

Short and Snappy – Valuing Differences



Objective

To show the differences that set us apart, as well as the similarities that bring us together.

Length

10-15 minutes

Materials Needed

Positive attitudes and open minds

Information to Share (spend 5 minutes on this section)

Differences between girls are what make each of them so unique, and we value that in Girl Scouts. We always strive to involve everyone and never discriminate between girls regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. This Short and Snappy gives an overview of why differences are just as important as similarities, and why we should value each and every girl equally in Girl Scouts.

The foundation of diversity that Juliette Gordon Low established runs throughout Girl Scouting to this day. Our mission to build “girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place” extends to all girls of this nation. As Girl Scout volunteers, we must work to ensure that our outreach, volunteer systems, and resources work toward making Girl Scouting available to every girl who is willing to embrace the Promise and Law.

Activity (spend 5-10 minutes on this section)

Ask two volunteers to come forward and stand with their backs together. Ask the audience to call out things about these two volunteers that are different. Differences sometimes pull us apart. As each difference is called, the volunteers take one step apart. When they reach the end of the available space, have them turn and face each other. Now, ask the audience to call out similarities of the volunteers. As each similarity is called out, the volunteers take one step toward each other. Discuss the questions below:

1. Think about the things that were noted as differences. How many were things that we can easily see (gender, size, hair color, skin color, dress, wearing glasses or not, etc.)?
2. What were some of the similarities? While certain physical characteristics are similar, many other similarities are not so visible. They similarities are often things that the audience perceives: both are Girl Scouts, both are happy, both volunteer their time, both are enthusiastic, both have similar interests or goals in life, etc. Of course there may be some physical characteristics that are similar too.
3. Talk about the importance of the differences and of the similarities among members of the group. Be sure to talk about the importance of accepting and welcoming all members into the group.