

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### Overview

Obviously, you want the girls in your troop to have fun, be inspired, take risks, and learn about themselves and the world this year—that is why you are a Girl Scout troop leader! The thing is, parents and caregivers want the same thing for their girls, but getting families to pitch in and play an active role in the troop while also enhancing the experience for their own daughter, can be tricky for many volunteers. It does not have to be this way! After your troop's initial parent meeting, the activities listed are ways you can best keep parents and caregivers on board.



### Pearl of Wisdom

Family Promise:

On my honor I will try to support my Girl Scout and her troop  
to help girls lead at all times  
and to always keep it fun!



## Activity 1: Make Family Part of the Formula

### Instructions:

Divide the group into small groups, give each group an event listed below. Have each group discuss and share how families can be involved in events.

- World Thinking Day
- Fishing Derby
- Girl Scouts Birthday
- Field Day
- Bridging
- Badge
- Community Service

## Activity 2: Make the Ask

### Instructions:

Discuss with participants the following topics involving how to make the ask to get families involved and what techniques have worked in the past.

- Make the ask(s)
- The main reason people do not take action is because they were never asked to in the first place. That is why hearing one out of three Girl Scout parents say no one had communicated expectations around involvement with their girl's troop is so troubling.
- Parents may have many talents, but they are certainly not mind readers! If you are nervous about getting turned down, don't be. Sure, a few parents might be unable to lend a hand, but the helpers you do get will be worth their weight in gold. And just because someone was not available a month or two ago does not mean they will not be free to help now. Loop back, follow up, and ask again!
- Make sense of "why." Explain that not only does the whole troop benefit with extra help from parents and caregivers, but also that girls feel a special sense of pride in seeing their own family member step up and take a leadership role.
- Getting involved can strengthen the caregiver/girl bond and is a meaningful way to show daughters that they are a priority in their parents' lives. Everybody's got a full plate these days, so instead of starting parent conversations with a list of tasks or responsibilities they could take on (which can be intimidating!), ask caregivers how much time each week they might be able to dedicate to the troop, then go from there.
- For instance, if a troop mom or dad has 15 minutes each week to spare, they could organize and manage the calendar for troop snacks and carpools. If a grandparent has one to two hours, they could assist with leading the troop through a specific badge on a topic they are already comfortable with.
- For more ways parents and other caregivers can help when faced with a tricky schedule, check out the Family Resources tab in the Volunteer Tool Kit.

## Activity 3: Ways to Debrief at Home with Girls

### Instructions:

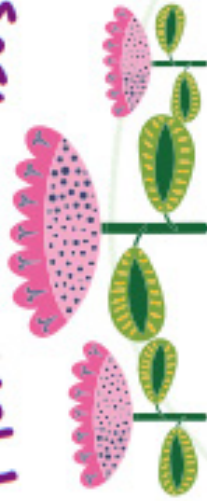
Have volunteers work together to complete the handouts on the next page, and share how they can incorporate each into working with families in their troop.



### S'more Info

- [gswoblog.org](http://gswoblog.org)> Search: [Experience Girl Scouts as a Family with the Family Adventure Patch!](#)
- [GSWO.org](http://GSWO.org)> [Girls & Families > Badges & Patches](#)
- [GSWO.org](http://GSWO.org)> [Girls & Families > Girl Scouts at Home](#)

# Flower Census



*Flowers are beautiful to look at...*

and they also help the world in all sorts of ways! Start at your computer to learn more about the flowers that grow naturally in your area. Then head outside to find the flowers that grow near you and practice your photo skills. Follow these steps:

## 1 Assemble your field guide!

Do a computer search to see what flowers grow in your state or region. Are there any places you can go to find them growing naturally? Once you've identified the types of flowers you're most likely to see, find out what's special about them.

## 2 Get to know your tools!

Once you've got the information in hand, find a camera and spend some time learning how to use the different settings. How can you take a good wide shot? How can you take a good close-up?

## 3 Perform your flower census!

Once you've got your field guide and you know how to use your camera, you're ready to head outside. On your next hike, camping trip, or park visit, see how many of the flowers you can find and photograph. Practice taking different kinds of photos and see if you can spot the things that make each flower special!



girl scouts

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Flower 6

Flower 5

Flower 8

Flower 7

**Tip** This activity can help you earn your Flowers and Digital Photographer badges.

### How many did you find?

page 1

page 2

page 3

page 4

page 5

page 6

page 7

page 8

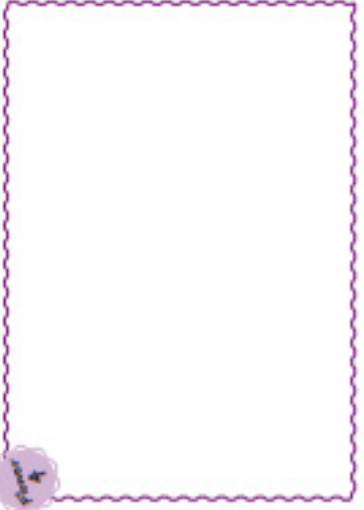
page 1



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page 2



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page 3



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page 4



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