



Short and Snappy Training

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois

Information for Girl Scout Volunteers

2009

What You'll Need

Leaders /CoLeader
Girl Scouts

Paper to write down
answers for all to
see or chalkboard.

Other uses for this
short and snappy.

Use as a diversity
piece. What is in our
backgrounds that
make us different?

Use for World
Thinking Day.
Where did we come
from? What is our
background? Are
there Girl Scouts in
that country? What
are they called?

Questions? Comments?
Contact the Girl Scout
office nearest you.
1-800-798-0833

www.gseiwi.org

Being Inclusive this Holiday

We are coming onto the season of a variety of religious and secular holidays. Getting to know what traditions your group of girls have, can make the difference in how you approach the holidays with them.

How many celebrate the holidays? If so, how do you celebrate? Is religion a part of how you celebrate? Is it more a cultural thing? A tradition from a certain nationality that has come down from past generations? This is a great way to start a sharing dialog. What do you do from there? Maybe bring in some special decorations that are unique to your family, or a food item that is shared? Traditional cookies that a family makes. Things to avoid? With young girls especially, how Santa comes to visit may bring up more questions than insight and cause issues. Yet having this discussion with older girls can bring laughter about what they believed and how each parent presented it.

Learning about other cultures and traditions helps girls realize that there is not just "one" way to do things. They will be open to more ideas and more tolerant of other beliefs. Enjoy your holidays!

Instructions:

1. Ask the participants what holidays (if any) that they celebrate at this time of year. Are they all religious based? Are some based on cultural background? (Kwanzaa is an example)
2. After comparing list, if they are all the same (ex: they all celebrate Christmas, they all celebrate Hanukkah, etc), how do they each celebrate. Do you go somewhere every year to see holiday lights? Do you always go to Grandma's? What are their family traditions? Where do they come from? (my family heritage is Polish, or French, from Alabama, from Minnesota) Are there some examples of things that we can share? (traditional cookies, special decorations, etc)
3. Discuss why it is important to share with others what you do.
 - a. That there is not just one way of doing things.
 - b. It is fun to learn and see what others do.
 - c. Learning about other backgrounds and being respectful of other's backgrounds and traditions give an environment of inclusiveness.