



Girl Scouts
of Connecticut

Helpful Hints

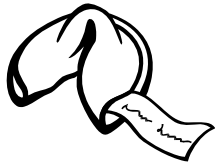
January 2010

Helpful Hints is a Program Department newsletter to help keep Girl Scout Daisy, Brownie and Junior Advisors informed of new programs, resources, and ideas. Please share this with the girls in your troop/group.

SWAP Idea: February 14

Since Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year fall on the same day this year, you can combine the two and make a Valentine Fortune Cookie pin (or magnet).

Cut 3" circles of red or pink craft foam. Fold in half (and insert a slip of paper with a fortune, proverb or Valentine message). Put a dab of hot glue to hold it together. Pinch together with thumb and middle fingers in each end with index finger pushing in the center. Put a dab of hot glue where the foam comes together so it keeps a cookie shape. Glue on a pin (or magnet). Package in a Chinese food container.



World Thinking Day: February 22

Every year on World Thinking Day, Girl Scouts are asked to think about our Girl Scout sisters around the world. The theme for 2010 is "Together we can end extreme poverty and hunger."

Thinking Day is a great way to introduce girls to our world wide organization, WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) and also to remind us of our friends in different parts of the world.

Use these links to find resources, activities, games, and ceremony ideas for this year's thinking day:

http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/world_thinking_day/wtd_guide_2010.pdf ,
<http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/home> ,
<http://www.waggsworld.org/en/home> .



Earth Day Activities

Take the weeks surrounding Earth Day (**April 22**) to ask your troops about the different ways that they can do their part to save the Earth through recycling, conserving energy, improving air and water quality and preserving our green space.

For a fun approach, here are a few links for some great Earth Day crafts and activities:

<http://www.planetpals.com/earthday.html>
<http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/earth/printables.htm>
<http://www.makingfriends.com/earthday.htm>



Plan Ahead!!

Look for Girl Scouts of Connecticut's Earth Day celebration at the Westfield Trumbull Mall **April 24th**. Help us save the planet and see what your sister scouts have done for the GSUSA Forever Green Project.

Get Excited About Engineering!

Engineering week is a great reason to explore your interests in STEM.

Juniors, check out Engineering Day in Litchfield, where you'll participate in hands-on activities and even meet an engineer!

Check out the National Engineer's Week website for great engineering activities and more information about how you can get involved:

www.eweek.org



Service Suggestion:

Make pretty Valentines and bring them to a veteran's hospital or a convalescent home to be distributed with the residents' meals so they know that someone was thinking of them. Remember to check with the site prior to beginning your project.



Game: Do You Love Your Neighbor?

Arrange chairs in a circle, making sure you have one fewer chair than participants, and the area in the middle is free of obstacles. Assign each player a number, being sure not to let everyone hear. Let the group know that the numbers range from (X) to (Y).

Begin with one person standing in the center of the circle, and every one else sitting down.

The center person asks one sitting person, "Do you love your neighbor?" The person can reply in two ways:

1. "I love my neighbors!",

In which case, the two people sitting directly next to them stay put. Everyone else must get up and find a new seat. While the switch is on, the center person tries to find a seat. The last one standing is the new Center Person.

2. "I'd really like new neighbors!",

In which case the center person asks, "Which two neighbors would you like?", the sitting person chooses two numbers and says "I'd like (insert two numbers)".

When she says this, the two people sitting directly next to her get up, the people with the two numbers get up, and everyone standing- including the standing person- tries to find a seat. The last one standing becomes the center person. (In this situation, everyone else remains in their seats.)

Continue to play in this way until the group wants to end.



Who Loves Me?

Help the girls in your troop reaffirm their healthy relationships with others!



Materials:

- Paper, cut into one large and several smaller hearts per girl.
- Crayons or markers
- Glue sticks or tape
- Scissors
- Yarn or string to hang hearts as a mobile (Optional)

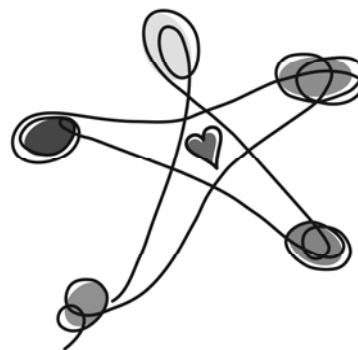
Procedure:

1. Instruct the girls to brainstorm on who the most caring and important people in their lives are.
2. Have the girls draw themselves in the larger heart.
3. Have them draw a caring person (or pet) on each of the smaller hearts.
4. Arrange the smaller hearts around the girl's picture, emphasizing the ways that each person helps to support the girl.

Conversation starters:

- How do these people help you?
- How do you help them?
- What are some characteristics of a good relationship? (Honesty, caring, etc..)

This craft encourages girls to focus on those caring individuals in their lives. It will help each girl identify the interactions between herself and her loved ones.



Let Us Know!

What did you think about this edition of Helpful Hints? We'd love to hear your feedback, requests, and any other comments you would like to share! Contact Angela Silva at asilva@gsfct.org.