







BUILDING CONSENSUS

When you have a team, you want all your members working together. When you all agree on what to do, that's called reaching a "consensus." A "con-**whats**-sus?" A **consensus** . . . because it makes a lot of sense to work as a team if you want to get things done!

When you reach a consensus, does that mean everyone in the group thinks exactly the same? Uh-uh! It means that everyone in the group can support the same decision or agree to live with it. And when different groups have to work together, building consensus is the way important things get done.

How can your girl circle build consensus? Try the "Fist-to-Five" technique! Everybody starts by holding up their tightly closed fists. The speaker states her opinion about what she thinks the group needs to do, and then everyone uses her fingers to do the talking:

- A closed fist means "Complete disagreement." 
- A pinky finger extended with other fingers closed means "Need to discuss issue further." 
- Two fingers extended means "Still not ready to agree, but let's talk more." 
- Three fingers extended means "I can live with it." 
- Four fingers extended means "It's a good idea." 
- All fingers extended means "It's great—I want to lead this!" 

Depending on how many fingers are showing, the group either continues discussing the issue or moves ahead in agreement. Sometimes when you're on a team, it's important for everybody to be totally excited—all fingers up! But sometimes that's not so important and some team members might compromise. Being a team member is all about being in tune with what will really get the whole team moving forward.