

# Short & Snappy

## Starting a New GS Year

### 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
- Leaders

### Introduction

5 minutes

Whether you are a new troop leader or a seasoned leader, the start of a new Girl Scout year is a great opportunity to learn or refresh your knowledge of the many resources available to you and your troop. It is also a perfect time to set your expectation with the girls for the year to come. Here are some helpful tips to get started on the right foot!

### Six Steps for Success:

1. **Set the tone-** Whether this is your first time with the girls or an established troop, a new GS year gives your troop the opportunity to start fresh. This is also the perfect time to set the tone for the rest of the year. Setting expectations and establishing boundaries early on will make any unprecedented challenges easier. It is important that Girl Scouts participate in setting any expectations with for the troop. Ask for their input on what they think the troops' expectations should be. Make sure all girls are in agreement.
2. **Family Expectations-** Decide how you would like for families to be involved in the troop. Do you need a Cookie Chair? Perhaps a Snacks coordinator? Have a meeting with the families to discuss their roles with the troop. Setting clear roles and expectations early on will help make event planning and troop activities easier to manage.
3. **Keep it Girl Led-** Girl involvement is vital for success. Whether it's deciding which petals to earn, where to take a trip, or what type of community service project they do, girls need to have a say in what they do.
4. **Investiture/Rededication Ceremony-** The best time to host an investiture ceremony or rededication ceremonies is at the beginning of a new Girl Scout year. An **investiture ceremony** welcomes all new members to Girl Scouts, while a **rededication ceremony** is a great way for returning members to kick off the troop year and renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.



For more information and additional resources on planning ceremonies please visit:

<https://www.girlscoutsla.org/content/dam/girlscoutsla-redesign/documents/membership/Ceremonies-Manual.pdf>

5. **Volunteer Tool Kit (VTK)**- The Volunteer Toolkit is a customizable planning tool where you can find suggested meeting plans for most badges, access activity guides and badge requirements, track your Girl Scouts' achievements, and so much more. It's the digital planning assistant that will help you power a fun-filled—and organized—Girl Scout year. You'll find the Volunteer Toolkit via the left menu bar of MyGS in My Account. It's accessible on any desktop, tablet, or mobile device.
6. **Training Opportunities** – The best way to prepare yourself for all of the adventures you are about to embark on is by taking some trainings to guide you. Girl Scouts offers many ways for leaders to access trainings that range from level specific trainings to outdoor camping skills. You can visit the online modules on gsLearn from your MyGS account. For any live or in-person trainings, you will find those on the Events Calendar. For more information and resources you can visit the Volunteer Training page at <https://www.girlscoutsla.org/en/members/for-volunteers/volunteer-training.html>

Remember, you have a lot of support you can count on- from council staff to your local volunteers. Girl Scout volunteers in your community are here for you. GSGLA's service unit team members are here to guide you in your role. Attend your monthly service unit meetings (based on geography) to keep up with not only the latest information, events, and training, but to network and build your community with other volunteers and learn tried and true tips from experienced leaders.

### Activity

10 minutes

Ice breakers and team-building activities are a great way to get to know your troop and create a comfortable and fun environment. Try this fun get-to-know you game as a way to break the ice for your first meeting with the girls.

#### Two Truths and a Lie

- Welcome Everyone
- Ask girls to think about three statements about themselves, one of which isn't true.
- For example: "I have two brothers, I was born in Australia, and I have a motorcycle."
- Call one girl at a time to make their statements to the rest of the group.
- They must guess, or vote on, which statement is the "lie" (the one that isn't true).
- You can divide the group in two and make it a competition on which group can guess the most lies.

Looking for more games to play with your troop? Check out the Songs & Games Handbook:

<https://www.girlscoutsla.org/content/dam/girlscoutsla-redesign/documents/membership/Girl%20Scout%20Songs%20and%20Games%20Handbook.pdf>

