



Brainstorming: Keeping Ideas Girl-led

Brainstorming allows girls to share their thoughts and ideas around a specific topic. It's a great way to empower girls in making important troop decisions, from determining what activities they would like to do together-to establishing "Promises to Keep" (troop rules and expectations)-to creating a kaper (job) chart.

Helping girls learn how to brainstorm will assist them with their decision making at every level of Girl Scouting.

Tips to help you get started

- Always go over the rules of brainstorming:
 - Every girl should have an opportunity to be heard.
 - All ideas are welcomed and written down.
 - There are no wrong answers.
 - There are no judgments about any of the suggestions.
- Use chart paper or poster board to record the girls' ideas so you can reference them at a later date.
- If the girls are capable, have them take turns recording their ideas.
- Encourage girls to think "outside the box."
- Keep the list going as long as the girls have ideas.
- Younger girls shouldn't spend too much time sitting. You can always go back and add more ideas later.

Make it fun!

Here are two fun ways to facilitate a brainstorming session with your girls:

- **"Flying Frenzy Plate"** Have girls sit in groups. Write a topic in the middle of a paper plate and toss it from girl to girl. Girls add their idea(s) and then toss it along to the next small group.
- **"Clean out the Attic"** On a very large piece of paper/poster board, draw a house with 12 rooms and an attic. Assign/label each room with a month of the year. Give each girl a pad of sticky notes and ask her to write down (one idea per note) those activities she would like to do through the year as a troop. To get the girls thinking, share resources like Council's *Program Guide*, *Journey* books, and *Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting*. When all ideas have been collected, have the girls place them in the "attic." As a troop, discuss each of the ideas and sort them into "rooms," based on the most practical month of the year to do the activity. After all the ideas/sticky notes have been placed, ask each girl to choose an activity or two to research in time for the next meeting. Their research should include activity cost, time, location, needs, etc.