

Short and Snappy Session



Partnering with Parents

There are many ways parents typically get involved with a troop. The strongest troops balance their support through parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision-making, and community collaboration. Troops benefit best from fostering all types of parent involvement.

As a leader, it can be difficult to find ways to communicate effectively with parents and ask for their help when it is needed. Involve the parents at the very beginning of the year by having a parent meeting. The key to a successful meeting is not only telling them about the Girl Scout program but also engaging them in conversation. A sample parent meeting would involve:

- * Interaction –Allow time for parents to meet those who are involved with their kids.
- * Information—Provide troop details, Girl Scout program information, and the benefits to their daughter, promote upcoming events, hand out calendars and circulate a sign-up sheet that lists specific volunteer opportunities.
- * Input—Plan for a question and answer time. Begin by bringing up a questions yourself and than answering it.

What's a Short and Snappy?

- ◇ Short training/information segment provided at a Community Meeting.
- ◇ Any Community Learning Coordinator or interested volunteer may lead a short and snappy.
- ◇ Short and Snappies are 15–20 minutes in length.

Activity:

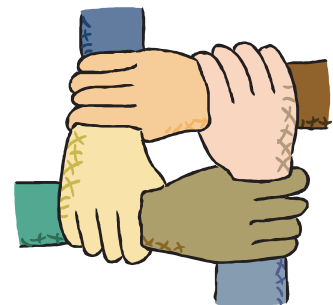
Have items from the list in a container. Take the items out in order of the below list and give them to a volunteer, explaining what each represents. Then say: As you can see, this is quite a load for one person to handle. To make this troop a good experience for the girls, I need help. Take an item from the volunteer and say: Who can help us by___? The leader should be left with the doll (and maybe the handbook).

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Represents:</u>
A doll	The girls
Journey book	Program
Juice box	Refreshments
Checkbook	Money and financial paperwork
First aid kit	Certified first aider for trips/activities
Cookie box	Product sale
Toy car	Transportation
Toy phone	Communication
Scissors & pens	Crafts
Sleeping bag	Camping

When describing what you want help with, be specific and realistic about the time commitment. Don't neglect the fathers and other relatives as a source of help.

What You'll Need for This Snappy:

- ◇ Leaders
- ◇ Moderator
- ◇ Resources needed: Ways Parents can help; handout
- ◇ 15-20 minutes



"Many Hands Make Light Work"