

# **Pre-Meeting Activities for Girl Scouts**

*by Pamela Fay*

If you lead a Girl Scout meeting, you know that the girls sometimes arrive early. It's a good idea to keep them occupied until the meeting begins. You can make the pre-meeting time productive and, at the same time, encourage the group to get to know girls outside of their immediate social circle. Pre-meeting activities, suitable for ages up to 12, also help to discourage behaviors that are destructive or potentially harmful, such as running around the room or picking on others.

## **Themed Bookmarks**

In advance of the meeting, cut 4-inch by 6-inch index cards in half crosswise to make pieces that are 2-inches wide. Set out colored marking pens and an assortment of stickers. Have the girls create bookmarks around a certain theme or holiday, for example Earth Day or Thanksgiving. To encourage participation, give a small reward for the bookmark that best demonstrates the Girl Scout value of using resources wisely.

## **Story Collages**

Bring a good supply of magazines to the meeting and a poster board for each girl. If you would like to encourage collaboration, bring one board for every team. The teams can be as few as two girls and as many as four or five. Have them create a collage that tells a story. The story can demonstrate one of the tenets of the Girl Scout laws, such as friendliness or courage. Or, the story can be a personal one of the scout's personal interests, journey or future dreams. The collage activity can continue for many weeks. Every six weeks or so, have the girls share their collages with one another or try to guess the story behind each collage. This activity will get girls to the meetings on time.

## **Flapjack Relay**

This is a fun pre-meeting activity during a time when the Girl Scouts are working on the Family Living Skills badge. You will need a lightweight frying pan, spatula and potholder for each team. Divide the group into two teams. If you have an uneven number, let one team member play twice. The girls sit in two lines facing each other. All activity is to be completed while seated. Start the game by yelling: "Flapjack order up!" Each player must flip the "flapjack" (potholder) with the spatula and catch it in the frying pan. Once they have accomplished the task, they can pass the frying pan, spatula and potholder to the next player. The winning team is the first to have all its girls successfully flip and catch the flapjack while seated. Winners take home a pancake recipe to help prepare breakfast for the family and work towards completion of the activities required to earn the Family Living Skills badge.

## **Read All About It!**

Distribute the newspaper to the early arrivals. Divide them into teams of two. Have them find current event stories that are interesting to them and share the stories among their teams. Ask them to select one story to summarize for the larger group. After they summarize the story, have the group discuss how the story ties into what they are learning as Girl Scouts.

## **References**

“Games Galore for Children’s Parties and More”; Shari Ann Pence; 1996.

Girl Scouts of Colorado; The Girl Scout Law

<http://www.girlscoutsofcolorado.org/index.cfm>ID/13/Mission,Views&Values>