

Girl Scouting, A Family Affair



Dear Parent,

Being a Girl Scout Group Leader is an experience one never forgets. To be a good leader takes many hours of hard work and dedication. Of course, we all want our daughter to have a "good" leader; however, it's not that easy. No matter how dedicated and hard working a leader is, she **MUST HAVE PARENT SUPPORT** in order to be successful. A Group leader cannot and should not have to stand alone. After all, this is **YOUR DAUGHTER'S GROUP**, not the leader's group.

Leaders have reported lack of parent support as the number one reason for quitting as troop leader. They enjoy working with and being with the girls, they simply need more support. Sometimes we forget that troop leaders have a "life" too. They have spouses, other children that are involved in soccer, gymnastics, dance, etc., they attend and volunteer at church and at school, some are students, some are single parents, some have full-time jobs - in other words, they are busy people just like you. However, they are trying to find time in their busy schedule to provide a fun, educational experience for your daughter. They need your help to do it.

How can you help? In lots of ways... you could **and should**:

- < **BE EXCITED** about Girl Scouts
- < pick your daughter up **ON TIME**
- < **ENCOURAGE** your daughter to attend all meetings
- < **READ** all correspondence from the leader
- < **ATTEND** parent meetings and special gatherings
- < **COMPLETE PAPERWORK** and turn it in on time
- < **PAY ALL MONIES DUE** on time

These are simple things that every parent can do. They may sound very small, but it's amazing how many parents do not cooperate in these areas. These are the "little things" that make a group leader's job so frustrating.

The ***Girl Scouting, A Family Affair*** patch program (attached) was designed to encourage parents to become more involved with their daughter and her troop. It is a very special patch that only few girls will receive. It requires commitment from both the girl and her parent. We hope you will help your daughter earn this patch. Your daughter's group leader will determine when the patch has been completed. A record-keeping log is available on the reverse of the patch requirements. Good luck! Remember, your daughter's group can only be as "good" as you help it be.

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas PARENT/ADULT PARTICIPATION FORM

Mother/Guardian's Name: _____

Father/Guardian's Name: _____

Girl Scout's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Mother/Guardian's _____ Father/Guardian's
Home(____) _____ Work(____) _____ Work(____) _____

School Girl Scout attends: _____ Grade _____

Best days/times for troop meeting _____ or _____

Adult interest, support and participation are what makes Girl Scouting fun for the girls, and is essential for a successful Girl Scout year! Listed below are some specific ways you can be involved and share in the fun. Please show your support by checking *at least one* way you will help.

- Help at meeting when needed
- Coordinate the cookie sale
- Do telephoning
- Provide babysitting for leader's other children during meetings etc.
- Coordinate the council Family Giving Campaign
- Provide transportation when needed
- Arrange transportation when needed
- Have access to copy machine and will make copies when needed
- Accompany on Hikes Cookouts
 Field Trips Camping Trips
- Help with records: financial reports, individual girl records, etc.

Girls *love* to have adults share their special hobbies, skills and talents with the group. What special interests would you be willing to share with the group? _____

Do you know someone else who has a special hobby or talent to share with us?

Name _____ Talent/Hobby _____

Telephone: (day)(____) _____ (evening) (____) _____

Thank you for sharing your valuable knowledge and time with girls!

For information such as price, availability, etc. or to order patches, contact the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas Council Shop in San Antonio at (210) 349-2404 or (800) 580-7247, extension 244. Six weeks advance notice required for orders of 100 or more patches.

Girl Scouting, A Family Affair PATCH REQUIREMENTS



GIRLS - Follow the guidelines below throughout the group year:

- **SMILE AND HAVE FUN!**
- Be willing to learn and try new things.
- Be a team player - cooperative and sharing. Include everyone in everything. As the song goes, "***make new friends, but keep the old***".
- Attend meetings regularly. Of course, everyone will miss a meeting or two and that's understandable. Let your leader know in advance if you cannot be there.
- Be willing to participate in all activities. Never use the "B" word - ***boring***. Remember, life is only as boring as **YOU** make it! If you want to have fun, you will.

ADULTS - The adult must complete 5 of the 9 requirements below, including one with a *.

- 1.) Become a registered member of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas. Your leader can tell you how to do this.
- 2.) Complete a Parent Participation Form letting your Leader know how you would like to help.
- 3.) Participate in two events which have been planned by the group for parent involvement. This may be the parent meeting and/or special events or ceremonies such as the Investiture, Bridging or Awards ceremony, a troop-family picnic or play day, etc.
- 4.) Make a contribution to the councils Family Giving Campaign.
- *5.) Become involved with the group by becoming the Leader, Asst. or Co-leader, Cookie Manager, , Family Giving Campaign Coordinator, or help with records such as the financial reports and individual girl records.
- *6.) Do a service for the group on at least four (4) occasions during the course of one registration year (Sept. - Aug.). Choice of service may include:
 - provide transportation for and help chaperon outings/field trips
 - attend and assist at meetings or host a meeting(s) in your home
 - share a career, skill, talent, or hobby with the group
 - care for the leader's children during functions or training courses
 - accompany the group on an outdoor activity (campout, cookout, hike, etc.)
 - make telephone calls or be the Emergency Contact Person for outings
- 7.) Take training needed for group activities. This could be the Leadership Modules, Standard First Aid and CPR, Outdoor Education or Camp Leadership, etc. Ask your troop leader for more information. Use the training you received to benefit the group.
- 8.) Plan a Leader's Day celebration for April 22 to honor your daughter's troop leaders.
- 9.) Turn in dues and calendar and/or cookie money and paperwork ON TIME.



**GIRL SCOUTING, A FAMILY AFFAIR
RECORD-KEEPING LOG**

SECTION 1: GIRLS - Girls should complete this section. The leader will verify by signing her initials.

During this group year, did you.....	YES	NO	LEADER'S INITIALS
➤ smile and have fun?	_____	_____	_____
➤ try new things?	_____	_____	_____
➤ attend meetings regularly?	_____	_____	_____
➤ participate in activities eagerly?	_____	_____	_____
➤ become acquainted with everyone in the troop?	_____	_____	_____

SECTION 2: ADULTS - The adult should complete the required information and the date. The leader will verify by signing her initials.

ADULT RECORD-KEEPING LOG Adult must complete 5 of the 9 requirements, including one with a *.	leader's initials
1.) Registered as a member of Southwest Texas Council of Girl Scouts:	_____
2.) Completed Parent Participation Form turned it in to the leader:	_____
3.) Participated in two events planned by the group for parent involvement: event name _____ event name _____	_____ _____
4.) Made a contribution to the councils Family Giving Campaign	_____
*5.) List your involvement with the group: _____	_____
*6.) List four occasions where you did a service for the group: type of service _____ type of service _____ type of service _____ type of service _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
7.) Name of training course completed: _____ State how will you use this training to benefit the group: _____ _____	_____ _____
8.) Type of Leader's Day celebration: _____	_____
9.) Cookie money/paperwork turned in ON TIME: Yes____ No____ Group dues paid ON TIME: Yes____ No____	_____ _____

Congratulations!

You have helped your daughter earn the *Girl Scouting, A Family Affair* patch!