



# Daisy Fostering Cooperation

## Tips

### Be Prepared and Get There Early:

“Be prepared” is the Girl Scout motto and a way of life. Plan for success, but always have a backup plan. Make sure that all of the leaders and adult helpers are prepared for the meeting and clearly understand their role.

Get there early to set up. Having everything ready before the first girl walks through the door will allow you to greet the girls as they arrive, talk to them, and make them feel welcome, and it will leave you calm and ready to focus on the meeting.

Always have simple games and activities ready in case you need a backup plan. A few hours spent researching and putting together a “Bag of Tricks” will definitely payoff. These bags can be full of simple objects, such as chalk, balloons, rope, paper, and other items. The Internet provides dozens of sites that give game and song suggestions. Having a few tricks up your sleeve will ease your anxiety, because you know that you always have something for the girls to do. If the girls are kept busy, it is hard for them to find other activities that may cause problems.

### Establish a Team Agreement:

In the beginning of the troop year, you will need to work with the girls to establish a team agreement for behavior. It is very important that the girls feel that the agreement came from them. The more ownership that the girls have of the expectations, the more likely they are to follow them and to hold others accountable as well.

As the troop works together to brainstorm ideas for this agreement, you can guide them by presenting scenarios to help them identify and understand why certain rules may be needed. For example, you may ask the girls:

“How do you feel when you have something to share and everyone ignores you?”

“What does it sound like when everyone talks at

the same time?”

“How do you feel when everything is loud?”

This line of questioning will likely lead girls to develop guidelines about noise and taking turns while talking.

Even after the rules are established, the job is not done. Have the girls make a portable and fun looking poster with the team agreement. You can laminate the poster and bring it to every meeting. This poster reminds everyone what was agreed to.

### Create a Positive Atmosphere:

Building a positive environment is essential for making the girls feel accepted and comfortable enough to take risks. Keep reminding yourself to greet the girls at the door, talk with “bended knees” (bend down to look girls in the eye), and use a kaper chart to discourage cliques.

It is not only what you do, but also what you don't do that affects the atmosphere. If the girls know there is a behavior problem and you don't address it, they may lose faith in your ability to keep order. That doesn't mean you should jump on every small infraction—just make sure you are not ignoring problems because you are afraid to confront them.

- Accept each girl and encourage the girls to accept each other, even if a behavior is unacceptable.
- Encourage cooperation, not competition.



## Fostering Cooperation, *continued*

### Reinforce Positive Behavior:

“Reinforce what you want repeated.” Every child desires attention, even shy and quiet girls. The trick is to find positive qualities and behaviors to praise, instead of forcing the children to misbehave in order to get your attention.

Some psychological studies suggest that humans need 11 emotionally positive compliments to make up for each criticism they receive. Apply this theory to your own life. How deeply do you feel criticism? Does it seem to stick in your mind, even years after the remark was made? What about praise?

Generally, the more personal, specific and frequent the praise, the more it stays with you. Remember that all children need to feel the light of praise. It will probably require you to create new habits. Most people are better at noticing negative behavior. Often, we expect the girls to behave and forget to reward them when everything is running smoothly.

Assure a “problem” girl that she can belong, and look for ways that she can contribute. Praise her too.

### Be a Role Model:

You want the girls to be kind, respectful, eager, excited and able to celebrate successes and learn from failures. You are the role model for all of these traits. If you want respect, give it. If you want enthusiasm, show that you have it. If you want the girls to be kind to each other, then be kind to them.

Remember that the girls are listening, even when you think they are occupied, so be sure to watch your conversations with other adults.

Be Patient. If kids were perfect, then they wouldn’t need us.

Remember to enjoy your time spent with the girls for what it is: a chance to be a mentor, to build a meaningful relationship with a child, to make a difference in another life, to help the girls reach their goals and to have fun! You don’t have to worry

about tests or secret agendas. Growth takes time, but your patience will be rewarded! Be Consistent, practice what you preach and don’t change the rules mid-game. The girls need to know what to expect and need to trust you to be fair to everyone.

### Get to Know Your Girls:

Make time to spend with the girls at meetings and learn their names, their likes and dislikes. This will help you to build a positive relationship with each of them, especially since many leaders know at least one girl very well already (their daughter).

### Have Reasonable Expectations:

As you get to know the girls, you will better understand the skill sets that each of them possess. Your expectations will shape their performance. Help them set realistic, but challenging goals based on their skills that they have and what they want to do. This includes keeping in mind girls’ different physical abilities and choosing activities that allow all girls to succeed.



# Prevention and Intervention

| Prevention   | Intervention   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Troop Rules -</b><br/>Girls will be more likely to follow rules that they have a part in creating, so guide your Daisies in setting guidelines for troop member behavior. Guidelines should be listed using positive language: "Keep hands to yourself" instead of "No hitting" or "No kicking".</p>                   | <p><b>Consequences -</b><br/>Work with the girls to decide what will happen if the rules are not followed.</p> <p>Examples:<br/>Warning<br/>Note Sent Home<br/>Time Out (if necessary)</p>   |
| <p><b>Team Agreement -</b><br/>Direct the girls in creating an agreement about how everyone should behave. Daisies will need lots of guidance in creating a team agreement, but they can give ideas on how they think everyone should behave. The team agreement should be prominently displayed at every troop meeting.</p> | <p><b>Dispute Resolution -</b><br/>Even Girl Scout Daisies can and should be taught to solve their own problems whenever possible. By talking to girls about problem resolution early in the year, they will be prepared when problems arise. An adult should act as a mediator while encouraging girls to work it out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to the Girl Scout Promise and Law</li> <li>• Use role playing</li> <li>• Let both sides speak</li> <li>• Make sure girls know who to go to with problems</li> <li>• Get help when necessary               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents</li> <li>Other Troop Adults</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p><b>General Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be prepared and get there early</li> <li>Create a positive atmosphere</li> <li>Reinforce positive behavior</li> <li>Be a role model</li> <li>Get to know your girls</li> <li>Have reasonable expectations</li> </ul>                                      | <p><b>General Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage your own reaction</li> <li>Re-direct problem behavior</li> <li>Know when and where to obtain help</li> <li>Communicate with others</li> <li>Eliminate the word "you"</li> </ul>  |

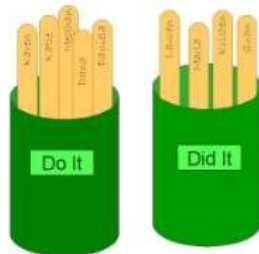
# More Behavior Management Tips

## But She's My Daughter!

Surprisingly, it may be the leader's own daughter that displays disruptive behavior during troop activities! It is important to remember how difficult it can be for girls to share their mom with so many others girls, all seeking their leader's attention. Sometimes leaders, trying not to show favoritism toward their daughters, may inadvertently go to the other extreme and never choose their daughters for special jobs.

Below are some tips for avoiding this type of problem:

- Have the girls assist in picking camp names or nicknames for the troop leaders that all the girls, including your own daughter, can call you during troop activities. This removes "Mom" from the picture.
- Employ the "Do It Did It" cans to pick girls for special tasks and treats. Put the names of all troop members on popsicle sticks and place in the Do It can. Have the girls take turns pulling their name out of the Do It can and placing it in the Did It can when the need arises.
- Make a deal with your co-leader to "trade" daughters during troop activities.
- Never use your daughter to practice crafts or other troop activities prior to the troop meeting. Let her be surprised, too.
- Take advantage of service unit leader/daughter events where you can spend special time with your daughter during a Girl Scout event.



Here are some additional tips for working specifically with Daisies.

- Get down to their level: Girl Scout Daisies are generally much smaller than you and can be intimidated when being spoken to by a giant. Get down to their level so you are eye to eye with them when speaking.
- Establish an order for your meetings: By establishing an order, you are creating a routine for the girls. After several weeks, the girls will understand what is expected of them and know the flow of each meeting. When they understand, they are more likely to cooperate and take initiative.
- Use five- and one-minute warnings: Daisies need to know when an activity is ending and another is about to begin. This helps them to learn to plan and not feel rushed. The warning signal can be a bell, a song or any appropriate signal you choose.
- Provide a snack: Snack time allows the girls to share and relax and gives them responsibility. Use a kaper chart to distribute responsibility for snack time. Snack time should be simple and planned appropriately based on when your troop meets. For example, if it is close to dinnertime, you may serve just juice instead of cookies and juice.

|          | Opening   | Hostesses  | Clean Up   | Closing  |
|----------|---|--|--|--|
| Sept. 15 |   |  |  |  |
| Sept. 30 |   |  |  |  |
| Oct. 15  |   |  |  |  |
| Oct. 31  |   |  |  |  |
|          | Ladybugs:<br>Laura R.<br>Sabrina<br>Sofia<br>Hayley<br>Lauren | Songbirds:<br>Jessica<br>Taylor<br>Daniela<br>Rebecca<br>Krielln | Puppies:<br>Christina<br>Stephanie<br>Brooke<br>Brittany<br>Suan | Frogs:<br>Karen<br>Lizzie<br>Marie<br>Sarah<br>Deena |