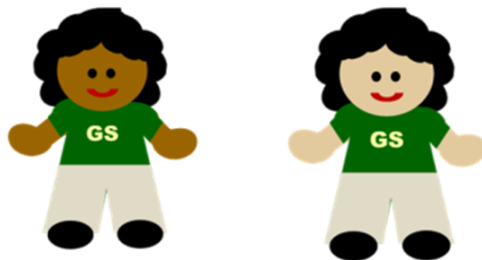
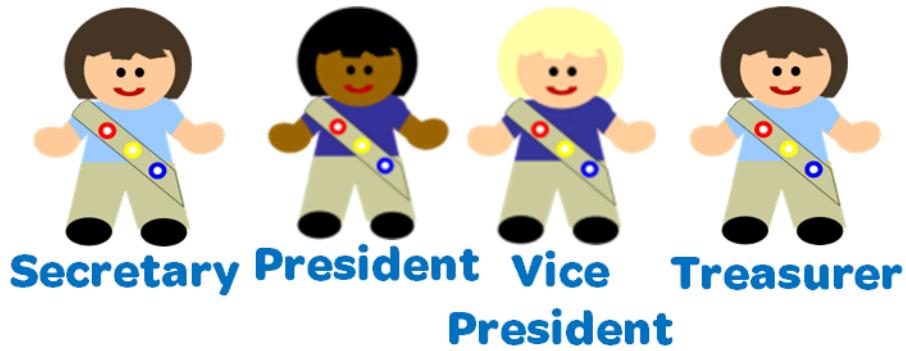
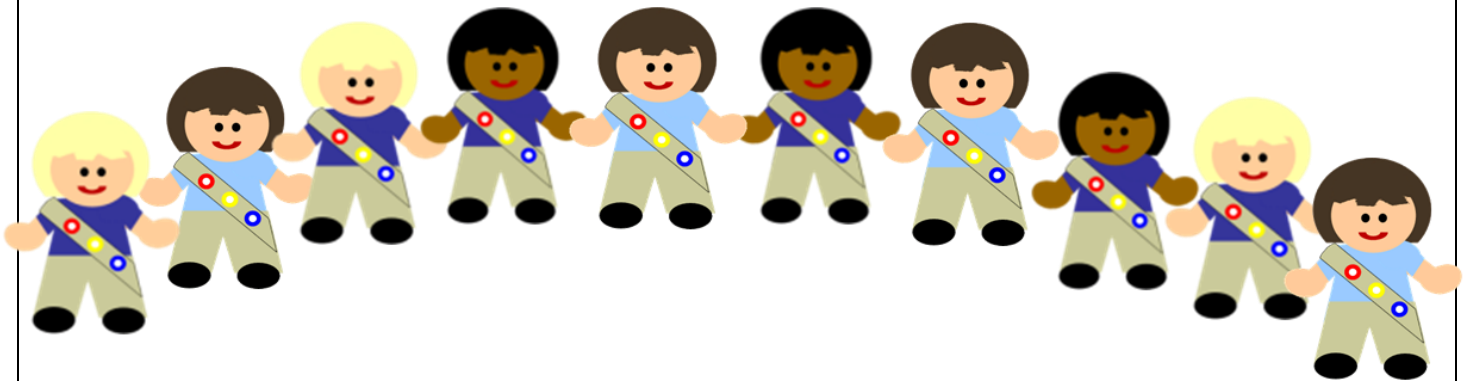
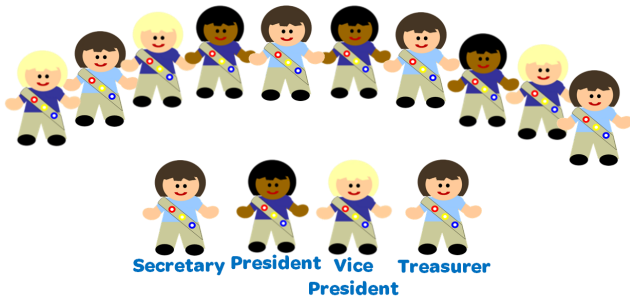


Troop/Group Government And Organization

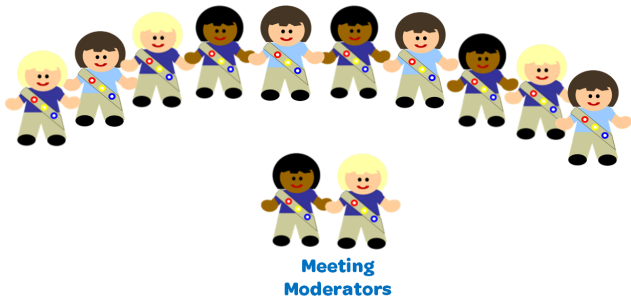


Troop Government



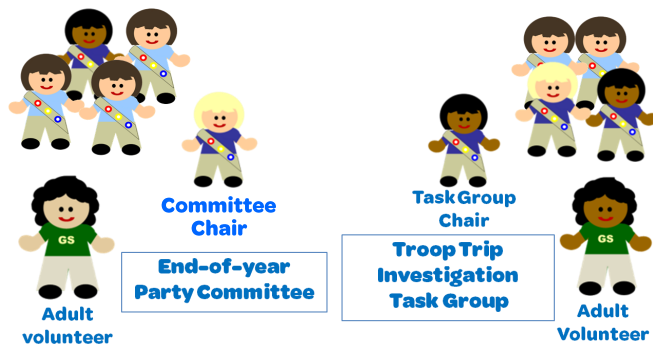
Executive Board Style (School Government):

- Leadership team (President, Vice-Pres, Secretary, Treasurer) is voted in by the girls to make plans and assign jobs for the entire troop
- Board members meet regularly to decide matters for the troop
- Girls need to decide ahead of time how suggestions and ideas will be passed on to the board



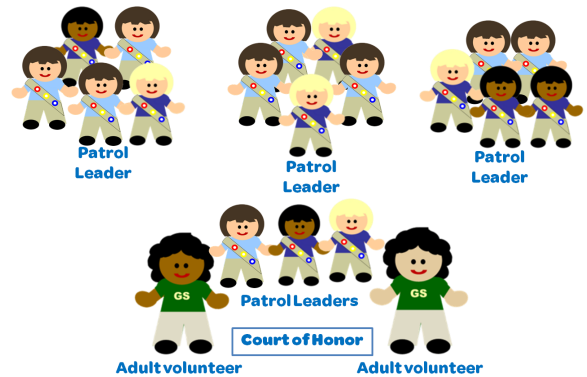
Town Meeting Style (Moderated/Facilitated):

- Whole troop is involved in discussions, decisions, plans
- A moderator is chosen to guide discussions
- Can have officers (Secretary, Treasurer) if needed



Task Groups/Committees

- A small group formed for a specific task.
- May be used to investigate information on a particular question, plan and/or carry out parts of a troop project, carry out routine and/or special tasks



Patrol System:

- A large troop divides into small groups, usually five to eight girls
- Each patrol chooses a name, a patrol leader & assistant leader
- Troop decides length of term

Court Of Honor:

Consists of adult volunteers, patrol leaders, assistant patrol leaders, troop secretary and troop treasurer who meets to come up with ideas and plans for patrols to vote on, and asks for suggestions from patrols.

New or Modeled Style:

- Girls may wish to invent a style. For example, they may wish to set up “branches” of the troop, which would perform different functions
- “Branches” of the troop might include groups to take care of business/paperwork, leadership, meeting planning, activity/trip planning, etc.
- Unlimited other possibilities – model after US government, or any other organization

Girls may choose any form of troop government (or combination) that works for them. They may need to experiment with different things until the troop is running the way they would like it to. The aim is to find a way for every girl to express her ideas and be part of the decisions.

Troop Organization

When do we meet?

Where do we meet?

How often do we meet?

What will we do at the meeting?

There are unlimited options for holding troop meetings. Troops may meet as often as they like – most troops meet or have activities at least twice a month – some meet every week, and some only meet once per month.

Here are a few ideas:

Traditional Meetings

Some troops have regularly scheduled meetings with one or more additional activities or overnights per month. All girls attend all meetings and activities. The girls have many of the same interests and shared goals, and they enjoy working on everything together. Each meeting is roughly run according to the same general agenda.

Dinner meetings

Some troops meet over dinner. They meet and cook together, while various task groups discuss plans and activities on a more informal basis, while also allowing a chance for girls to socialize. Or they plan the meeting at dinner time and encourage each other to come up with a different type of food to share each time.

Overnights

Some troops don't have set times for meetings. They may have one overnight per month where they decide on all the activities/meetings that will happen in the next month. During the month, several different activities are planned, and girls (and adults!) choose which to participate in based on their interests.

Task Groups

Some troops use task groups to plan activities. Every other meeting, about half of the meeting is devoted to business and planning. One advisor meets with the leadership team, while another works with girls who are earning awards. Girls responsible for planning upcoming meetings or activities discuss their plans, while some girls may choose to just "hang out."

Program Menu

Many troops plan and offer numerous options during the month – different types of meetings and activities are planned and girls may choose to participate in those activities that interest them.



There are as many different options for meetings as there are troops/groups, and different options could be combined. The important thing is to come up with a plan that works for your particular girls and adults. There are no set rules for how often, where, what time, what must be done, or any other guidelines.

Communication

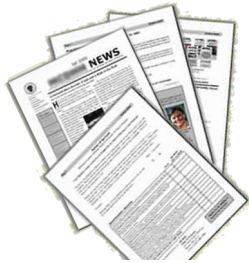
No matter what form of troop/group government and organization the girls choose it is vital that they all stay in touch and communicate with each other, with advisors and with their parents.

It is a good idea for the girls to decide how they will keep the lines of communication open and to discuss what will happen if they don't.

If a girl misses a meeting, for instance, how will the rest of the girls keep her informed as to what was done at that meeting?

If there is an important activity or event planned, how will the girls let their parents know consistently?

If a group has planned to bring certain items to a troop/group meeting, how will they remind each other of that commitment?



Some troops/groups decide they want to publish a weekly/monthly **newsletter** and send it out via email to everyone who wants to subscribe to it; adults and girls.



Simple **text messaging** can also be an effective form of communication, especially when a reminder to bring something to the troop meeting is needed.



Some troops/groups have established an old-fashioned **phone tree** where each girl is assigned another girl to call and update on changes or additions.



And others have a **Yahoo Group** or **Google Calendar group**.

It is important to establish safety guidelines before doing any of the online forms of communication. The Girl Scouts has established a safety pledge and instruction available to help you do this with the girls.

Check out the Activity Checkpoint for computer use and safety on our web site. http://www.girlscoutsnorcal.org/documents/Computer_Online_Safety_Activity_Checkpoints_2010.pdf

