

Girl Scout Way

How to Choose Songs

Girl Scouts have been picking great songs to sing since 1913—and some hints from the past can still be useful to you today.

1. Begin with some songs your group already knows. You can enjoy singing at once, with no practice.
2. If the girls in your group haven't sung together very much, select at first new songs that you can learn quickly. Short rounds and folk songs with tra-la-la choruses are good types.
3. After you've sung together a while, you will probably want something a little more advanced. Try the longer art songs, simple part songs, and songs with descants. A descant is a contrasting melody, usually sung by a few high voices. No more than a third of the singers should take the descant at one time, and for only one or two verses.
4. Choose songs that suit the occasion. A hike calls for songs with rhythm; a patriotic program suggests songs about our country; and a campfire program is a good opportunity to sing songs about nature and lovely lullabies.

—Girl Scout Handbook, 1940