

SHORT & SNAPPY

Girl Scouts: It's a Family Affair!

Establish connection and shared expectations with the families of your Girl Scout troop members

What is a Short & Snappy?

- It's a short interactive group discussion provided at a Service Unit Meeting.
- Any service unit team member, interested volunteer or learning facilitator may guide a short and snappy.
- It's 15–25 minutes long.

Objectives:

- Understand what records are important for girls and adults.
- Know what resources exist to support this and where to find them.

What You Will Need For This Short and Snappy

- Troop Start Up Guide, *Ways Adults Can Help*, Court of Awards sample invitations, sample parent emails, VTK screenshots.

How to Facilitate this Short & Snappy

- Ask and acknowledge questions. Your audience will know you are listening and involved.
- Share your experiences. Leaders, new and seasoned, want to connect with you and this is one way they can do so.
- Use a variety of techniques and strategies such as handing out candy when people participate or encourage attendees to write their ideas on the newsprint.
- Encourage participants to share their personal practices involving families.
- Bring the parent meeting outline from the troop start up guide and the star activity.

Ask: Are you looking for practical, easy ways to engage the families of your Girl Scouts?

Explain: Families are an important part of your Girl Scout troop. Offering specific times of the year for families to come together and connect with you, the leader as well as learn more about what is happening in the troop is good for everyone.

When should we meet with families?

Beginning of the Year Parent Meeting: This is a time to bring parents together to agree on a shared vision for what the troop and their families will experience as a part of the Girl Scout Family.

Cookie Sale prep: Educate parents on the five skills, involve families in each girls' goal setting, help families understand "where the money goes".

Girl Scout Family Day of Service: Plan a service learning activity for all family members or connect with a service unit planned service activity.

Court of Awards/Bridging Family Celebration: Bring families together to celebrate all that the girls have achieved during the year. Thank families for their support of the troop. You can even recognize those adults that step up to be drivers, chaperones or share a special skill.

When should we communicate with families?

The VTK now has a parent view where parents are able to see the year plan for the troop. Send a regular email updating parents on the calendar for the month, ways you've seen the troop grow and achieve over the last month and questions families can ask their girls to learn more about what is happening in meetings.

What else can we do?

Remind families that they can "bring Girl Scouts home" by working on badge requirements as a family, through things they are already doing.