

## HOW-TO'S FOR GAMES AND SONGS

### CHOOSING GAMES

- Û Be sure the games you select are right for the age, experience and physical condition of the girls.
- Û Start with familiar games that are quickly learned, then move on to more complex games.
- Û Avoid games that offend other people's beliefs or customs. Also avoid games that waste food or other resources.
- Û Provide opportunities for girls to participate in a variety of games—such as get-acquainted games, nature games, action games, international games, relay games, singing games, and wide games (games where groups complete activities as they rotate between stations).

Use *Games for Girl Scouts* and other resource books for additional ideas on creating, teaching and organizing games.

### GETTING READY

- Û Be interested and enthusiastic about the game yourself.
- Û Know the game well before attempting to teach it. Identify the safety hazards, anticipate the difficulties, and adapt the game to the group and situation.
- Û Devise a method(s) for organizing teams or formations quickly. (See *Games for Girl Scouts*.)
- Û Know your playing area. Make sure to have a safe area and easily recognized boundaries.
- Û Have the equipment together beforehand.

### GET SET, GO!

- Û When starting a game, gather the group together so they can see and hear you well.
- Û Give the name of the game and some interesting facts about it to help motivate interest.
- Û Explain the game briefly, giving the basic rules. If needed, demonstrate the game with a small group of girls.
- Û After explanations, allow the group to get into the desired formation or team positions to start the activity.
- Û Ask for questions before you start to play.
- Û Decide on a starting signal, such as "Ready, set, (pause) go!" or "On your mark, get set, go!"
- Û If you decide to change rules during the game, try only one change at a time. Allow the group to help suggest rules as well. You might say to the group, "Let's try playing the game this way."
- Û Stop the game when the enthusiasm is still high. Don't let it drag on.
- Û Arrange for total participation. Devise a plan for rotation. Minimize waiting and maximize playing time.

## **A FEW POINTERS FOR GAME LEADERS**

- Ø Establish a warm, positive atmosphere that's fun for everyone.
- Ø Encourage everyone to participate and do her best.
- Ø Be patient.
- Ø Be fair in your judgments.
- Ø Show respect for each girl.
- Ø Encourage fair play and safety at all times.
- Ø Be flexible and prepared to vary or change the game.
- Ø Emphasize cooperation and playing for fun rather than winning.

## **RESOURCES**

Icebreakers and Getting-to-Know-You Games on Just 4 Girls.

*Games for Girl Scouts*, Girl Scouts of the United States of America. 1990. Games for all different occasions, including wide games. A "must" resource for Girl Scouts.

*Hopscotch, Hangman, Hot Potato, and Ha, Ha, Ha : A Rule Book of Children's Games*, by Jack Maguire. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992.

*Juba This and Juba That: 100 African-American Games for Children*, by Darlene Powell Hopson and Derek S. Hopson, with Tomas Clavin. New York: Simon and Schuster Books, 1996.

*Inclusive Games*, by Susan L. Kasser. Champaign, Ill.: Human Kinetics Books, 1995. A wealth of information for including everyone in playing games and picking the right game for the right situation.

## **AGE LEVEL HANDBOOKS**

Leaders should refer to the current age level Handbooks and the Daisy Leaders' Guide for additional ideas for songs and games.

## **PROGRAM LINKS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING GAMES**

### **Daisy Girl Scouts**

Encourage girls to participate in games. Participation patches are available for sale in the Council Shop that are related to game themes.

### **Brownie Girl Scouts**

These Try-Its have activities that might involve teaching or learning games:

- Around the World
- *GirlSports*
- Playing Around the World
- Sports and Games

### **Junior Girl Scouts**

These badges have activities that might involve learning or leading games:

- Health and Fitness
- Sports
- Sports Sampler
- My Heritage
- The World in My Community
- Toy Maker
- Frosty Fun
- Outdoor Fun
- Outdoor Fun in the City

These Junior Girl Scout leadership awards might include teaching games:

- Junior Girl Scout Leadership Award
- Junior Aide Award
- Junior Girl Scout Bronze Award

### **Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts**

These interest project patches have activities that might involve teaching games:

- Child Care
- Leadership
- Games for Life
- Sports for Life
- On the Playing Field

These Cadette and Senior Girl Scout leadership projects might include teaching games:

- Program Aide
- Leader-in-Training
- Counselor-in-Training
- Cadette Girl Scout Silver Award
- Senior Girl Scout Gold Award

## CHOOSING SONGS

- Know the group that you will be working with. How old are they? How many girls are there?
- Begin with simple songs or songs that the girls know. Choose songs that are simple, like short rounds, songs with tra-la-la choruses, repeat songs, or those that include repetition.
- Know what you are doing. Know the song words and the melody. Practice. Use note cards if you need them. Make a list of the songs you will sing, and know the order you will sing them in. Know something of the history of the song so you can share it with the girls.
- If you are choosing songs for an evening program, start out with the rowdy songs and end up with the quiet songs to set the tone for bedtime.

## LEADING SONGS


- Be enthusiastic.
- Sing the song through for the group. Introduce the song by telling where it is from. Sing the first verse and the chorus, so group members know how it sounds. Have those who know it sing with you.
- Teach the song phrase by phrase. Sing a phrase, and have the group sing back to you. Then join phrases and sing the verse and chorus. If long, teach a few verses, then repeat. Repeat once or twice.
- Sing the song all together. If singing a round, a song with parts, or a descant, make sure each group knows its part well before putting the parts together. If you are singing a song with parts, for each part have a leader who knows that it. Use simple hand motions to keep the tempo.


## OTHER POINTS


- You give the starting note. Hum the melody or use a musical instrument. If you get it wrong, stop and start over. Avoid pitching too high or too low for girls.
- Make sure that girls follow your hand motions. Let them know that hand motions are used to keep the group together in the right tempo, and the motions will help them know where you are in the song.
- Choose a variety of songs. Do songs that are fast and slow, songs that include hand motions, and songs that lend themselves to simple harmony, as well as funny songs. Avoid songs that might be offensive to religious or ethnic groups.

## RESOURCES for SONG LEADING

Girl Scouts of the USA Publications:

 *Sangam Songbook, Sangam GIT*. 1997. Prepared by the Friends of Sangam Committee, this spiral-bound songbook has a great selection of songs, with a good international choice as well.


 *Girl Scouts Sing and Dance Around the World*. Cassette tape and activity book. 1999. Designed to promote international understanding and friendship, this tape has songs in different languages.


 *Girl Scout Songbook Collection and Recorder*. Includes 14 songs to learn and to play along with. 1999.

Check your Girl Scout council or camp library. There may be songbooks available for check-out.

Other Resources:

 *Campfire Songs*, edited by Irene Maddox, Rosalyn Blankenship, and Rosalyn Cobb. 3rd Edition. Old Saybrook, Conn.:Globe Pequot Press. 1998. This has some fun songs.

 *Rise Up Singing: The Group Singing Songbook*, edited by Peter Blood and Annie Patterson. Bethlehem, Pa.: Sing Out! Publications. 1992. This is our favorite resource for folksongs. It has chords, but not the music, with words for over 1,000 songs.

 Girl Scouts Greatest Hits, Legend Music Web site at <http://gsmusic.com/>. Information on recent recordings by Melinda Carroll in Hawaii (one CD featured is the result of a wider opportunity chorus) and a great section called Campfires Stories—S'mores for the Soul. Check out the story by Corrine Murphy on the first Girl Scout songbook (Winter/Spring 1999.)

## PROGRAM LINKS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING SONGS

### **Daisy Girl Scouts**

Encourage girls to participate in singing. Participation patches are available for sale in the Council Shop that are related to music themes.

### **Brownie Girl Scouts**

These Try-Its have activities that might involve teaching or learning songs:

- Girl Scout Ways
- Music
- People of the World
- Play

## **Junior Girl Scouts**

These badges have activities that might involve leading or learning songs:

- Folk Arts
- Girl Scouting in the U.S.A.
- Musician
- Music lover
- Outdoor Fun
- Troop Camper

These Junior Girl Scout leadership awards might include teaching songs:

- Junior Girl Scout Leadership Award
- Junior Aide Award
- Junior Girl Scout Bronze Award

## **Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts**

These interest project patches have activities that might involve song leading:

- Child Care
- Folk Arts
- On a High Note
- The Performing Arts

These leadership projects might include teaching songs:

- Cadette and Senior Girl Scout Program Aide
- Counselor-in-Training
- Leader-in-Training
- Cadette Girl Scout Silver Award
- Senior Girl Scout Gold Award