

ARIZONA CACTUS-PINE GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL, INC.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

**WE ARE A TEAM!** Girl Scouting is a family affair. Your daughter will reap direct benefits by your participation. When parents participate...

- ...Girls have a wider range of experiences
- ...Girls enjoy Girl Scouting more
- ...Families benefit
- ...Leaders stay in their position longer
- ...All parents share the time commitment.

**JOIN THE TEAM AND SUPPORT YOUR DAUGHTER BY:**

1. **Helping her leader with:**

- Transportation
- Serving on Troop Committee
- Product Sales
- Chaperon
- Emergency Contact
- (Cookies/Calendars/Nuts)*
- Events
- Temporary Substitute Leadership

2. **Sharing your skills with the troop in:**

- Music
- Crafts
- Camping
- Sports
- Games

3. **Sponsoring the troop/group.**

4. **Serving as a:**
- Level I First Aider
  - Lifesaver/WSI
  - Troop Qualified Camper
  - Level II First Aider

(Check with leader on training/certification required for these positions.)

5. **Helping the Neighborhood in a service team capacity.**

Which time is best for you?  Morning  Afternoon  Evenings  Weekends

Girl's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Present Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Return this sheet to: \_\_\_\_\_ with your daughter's registration.  
*Leader's name*

## GUIDE TO PARENT SUPPORT

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Helping girls grow through Girl Scouting is a rewarding job, but also a challenging one. How can one leader do everything that needs to be done: encouraging the girls to try new activities, planning meetings, finding consultants, and participating in training events? Fortunately, the job does not rest with the leader alone.

Many resources are available to the leader who asks for support. There are material resources, publications, handbooks, and training courses. And at every level there are people resources, including the service unit, the troop committee, and, not least important parents, fathers only, mothers only, foster parents, grandparents, or aunts and uncles.

Don't overlook this valuable resource. Most parents, community friends, and neighbors are willing and able to help, but unless someone involves them and works out the details, nothing happens.

You've made a commitment, had your basic orientation, and have a list of your girls. The next step is to get their parents involved. **HAVE A PARENT'S MEETING.**

1. Set a date and time for this meeting. Consider working parents. Will you need to have it in the evening so more can attend? Keep the meeting short. Start and end on time. Be informal and friendly.
2. Call parents personally to invite them. Be certain to let them know that you are glad their daughter is in the troop and that you are looking forward to meeting them. Explain to them that you will be registering their girls at the meeting and the fee is nominal.
3. Suggested Agenda
  - A. Welcome parents and make introduction of leaders. Have parents introduce themselves.
  - B. Give them troop specifics
    1. Time and place of troop meeting.
    2. Explain the importance of girls being picked up on time after meetings and outings.
    3. Registration — explain what it is for and where it goes. Have parents fill out girl registration form and collect money. (Forms available from registrar.)
    4. Talk about the health-and-safety standards the organization observes, and explain the need for parent consent forms and permission slips.
    5. Next, talk about the finances: membership dues and troop dues, the costs of uniforms and handbooks; the cookie, calendar and nut sales.
  - C. Explain that plans cannot be definite until girls have input.

- D. Let parents know that nothing can happen without their help. Hand out MS-10, and “Families and Girl Scouting” MS-38; (MS-39 Spanish).
  - E. Have a question and answer time.
  - F. Thank parents for coming. Serve refreshments if you wish.
4. Last, but not least — if parents offer their help, be sure to use them.
  5. For those who absolutely cannot give time, it is hoped that all parents will at least help by:
    - ♦ picking up their daughter on time.
    - ♦ seeing that they have necessary equipment, books, dues, etc.
    - ♦ calling the leaders FIRST with questions or problems.
    - ♦ showing interest in what their daughters are doing.
    - ♦ letting their girls try new skills at home.
    - ♦ encouraging their girls to attend meetings and events regularly.
  6. A troop roster and/or a newsletter for each member will help unify the parents.
  7. Following the meeting, the leader or someone from the service team or troop committee should arrange to contact parents who were unable to attend.

## **FAMILIES AND GIRL SCOUTING**

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Chances are you already know something about Girl Scouting. After all, for three-quarters of a century, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. has played a vital role in the lives of millions of young women.

### **WHAT DOES GIRL SCOUTING MEAN TO TODAY'S GIRL?**

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Girl Scouting means something more than another girls' club or after school activity for your child. It means a way of life, a deliberate step toward shaping your daughter's future. To your daughter it means fun: meeting new people, having good times with her friends, joining in all the activities she associates with Girl Scouting, as well as a variety of new experiences from sports events to career exploration.

Our informal educational program, centered around the girl's interests and abilities, has been especially designed to teach your daughter the kinds of things you want her to know: how to explore her potential, make her own decisions, develop leadership skills, and learn through experience by helping others.

### **WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT GIRL SCOUTING?**

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Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. is one of the few all-girl organizations in the country. Through its program, it helps girls to explore their potential and participate in career exploration. It is hoped that through activities girls will develop values, learn more about themselves, relate to others, and be able to make a contribution to the community. These are the goals of Girl Scouting.

### **WHO MAY BE A GIRL SCOUT?**

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Girl Scouting is open to all girls aged 5-17, regardless of race, creed, nationality, or socio-economic status. Girl Scouts are part of a worldwide family of young women in more than 100 countries. The diversity of our membership is an important part of what we are.

### **HOW DO GIRLS PARTICIPATE IN GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM?**

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Girl Scouting is one continuous program of five different age levels: Daisy Girl Scouts are 5 years old, or in kindergarten; Brownie Girl Scouts are 6-8 years old, or in grades 1-3; Junior Girl Scouts are 9-11, or in grades 4-6; Cadette Girl Scouts are 12-14, or in grades 7-9; (fourteen-year-olds may choose to remain with the Cadette group or move on to join the Seniors), Senior Girl Scouts are 14-17, or in grades 9-12.

Girls may participate in Girl Scout troops that meet on a regular basis. Girls may also participate in the Girl Scout program by attending camps or special events or by meeting on a short-term basis with other girls sharing similar interests.

## **WHAT WILL MEMBERSHIP COST?**

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Each girl and adult in Girl Scouting pays an annual fee for the privilege of membership in the largest organization for girls and women in the world. The annual dues pay for developing programs, materials, training curricula for adult leaders, activity accident insurance, and other resources. In addition, in each troop the girls and leader decide the amount needed for weekly troop dues, which are used for activities, projects and supplies. Families may also wish to purchase uniforms and handbooks for their daughters.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR DAUGHTER BENEFIT FROM GIRL SCOUTING?**

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First, encourage her to attend troop meetings and special events. The involvement of the girls themselves in planning and implementing their projects is integral to our program. If your daughter misses a meeting, the group misses her contribution.

- ◆ Keep informed of activities and troop meeting times so that you may arrange to have her met afterward.
- ◆ Attend parents meetings and Girl Scout functions enthusiastically and with interest.
- ◆ Encourage your Girl Scout to share her new skills and achievements with you.
- ◆ Communicate with the leader your hopes, plans, and suggestions for your daughter's involvement in Girl Scouting.

Finally, any adult family member --- including fathers, older sisters, uncles, and grandmothers can offer time or expertise as a troop committee member. Many kinds of help are needed, from working with the girls on a special badge to providing transportation for a field trip. And for you there is an opportunity to share your knowledge and skills while getting to know your daughter and her friends better.

We recognize that it takes a close partnership between caring families and dedicated adults to make the promise to our program a reality in every Girl Scout's life, and we welcome your involvement.