

S'MORE NEWS

for leaders like you

New Leader Newsletter-February 2019

Cookie Season Tips

We are half way through cookie season and hopefully it is going strong for your troop. Cookie booth sales have started and are a great way for the girls to practice public speaking, money counting and socialization skills. We know cookie season can seem very hectic and stressful, but just breathe...

- Set a reasonable goal (and goals can be changed even mid-way through)
- Don't over order (you can always go back for more)
- Don't be afraid to ask (post questions on your service unit Facebook page or contact the cookie hotline – 317-924-2949, we are here to help)
- Don't compare your troop to others. All troops have different goals.
- Most Importantly – have fun!

World Thing Day 2019

February is a time when we celebrate a Girl Scout tradition called “World Thinking Day”, celebrated on February 22. Because there are Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in 150 different countries (WAGGGS – World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts), we use this day to think about girls and how they participate in Girl Scouts and Girl Guides throughout the world. Many service units hold Thinking Day events where a troop will host a booth of a country that are members of WAGGGS and share facts, foods, games, songs, etc. about that country. Your troop could hold a booth or just “travel” the world by participating in the booth activities.

Thinking Day Ideas

Thinking Day is a Girl Scout celebration to think about our sister Girl Scouts throughout the world. As a new leader, it might be best to take your troop to a Thinking Day event as “travelers”. Let the girls see what the event is all about and just experience it. Girls will learn so much about Girl Scouting all over the world.

One big tradition at Thinking Day is having SWAPS (Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere). These little tokens are to be swapped with other girls at the event. They are easy to make, because each girl will want to have several made to swap with other girls. SWAPS can be Girl Scout themed, or themed for an event, or to represent a country. We have included some fun pics of SWAPS below as an example of an easy swap your girls could make. There are millions of ideas on Pinterest or the internet.



Volunteer Toolkit

This is a good time to do a little clean up in your volunteer toolkit. Things may have changed (meeting times, dates, locations), so this is a good time to get in your member community and check to make sure everything about your troop and your girls information is correct. Also, if you have girls that have not participated, please tell your community engagement manager. They can make that girl inactive to create an additional space to take additional girls into your troop, so they get the opportunity to have a wonderful Girl Scouting experience.

Monthly Challenges

- 1.) Did your troop sign up for a Cookie Booth? Cookie Booths are a great way for the girls to practice life skills like public speaking.
- 2.) Talk to your troop about Thinking Day and find an activity that you and the troop can do in celebration. See if your service unit is having an event for the troop to attend.
- 3.) The weather outside may be cold, but have you shared with your troop the summer camping opportunities available through the Spring Camp Guide?