



Short and Snappy

Learning Opportunity for Volunteers

What is a Short and Snappy?

- These short trainings can be provided at a service unit meeting.
- Any interested volunteer may lead a Short and Snappy.
- Short and Snappys are usually 10-45 minutes in length.

What You Will Need

- Short and Snappy outline
- Sign-in sheet
- Supplies to make SWAPS of your choice
- Sample SWAPS from your collection

Things to remember

- Stay within the allotted time.
- If you don't know the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate support person.

Questions? Comments?

Contact training@sdgirlscouts.org
www.sdgirlscouts.org

SWAPS

20-30 minutes

It's a longtime Girl Scout tradition to exchange keepsakes — SWAPS — when meeting a new friend. SWAPS originated when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides first gathered for fun, songs and making new friends. Not only are they a perfect way for Girl Scouts to meet each other and promote friendship, each one holds a memory of a special event.

What are SWAPS?

Ask participants, "Have you ever heard of SWAPS? Can anyone share what SWAPS stands for?"

- The tradition stems from the Native American "potlatch," a ceremonial exchange of gifts.
- SWAPS stands for "Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere," "Share With a Pal" or "Something With a Pin."
- Lord Baden-Powell started the idea of scout SWAPS in 1924.
- SWAPS are often handmade. We give a part of ourselves to show friendship.
- SWAPS are exchanged anywhere Girl Scouts get together: encampment, day camp, resident camp, council events or special Girl Scout events. Ask the event director if there will be a chance to trade SWAPS.

Why SWAPS

Ask participants, "Why make and exchange SWAPS?"

- Promote friendship.
- Learn to talk to other people.
- Give and receive mementos of a good time.
- Share something about where we live and what we do.

Swapping etiquette

Ask participants, "Why do you think SWAP etiquette is important? What do you need to consider when swapping SWAPS?"

- Don't decline an offered SWAP. Someone worked hard to make it!
- Carry SWAPS you made to give away in a separate bag from ones you receive and want to keep.
- Most SWAPS are 1-2 inches in size.
- Make a few extras for those people who don't have any to give.
- SWAPS can be bracelets, necklaces, council patches, event

patches or any other small items.

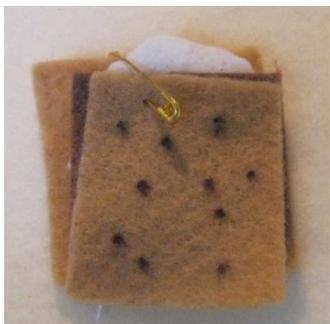
- SWAPS shouldn't contain edible food.
- Spend some time getting to know everyone you swap with. Ask, "What's your troop doing that's fun?"

A few ideas:

- Felt trefoils — Write troop number in fabric paint.
- Pom-pom critters — Add eyes, feet and antenna (or beak and feathers for a bird, flippers for a seal, a trunk for an elephant, etc.)
- Mini dunk bag — Cut netting in circles and thread yarn through the top for the drawstring ... and maybe even create mini dishes to put inside!
- Friendship pins — Put beads on a safety pin.
- Mini sit-upons — Make them from vinyl, with plastic lacing.
- Wooden clothespin creatures — Paint them to look like different animals or people and glue a pin to the back.
- Shell critters — Just glue eyes on!
- S'mores — Pin together two squares of tan felt, with a white cotton ball (or pompom) and one square of dark brown felt in between.

Resources for SWAPS:

- Pinterest
- Scoutastic



- You may attach tags with the event name and date, troop number and/or council name, but never with girls' last names or personal information.

Where to wear SWAPS

- Pin SWAPS on a hat, bandana or similar holder.
- Search online for examples of other types of SWAPS holders, like necklaces or ribbons.

How to make SWAPS

Review the sample SWAPS you brought to share. Ask participants, "Which ones look harder than the others? What should you consider when making SWAPS?"

- Stick to age appropriate SWAPS. Try one yourself first to see how difficult it is to make.
- Consider all the tools you'll need (glue gun, sharp tools, drills, etc.) and make sure you have enough volunteers to supervise.
- Pre-cut some parts for younger girls, or to save time.
- Make the amount needed to SWAP, and a few more for those that don't have any. Don't make so many that girls get bored!
- Be accepting of what your girls do. Allow them room for creativity.
- Make SWAPS sturdy enough to last awhile.

Supplies you may need

- Basic crafting supplies: scissors, craft glue, low temp glue gun, glue sticks, ruler, pencils, safety pins, permanent markers, cord or twine
- Extension cord
- Zip-closing baggies to hold the SWAPS
- Clothespins (they make good clamps)
- Toenail clippers (great for cutting chenille stems, pipe cleaners or tie twists)
- Dental floss (use for stringing, hanging or tying crafts)
- Corn holders or pushpins (can punch holes)
- Plastic tablecloths or newspapers for table covers

Make SWAPS

If time allows, make a SWAP for participants to take home. See example below or look for more on the Internet.

Supplies: 2 tan felt squares, 1 brown felt square, 1 cotton ball or pompom, 1 safety pin

Pin them all together to make a s'mores SWAP!