

Short & Snappy

SWAPS

What's a Short & Snappy?

- A short training/ information segment provided at a Service Unit meeting or for leaders to use at troop meetings.
- Any interested volunteer may lead a Short and Snappy.
- Short & Snappies are usually 10-45 minutes in length.

Things to Remember

- Stay within the allotted time (you're taking up a piece of their agenda time).
- If you don't know the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate person.
- Bring the necessary supplies for your short & snappy.

What you'll need

- Short & Snappy Guide.
- Sample SWAPS to show.
- Supplies and instructions to make SWAPS of your choosing.

Introduction

1 minute

It's a longstanding Girl Scout tradition to exchange keepsakes, or SWAPS, when meeting a new friend. SWAPS originated when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides first gathered for fun, songs and making new friends. SWAPS are a great way for Girl Scouts to learn to talk to new people, give and receive mementos of an experience, or share something about where they live or what they like to do. Girl Scouts can pin them on a hat, bandana, ribbon necklace or anywhere they can think of, making SWAPS a perfect way for Girl Scouts to meet each other and promote friendship. Each one holds a memory of a special event, or a new friend made.

Activity - Part 1

10 minutes


What are SWAPS?

Ask participants: "Have you ever heard of SWAPS? Can anyone share what SWAPS stands for?" Allow participants to share answers then share some of these facts if they aren't covered.

- The tradition stems from the Native American "potlatch," a ceremonial exchange of gifts.
- SWAPS stands for "Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere," "Share with a Pal" or "Something with a Pin."
- Lord Baden-Powell started the idea of scout SWAPS in 1924.
- SWAPS are often handmade. We give a part of ourselves to show friendship.
- SWAPS are exchanged anywhere Girl Scouts get together: encampment, day camp, resident camp, council events or special Girl Scout events. Ask the event director if there will be a chance to trade SWAPS.

Swapping etiquette

Ask participants: "Did you know there is SWAP etiquette? What do you think you should consider when swapping SWAPS?" Allow participants to share answers then share some of these facts if they aren't covered.

- Don't decline an offered SWAP. Someone worked hard to make it!
 - Carry SWAPS you made to give away in a separate bag from ones you receive and want to keep.
 - Most SWAPS are 1-2 inches in size.
 - Make a few extras for those who don't have any to give.
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- SWAPS can be bracelets, necklaces, council patches, event patches or any other small items.
- SWAPS shouldn't contain edible food.
- Spend some time getting to know everyone you swap with and asking questions about them.
- You may attach tags with the event name and date, troop number and/or council name, but never with girls' last names or personal information.

Activity – Part 2

10 minutes

Make SWAPS:

Review the sample SWAPS you brought to share so participants have a good idea of what they look like, then introduce the SWAPS you have chosen for everyone to make.

- Choose a simple SWAP or two to make during your Short & Snappy training.
- Bring enough supplies for everyone to make at least one.
- Provide instructions to everyone on how to make it.

Supplies you may need:

- Basic crafting supplies: scissors, craft glue, low temp glue gun, glue sticks, ruler, pencils, safety pins, permanent markers, cord, or twine.
- Zip-closing baggies to hold the SWAPS.
- Clothespins (they make good clamps).
- Dental floss (use for stringing, hanging, or tying crafts).
- Corn holders or pushpins (can punch holes).
- Plastic tablecloths or newspapers for table covers.

Additional SWAPS Info:

- Stick to age-appropriate SWAPS. Try one yourself first to see how difficult it is to make.
- Make sure you have enough volunteers to supervise.
- Pre-cut some parts for younger girls, or to save time.
- Make the amount needed to SWAP, and a few more for those that don't have any.
- Make it girl led. Have your Girl Scouts brainstorm what SWAPS they would like to create.
- Be accepting of what your girls do. Allow them room for creativity.
- Make SWAPS sturdy enough to last awhile.

Ideas for SWAPS

Name	Tips to Make
Felt trefoils	Cut trefoils out of felt, write troop number in fabric paint.
Pom-pom critters	Add eyes, feet and antenna to a pom pom (or beak and feathers for a bird, flippers for a seal, a trunk for an elephant, etc.)
Mini dunk bag	Cut netting in circles and thread yarn through the top for the drawstring, and maybe even create mini dishes to put inside!
Friendship pins	Put beads on a safety pin.
Wooden clothespin creatures	Paint clothespins to look like different animals or people and glue a pin to the back.
S'mores	Pin together two squares of tan felt, with a white cotton ball (or pompom) and one square of dark brown felt in between.



* Additional resources and SWAPS ideas can be found on Pinterest, or simply type Girl Scout SWAPS into your favorite search engine.