

Cooperative Learning

Fast Fundamentals



Overview

Cooperative Learning means sharing knowledge, skills, and experience in an atmosphere of respect and cooperation. With a tight-knit group of friends, Girl Scouts learn and grow together while cheering each other on. When girls work together toward a common goal, they'll learn that every girl has unique skills, traits, and talents that they can share with one another. They'll also see that their different backgrounds and perspectives are invaluable in shaping how they approach problems and come up with solutions.

5 Key Steps for Cooperative Learning

1

PLAN

Plan the size of your groups, how they will interact, and the measure of success for the activity



2

INTRODUCE

Model the activity for the troop, chat about accountability, set limits, and welcome questions



3

FACILITATE

Remain engaged with the activity, monitor, and intervene as needed to help alleviate conflicts



4

ASSESS

Work with the troop to measure their personal and collective successes.



5

REFLECT

Encourage Girl Scouts to set goals to improve their contribution to the work.

When you assess, you can ask questions like: "How did your group work as a team," or "What was one of the challenges of doing this activity?"

Pearl of Wisdom

Examples of Cooperative Learning:

- Girl Scouts is where your troop will learn strong communication skills. When the troop works as a whole it helps them build their discussion and explanation abilities. It also allows them the chance to give and receive feedback.
- Playing games that require girls to work together is a great way to make cooperative learning fun!
- Allow the troop to work on their collaboration skills by putting them into smaller groups. Breaking a large project into smaller tasks for the troop to work on in groups is a great example of cooperative learning. Assign an overall goal of the group (ex. How to spend troop money). Then assign a task to each group (ex. Researching take action projects, events the troop could attend, or camp sessions). This lets Girl Scouts work with different people in the troop more often and allows for more ideas to be brought to the table at the end of the brainstorming session.

Activity 1: Marshmallow Tower

Instructions:

Split the troop into small groups. Distribute marshmallows and toothpicks to each group. Challenge them to make the most creative/strongest/tallest tower within a certain amount of time.

Activity 2: Tell a Story

Instructions:

- The leader starts a story by saying the first sentence.
- Each of the girl scouts will write the rest of the story by adding on a sentence one by one.
- The story doesn't end until everyone has participated.



Activity 3: Group Juggle

Objective:

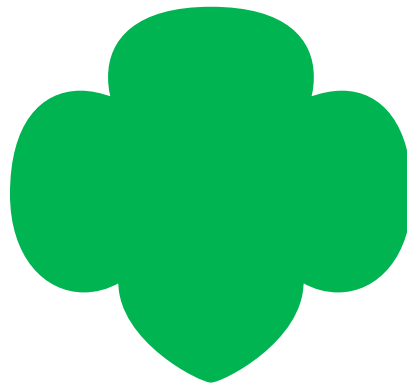
Even students who aren't skilled at juggling on their own can be successful at this cooperative activity.

Instructions:

1. All players form a circle, facing one another.
2. One player should then be given a ball, which they will throw to any team member who isn't standing directly to their right or left.
3. The next player repeats this step, and so on and so forth, until the ball returns to the starting player.
4. Once this happens, have the players attempt to pass the ball in the same sequence as before.
5. Once a rhythm has been established, continue by adding more balls to the circle until the troop is juggling as a group.

S'more Info

<p>GSWO Blog - Girl-Led, Learning by Doing and Cooperative Learning</p>		<p>Girl Scouts - Transforming Leadership</p>
 <p>gswoblog.org > Search: Girl-Led, Learning by Doing and Cooperative Learning</p>		 <p>girlscouts.org/publications > Transforming Leadership Continued (2009)</p>



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