

IT'S YOUR  
WORLD—  
CHANGE IT!

## Girl Scout Ambassadors – *Your Voice, Your World*

**Note to Leaders and Mentors:** *By this time in the Girl Scout experience almost everything should be girl-led. We recognize that girls in high school are very busy and have many activities going on. The girl book states on page 53 that they need to consider their busy schedules when planning their advocacy project. They do not have to spend a huge amount of time on this project. The Leader book also stresses the importance of a meaningful process and not necessarily huge projects (page 7).*

### Basic Description:

- Asks girls to be an advocate and to use their voices as a force for positive change in the world
- Describes 8 steps for advocacy
  - Step 1: *Find Your Cause*
  - Step 2: *Tune In:* Research your cause.
  - Step 3: *Harmonize:* Identify and form partnerships, networking.
  - Step 4: *Identify the Big Ears:* Identify the VIPs who can help take action.
  - Step 5: *Plan the Perfect Pitch:* Put together your advocacy message as well as information on being an advocate in your own life.
  - Step 6: *Raise Your Voice, Make Your Pitch:* Girls present their message to the VIPs (includes tips on speaking).
  - Step 7: *Close the Loop:* Assess your pitch, follow up with VIPs, look at outcomes.
  - Step 8: *Reflect, Reward, Celebrate:* Explore careers in advocacy.
- Great snapshots of women advocates throughout the book
- Throughout the book there are “Take 5” breaks that provide opportunities not related to advocacy. Some are fun, one relates to healthy living, and one evaluates skills.

## What do they earn and how do they earn them?

- Advocacy Award
  - Complete the 8 steps of advocacy

## Possible Field Trips or Community Partners:

- Ideas for advocacy
- Workshops taught by women who advocate for a living
- Kansas & Missouri state legislators and visits to the state capitals
- Shadowing opportunities for girls to work with women advocates
- Sites of government—state capital, Washington D.C., city hall meeting

## Additional Programming Ideas for Troop Meetings:

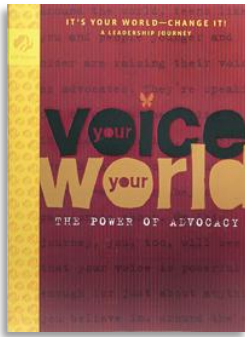
- Research more on women advocates listed in the book
- A few more ideas are listed on page 15 of the leader book

## Other Thoughts or Helpful Hints

- It is recommended that each girl have a copy of the Journey book
- The Advocacy Award is not described in girls' book—mentioned slightly on page 51—covered in more detail on page 7 of the adult book
- Includes information on writing press releases—Troops can always practice writing press releases and can even request assistance from the council PR department. For large stories or major city papers/ other major media sources (i.e. radio & television), please turn any press releases or stories in to the council PR department for review. For local neighborhood news/church, bulletins/etc., it is recommended to confer with the PR department but not required.

## Interest Project Patches & Other Program Connections

- Leadership IPP
- Global Girl IPP
- Public Relations IPP
- Desktop Publishing IPP
- The Play's the Thing IPP
- ***Please note:*** Other Interest Projects and Program can fit in as well. This is just a list to get you started.



## Girl Scout Ambassador Sample Meeting 1

**Goal:** Girls get to know each other better and begin to generate ideas for their troop year.

**Supplies needed:** Journey adult guides and girl books.

<p><b>Arrival Activity:</b></p>	<p>Invite the girls to make name tags if they don't all know each other. Try to greet the girls as they arrive and encourage them to talk with each other as the rest of the group arrives. If they are engaged in conversation, let them continue for a while.</p>
<p><b>Ambassador Girl Scout Circle:</b></p>	<p><b>Part A – Business:</b> Sit in a circle. Take attendance and collect dues, which the girls can handle in subsequent meetings. Remind them of the quiet sign. If you have any new girls, quickly explain what this is. Introduce yourself to the girls, if they do not know you, as well as your assistant. Then encourage the girls to introduce themselves and share something they enjoy doing.</p> <p><b>Part B – Sharing:</b> If the girls already know each other, do a “check-in” anyway. You can use the metaphor of the weather report for this. Ask them to describe how they are feeling using a weather term. For example, “lots of sun,” “overcast,” “cloudy but clearing.” Or have them share a little-known fact about themselves.</p> <p>If the group is active, try a Human Bingo game. Each square within the Bingo is something a girl may have done, such as climbed a climbing wall. The girls go around the room and try to find someone to sign each square. Each time they find someone who satisfies that square, she initials it. When she has 5 in a line, she yells, BINGO.</p>

<p><b>Program Activity:</b></p>	<p>Introduce the Journeys for this grade level and any other Girl Scout resources and activity books that you think might interest the girls. Let them spend time going through them. You may want to have them look at these in small groups and encourage them to think about where they would like to start. Have each girl or small group report out with suggestions. In addition to the interest created by the books, brainstorm with them the things they would like to do in their Girl Scout troop. Again, this could be done in pairs, so everyone participates and then the pairs share their list so one troop list might be generated. Discuss next steps.</p>
<p><b>Snack (optional): (10 minutes)</b></p>	<p>This will vary from group to group depending on the time of day the group meets and possibly the duration. Provide a healthy snack for the first meeting and then discuss with the girls how they want to handle this.</p>
<p><b>Clean-up: (5 minutes)</b></p>	<p>If there is clean-up to be done, encourage total participation.</p>
<p><b>Closing: (5 minutes)</b></p>	<p>A Friendship Circle &amp; squeeze, or however the girls determine they would like to close.</p>

