

Creating a Troop Agreement

The purpose of a *Troop Agreement* is to support volunteers in facilitating a discussion with girls about appropriate conduct and behavior during Girl Scout activities. Creating a *Troop Agreement* will establish clear expectations and should be used along with the *Girl Scout Code of Conduct Agreement*. Complete the following steps with your troop to guide girls through creating your own *Troop Agreement*.

STEP 1: WHAT IS A TROOP AGREEMENT?

- Share with the girls that a *Troop Agreement* is a document created together by the troop with guidelines for behavior which every troop member agrees to follow.
- Share that a *Troop Agreement* helps ensure everyone feels safe and has fun at Girl Scouts.
- A new *Troop Agreement* should be created each year for growth, development, and new members.

STEP 2: REVIEW THE PROMISE, LAW, AND CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

- Review the *Girl Scout Promise*, *Girl Scout Law*, and the *Code of Conduct Agreement* with girls.
- Ask the girls what words or phrases they like in the Promise and Law? How does it feel to be friendly? Helpful? What things would you do if you were considerate? How does it feel when someone is being friendly, helpful, and considerate toward you? etc.

STEP 3: BRAINSTORM IDEAS FOR YOUR OWN TROOP AGREEMENT

- Ask the girls to give examples on how they should behave at troop meetings.
- Share the platinum rule: “Treat others as they would like to be treated.” Ask the girls what they think that means. How should you treat others at troop meetings?
- Brainstorm ideas for your *Troop Agreement*. Topics could be created for your meeting space, materials, how to treat others, arriving/leaving, etc. Each girl should have a chance to share. If girls are talking over one another, consider using the Girl Scout talking sign (place hands out on the floor/table in front of them), or use a talking stick/piece (where only the person holding the stick/special object is allowed to speak). Change negative statements into “can do” positive statements. For example: change “*don’t talk when others are talking*” to “*listen when others are talking*.”
- As a troop, choose at least five items for your final *Troop Agreement*. Examples include:
 - Live by the *Girl Scout Law*
 - Be a friend, not a bully
 - Work together
 - Support one another
 - Be a good listener
 - Use resources wisely (avoid wasting food, supplies, or time)
 - Leave the space cleaner than you found it (a Girl Scout tradition)

STEP 4: CREATE A TROOP AGREEMENT POSTER

- On poster board, use markers, decorations/stickers, etc. to create your *Troop Agreement* poster.
- Girls may work as a group or take turns writing each agreement on the poster.

STEP 5: SIGN THE TROOP AGREEMENT POSTER

- Once the poster is complete, review consequences for breaking the *Code of Conduct Agreement*.
- Have each girl sign her name on the *Troop Agreement* poster.
- Display the poster at each troop meeting along with the *Girl Scout Promise* and *Law*.