

New Troop Leadership Tip: Caregiver Meetings!

*It can take a village...
but by building a solid support team you'll do great!*

Additional volunteer helpers are essential to having a successful troop year. These troop volunteers help with smaller tasks throughout the course of the year that add up to a lot of help to the Troop Administrator and Girl Program Mentor.

There is no right or wrong way to bring on extra help, just as long as you ensure all adult helpers are registered Girl Scout members, assigned as volunteers to your troop, and have completed their background check. That being said, one of the best ways to get

additional volunteers for your troop is by scheduling a mandatory parent meeting to set expectations and identify caregivers for more important troop supporting roles!

It may seem easier to do it yourself in the beginning. You're excited and new to this, so it is hard to think about how other people can help. Our experienced troop volunteers tell us a supportive team of caregivers makes all the difference! To set that expectation and get caregiver buy-in, start engaging caregivers from the very beginning.

Tips for Running a Successful Caregiver Meeting:

- Maximize time/date/location so all caregivers can attend.
- Have a "no kids allowed" meeting, or bring in extra adult helpers or older Girl Scouts to engage kids in age-appropriate activities during the meeting.

Recommended Supplies:

- Sign-in Sheet/Name Tags
- Meeting Agendas
- Health History Cards
- Uniform/Troop Supplies List
- Troop Team Model Handout

Outcomes of a Successful Caregiver Meeting:

- Caregivers understand basic information about Girl Scouting.
- Caregivers identify ways they will support the troop and volunteer during the coming year.
- Caregivers and volunteers agree on what the troop pays for and what families pay for individually.
- Key positions are filled by willing caregivers (see troop team model).
- Caregivers know how the troop or volunteers will communicate upcoming events, schedule changes, and forms and money due to various activities.
- Caregivers have access to information about uniforms and books their Girl Scout need.
- Caregivers know that financial assistance is available if needed and how to request it.