

## REFLECT AND CELEBRATE!

**Activity Objective:** Girls reflect on their experience.

### Toward Leadership Outcomes:

Through this activity, girls will:

- ✓ Develop a strong sense of self—Girls have confidence in themselves and their abilities, feel they are able to achieve their goals, and form positive gender, social, and cultural identities. **(Discover)**
- ✓ Gain practical life skills—Girls have increased confidence in their ability to succeed in math and science. They are more knowledgeable of how science, technology, engineering and math affect everyday things in their environment globally and locally. They think about their financial needs and how they can be met, and they understand the impact of financial transactions on their lives. **(Discover)**
- ✓ Promote cooperation and team building—Girls can build effective teams, learn to be accountable for their shared goals, and show recognition for others' accomplishments and contributions. **(Connect)**
- ✓ Feel connected to their communities—Girls feel that they are part of a larger community and recognize the importance of building diverse, supportive, social networks for their personal and leadership development. **(Connect)**
- ✓ Feel empowered to make a difference—Girls feel empowered to use their leadership skills to effect change in their lives and their world, and their contributions are valued in the larger community. **(Take Action)**

### Experience Overview:

- 2 minutes      *Introduction (Talking Points)*
- 20-30 minutes      *Group Reflection*
- 10-15 minutes      *Individual Reflection (Journaling)*

## TAKE ACTION ACTIVITY 4

### DISCOVER/ CONNECT/ TAKE ACTION:

- » Develop a strong sense of self
- » Gain practical life skills
- » Promote cooperation and team building
- » Feel connected to their communities
- » Feel empowered to make a difference

# Mix it Up!

Guiding Middle School Girls to Success



## Supplies Needed:

- ✓ Journals and pens or pencils (enough for each girl)

## Prepare Ahead:

- ✓ Read over the entire activity before meeting with girls.

## Step-by-Step Instructions:

### » Introduction (Talking Points) (2 minutes)

- ✓ Say something like this: "Congratulations on completing your Take Action project! You each worked hard, and you deserve to celebrate. Today we will take a little time to look back on what we did, and what we achieved. It is a chance to reflect on our entire experience, both as a group and individually."

### » Group Reflection (20-30 minutes)

Have girls sit in a circle for a group discussion about their Take Action project and ask girls:

- ✓ "Think back for a moment...why did you pick this issue?"
- ✓ "Did you achieve what you wanted?"
- ✓ "How do you think you did as a team?"
- ✓ "What was the best part of taking action?"
- ✓ "What was the most challenging part of the process?"
- ✓ "What would you change for next time?"
- ✓ "What did others say about your project?"

### » Individual Reflection (10-15 minutes)

Distribute pens or pencils and ask girls to write in their journals, using the following prompts (about three minutes for each):

- ✓ The best part about working with the group on this project was...

# Mix it Up!

Guiding Middle School Girls to Success



- ✓ By doing this Take Action project, I learned...
- ✓ I can use what I learned through this project in other areas of my life by...

## CELEBRATE GIRLS' SUCCESSES. ASK GIRLS HOW THEY WANT TO CELEBRATE!

In addition to forming new friendships and having fun, girls have worked hard at the various activities and organizing a Take Action project. Be sure to take time out to acknowledge all the things that girls have experienced and learned.

### Here are some ideas and activities to incorporate into your last meetings:

- ✓ **Create certificates for each girl** such as a "Certificate of Achievement."
- ✓ **Have a closing ceremony.** Ask girls to design and organize this! Consider inviting friends and family and encouraging each girl to share what they experienced and learned.
- ✓ **Plan a special outing or field trip.** Ask girls what they would like to do!
- ✓ **Have a party!** There is nothing like a good celebration to end the year!

## EXTENDING THE GIRL SCOUT EXPERIENCE

Before your last meeting with the girls, let them know about other ways they can participate in the Girl Scout experience! Check your council's Web site for information.

### Here are some other ways to participate in Girl Scouting:

- ✓ **Camping** is a popular Girl Scout experience. Girls may choose to attend day or resident camp.
- ✓ Girls may want to participate in **one-day camp events** sponsored by your council, or other one-day **special-interest events.**

## Connect to Other Opportunities in Girl Scouts

Ask girls how they want to wrap up the year. What would they like to do to acknowledge all they have learned? What kind of celebration would they like to have? Remember that reflection and celebration can take place at any time during Girl Scout program activities, regardless of whether a Take Action project has been completed. Encourage girls to reflect on and celebrate all successes, including the small ones!

# Mix it Up!

Guiding Middle School Girls to Success



- ✓ Girls may choose **short-term topic-focused programs**, or regional, national, or international **trips**.
- ✓ Girls may also participate alone or in small groups in **online/Web-based activities**.
- ✓ And do not forget the **Girl Scout Cookie Program Activity!** This program provides an excellent way to enhance financial literacy and strengthen goal-setting and entrepreneurial skills.

By offering girls many ways to participate, their Girl Scout experience will be a rich and memorable time for them.