

SWAPS

Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere

What is a SWAP? Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere

- Swaps should: Tell something about the givers or their group. (Generally include Troop # and type of event)
- Purpose: Represent the givers' country, community, or local Girl Scout council.

History of SWAPS

- It is likely the idea for swaps was based on Native American Potlatch ceremonies which involved trading of colored feathers as a sign of friendship.
- First Girl Scout SWAPS were exchanged at National Roundups.

SWAP Etiquette

- Never refuse to swap with another person.
- Swap face-to-face, especially if exchanging addresses or email information.
- Avoid using glass and sharp objects in swaps.
- Follow all Safety Activity Check Points guidelines.
- Avoid using food products, unless they are individually wrapped.
- Do not include your entire name on your SWAP. Instead use first name/last initial, a Troop number, or first initial/last name.

SWAP Tips

- Think about the kind of swap you would like to receive from someone else.
- Try not to spend a lot of money. Consider making something from donated or recycled material.
- Be creative, and take time to make hand-crafted swaps.
- Try to have one swap for each event participant and staff member.
- Plan ahead so there's time to make the swaps.
- Make swaps that can be worn, used, or displayed.
- Ask your group or service unit for help, if needed, in putting swaps together.
- Make swaps portable. Remember: Swaps must be carried or shipped ahead to the event, where other girls will be carrying them away.



Types of SWAPS

Bag SWAPS

- Holds items that are “loose” such as glitter, sand, confetti, or beads
- Allows you to combine multiple elements
- Holds “instant” or “mix” type SWAPS (examples: instant snow, instant snowman, instant cold, hot chocolate mix, etc.)
- Holds items that otherwise are not easily held on a pin



Traditional Girl Scout SWAPS

- Represents something related to Girl Scouting
- Can be miniature sashes or vests or awards
- Can celebrate Girl Scouting events or activities such as JGL Birthday, World Thinking Day, camp, etc.
- Can represent the Promise or the Law

Recycled SWAPS

- Made of recycled or repurposed materials including (but not limited to) foil, bottle caps, sport bottle caps, scraps, etc.
- If you are repurposing it, it is a recycled SWAP.



SWAP Budget

- Figure out what can be donated or collected first
- Go to several stores and see where you can get items on sale, on clearance, or for less money.
- Be willing to look in “unusual” places
- Keep your eye out for a possible SWAPs
- Call ahead to the store to ask if they have particular items