

August/September Recognition Tips

Please Update Your Contact Information

Have you recently had a change in your mailing address, phone number or e-mail address? Please don't forget to give that updated information to your service unit director, registrar, Council office and Volunteer Services department.

Contact Preference

Do you have preference for how we reach you? Contact Deb Boyd and let her know if you would like information via e-mail, telephone, or mail.

Phone: 309-788-0833
Fax: 309-788-0836
E-mail: DebB@GSEIWI.org

Recognizing volunteers at the first Service Unit meeting will set the stage for what volunteers can expect throughout the year. Why not plan something really special for that first meeting? Once volunteers realize there is going to be something fun at each meeting, they will begin to look forward to coming each month. Soon they will start talking about what you have planned next and you get the fun job of surprising them at each meeting.

Now you might be asking yourself, "Why should I plan anything at all?" That's a good question and here are some reasons why:

- * It creates camaraderie—by doing one fun thing at every meeting, the volunteers start talking to each other and soon develop those relationships that are important to a good Service Unit team.
- * Volunteers feel appreciated. Everyone needs to feel their efforts are appreciated, even if they aren't pointed out specifically. Recognition on any level increases motivation and volunteers have a stronger desire to help.
- * It makes a fun atmosphere. Let's face it...sometimes meetings can be boring. By adding something fun or interesting, the meetings take on a whole new life.

Need some ideas to spice up your meetings? Think about adding some of these fun ideas and add some of your own:

- Solicit your community for a door prize each month. Don't be afraid to ask a business to donate something for your meeting. Remember they are trying to get their product out to the public and what better way to do that than in a group setting?
- Do an "opposite" meeting. Start at the end of your agenda instead of at the beginning. If you usually have a snack at the end, start with it at the beginning. Have a holiday party in August. Have a beach theme in January.
- Buy some toys to put out on the tables at each meeting, such as silly putty, koosh balls, tinker toys, bendees, slinky, etc. Also, don't underestimate the power of candy to perk up everyone's mood. Putting out toys and candy will make everyone's day a little brighter.
- Make a "brag book" and pass around the room at the beginning of the meeting. Have volunteers write down some of the things they have been doing (doesn't have to be with a troop) since the last meeting. At the end of the meeting read what was written. Not only will it give ideas to each other, but you will also find volunteers who deserve council and service unit awards.

For more ideas, email DebB@GSEIWI.org for Adult Recognitions in Girl Scouting booklet.

