

## **Welcome a New Girl Scout**

Girl Scouts is an inclusive organization that welcomes all girls to be part of the fun! Welcoming a new girl is fun and exciting for everyone, but it also can create some anxiety. These simple ideas will surely wipe out any anxiety for all those involved when coming together.

### **How to invite a new girl**

We open our doors to new girls to join their troop all the time. Whether you are a new troop leader beginning to grow your troop or an existing troop leader looking to add more girls, here are some ideas of ways to invite girls to your troop;

- **Create invites;** Have your current troop members create invites and pass them out at school, at sport or club meetings, at church, or out and about in the community. Remind your girl to only provide their first name on any information they distribute and have all inquiries about joining come through you, the leader.
- **Bring a friend;** it is common that midway through the year, the girls in your troop want to bring friends to your meeting. This is a great opportunity for girls to invite a friend to see what Girl Scouts is all about. You can create a special 'bring a friend' meeting and all the girls bring a friend or you can select several date to spread out over the year. Remember to consult Safety Wise and abide by the girl/adult ratios required for meetings.
- **Customer Care Team;** if you wish to add more girls you can always contact the Customer Care Team and they will work with connecting you with any girls in your area that are looking to join a troop.

### **How to engage the troop**

There are many different, fun ways to engage your Girl Scouts in the process of welcoming a new girl to your troop. By engaging the girls, they learn about being inclusive and have a chance to live out the Girl Scout Law. (friendly & helpful, considerate and caring, make the world a better place.) Not only that, it makes the experience of welcoming a new girl fun and a smooth transition. Here are some ways the girls can be directly involved in welcoming a new girl.

- **Write a Welcome letter;** create a letter or card with the girls in your troop. Have them decorate the card to sign. Or, each girl could include a note in the card with a note from them on what they love about Girl Scouts and what they look forward to when meeting the new girl.

- **Welcoming Ceremony/ Investiture;** work with your troop and plan a ceremony to welcome the new girl at her first meeting. Let the girls come up with ideas of activities or songs. An investiture ceremony is also a chance to welcome the new girl in the world of Girl Scouting if she has never been a member.

Here is a sample of ceremony;

- Start in friendship circle and sing a song (brownie smile Song)/recite promise.
  - In the circle, girls take turns introducing themselves and one thing they love about Girl Scouts
  - Leader pins the new girl with the WAGGS pin or program level pin and shakes her hand.
  - Close with Friendship circle squeeze.
- *Remember that if you are not comfortable with ceremony, just create a fun game as an introduction activity. Girls love to play and nothing breaks the ice more than laughter!*
  - **Buddy System;** Prior to your new girl starting in your troop, collect volunteers who would like to be assigned the new girl's buddy for the first couple of meetings. Explain that their job is to guide her through the meeting, answer any questions she has and needless to say, be her BUDDY. This will put the new girl at ease to know she has someone to sit next to throughout the troop meeting and someone to help her understand how the troop operates.