

## Cadette Girl Scout Way Badge

# How to Teach Songs

**Check out these tips. They're straight from the 1940 Girl Scout Handbook, and still as relevant as ever.**

You need not be a trained musician to help your friends learn one of your favorite songs. But you want the members of your group to have a good time while learning and singing. Whether they do often depends on the song leader.

If you remember the following suggestions, your teaching will probably be successful:

1. Be sure you know the song well yourself—both words and music. It is better to use a book than to make a mistake, but your group will have more confidence in you if you can teach a song without the help of a book.
2. Sing the songs through yourself (or the first stanza if it is very long) for your group, so it will know how the whole thing sounds.
3. If there is any special form to the music, such as first and third lines being alike, be sure to point this out to your singers. It will make things seem easier.
4. Let the group sing the song phrase by phrase, using words and music together.
5. Present your song in a way to interest your singers. Tell them how it was written or, if it is a folk song, when it was usually sung in the “old days.”
6. If the group is signing a round, part song, or descant, be sure that each subgroup knows its part well before attempting to put all parts together.