

Short and Snappy – Involving Parents



Objective

To provide helpful insights on how and why you can get parents involved in your troop.

Length

20 minutes

Materials Needed

White board/poster where you can write ideas in front of the group, copies of the Activity Worksheet (next page)

Information to Share (spend 5-10 minutes on this section)

Getting parents involved in your troop is a great way to enrich the program experience for the girls and to save yourself from burnout. Your parent base has a potentially large and diverse set of resources that could benefit the girls, for example: parents could present to the girls about their careers; parents could hold life guarding or other certifications; and many will be able to volunteer with the troop on a regular basis to help out with various activities.

Here are some tips for getting parents involved:

HOST A PARENT MEETING at the beginning of the year, and even bi-yearly or quarterly if possible.

Parent meetings are a great way to get your parents involved. They allow you to set expectations for their involvement from the beginning. This ensures that you and the girls will receive the necessary support throughout the year, and it helps the parents to gain enthusiasm about working with the troop.

Here are some things to cover at your parent meeting:

- What your method of communication with parents will be (e.g. Do you want parents to check their emails every week, will you have a troop facebook page, etc.).
- What parents may be able to contribute (e.g. Do they have special qualifications such as a life guarding certification that could be used to benefit the girls?).
- Commitments from parents (have them tell you from the beginning how they might be able to help throughout the year, and then get them to sign up for specific commitments).
- Information about Girl Scouts, Girl Scout programs, and any other expectations (e.g. uniforms, dues, etc.).
- Have parents sign a parent agreement, where they write down how they will be involved and they commit to exemplify the Girl Scout Law when they are around the troop.
- Dates for the year (e.g. Will you have a court of awards or are you planning any camping overnights?).

INVITE PARENTS TO SPECIAL EVENTS

When the girls work on a project or earn a badge, invite their parents to come to celebrations and ceremonies (such as Court of Awards or Scout's Own), where the girls can show their parents their accomplishments and share in the excitement with them.

