

An Essential Guide to Troop Committees

Adult support is vital to the experience girls have in the troop setting. The leadership structure and distribution of duties will depend on troop size and can be customized based on the skills, interests, and availability of adults to best meet their needs and the needs of their girls.

Troop Leaders/Co-Leaders

- Plan meetings
- Help girls have fun with a purpose
- Keep people safe

Troop Product Manager

- Gather permission form
- Help the troop have a great Fall Product and/or Cookie Program
- Manage the troop Fall Product and for Cookie Program

Troop Chaperone

- Drive to field trips
- Keep girls focused on fun, learning, and safety during trips and other activities

Additional Roles

- Troop Treasurer
- Troop First-Aider
- Treasure
- Camp-Trained Adult

What is a Troop Committee

The term Troop Committee is used to describe the adult leadership team for a Girl Scout troop.

Top 5 Advantages to Organizing a Troop Committee

1. Don't burn out. Sometimes people take on too much; reduce stress by sharing the load.
2. Every superhero needs a sidekick. Lean on your co-leader for help.
3. Busy adults can help with what they are good at and enjoy, which can be less of a time commitment. Utilize ways adults can support the troop to identify their areas of interest.
4. Allows adults to give back to their community.
5. A girl gets special time with her adult.

If you have a talent not represented on this list, speak up and offer to share with the troop. From song and skit leaders to photographers, hobby experts, firewood suppliers and more, there is a place for you to volunteer with your Girl Scout troop. The help and engagement of every parent is important to the growth of the troop!



Engaging Family Support to Create Your Troop Committee

Caregivers want what is best for their girl but can be particular with what they do with their time and money. Keep in mind that time and funds are limited for many. Ask all families for help in creating your troop committee by delegating your troop tasks. Families don't all look the same, so consider the entire family—any caregivers or guardians, adult siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.

Things to consider before you ask for help:

- What is the time commitment?
- Do you expect all caregivers to be registered members?
- Be upfront about expectation—for you, the troop, and the families.
- Identify individual talents and skills and utilize them.
- Don't just focus on moms/women.

Making the Ask

The most important thing is to just ask for help!

- Try using a sign-up platform such as Sign-up Genius or Rallyhood to help fill slots where support is needed. This helps adults make commitments that fit their schedule.
- Tell them why you think they would be good at a particular task.
- Try asking one-on-one for adult support. It's hard to say no when you are specifically asked. For example: We need someone to help coordinate this...

Best Practices

- Use the VTK to send follow-up emails with what the girls will be doing in the next meeting and other reminders you need to share.
- Set up the expectations for communications and communicate clearly. Identify communication preferences—FB group, text thread, emails, etc.
- Make a schedule or sign-up sheet and bring it to your caregiver meeting.
- Set boundaries: sometimes it may be best for the girl and their caregiver to not work together. It might be best for the caregiver to help in a different way to provide the girl with the most enriching experience possible.
- Show the value of Girl Scouts.
- Be inclusive. Look beyond the caregiver!
- Set expectations and review the outcomes.
- Remember to celebrate success often.
- Girl Scouting should be fun for adults, too!
- Check in with your troop committee often on progress and re-evaluate as needed.
- At the end of the year, plan an evaluation meeting to assess progress, successes, and challenges.

There are several resources for getting families to engage in the Girl Scout experience:

- VTK Resource Tab: Family Hub.
- VTK Parent View: Caregivers can see the year plan, what girls are working on, and access the Resource tab.
- Sweets & Treats Program Family Guides.