2. Avoid pitching too high or too low for girls.
3. Let girls know that hand motions are used to keep the group together in the right tempo, and the motions will help them know where you are in the song.
4. Whenever singing with a group, choose a variety of songs. Do songs that are fast and slow, songs that include hand motions, and songs that lend themselves to simple harmony, as well as funny songs. Avoid songs that might be offensive to religious or ethnic groups.

### Activity (spend 15 minutes on this section)

Ask leaders from the audience (or have some ready) to teach and lead their favorite Girl Scout song to the group. You could also have an older girl troop do this. Sing at least 4-6 songs.