

Gaining Parent/Guardian Support

The initial parent/guardian meeting is **critical** to you as a troop leader. Parents/guardians can provide much needed time, experience, and talent to a Girl Scout troop; however, you need to ask for it from the beginning.

A parent/guardian meeting provides an opportunity to:

- Inform parents/guardians about the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and its benefit to girls.
- Ask for parent/guardian support, assistance at troop meetings and set expectations of girls and leaders.
- Have parents/guardians complete the Health Examination Form and other appropriate forms.
- Register and background screen parents/guardians as Troop Helpers.



Planning the Parent/Guardian Meeting:

You are encouraged to contact your Service Unit Troop Consultant for guidance about the parent meeting.

- Set the time and date and secure a location for the meeting. Limit your meeting time to 1 hour or less.
- Invite all parents/guardians to attend. Choose a convenient time to ensure attendance.
- Organize appropriate Girl Scout materials for parents/guardians packets:
 - Ways Adults Can Help Form
 - Health Examination Form (required for all girls)
 - Girl Permission Form (required for all girls)
 - Troop phone/email list if you have the information in advance.
 - Troop meeting schedule with your contact information (if these are already set).
- Finalize the meeting agenda.

Benefits of Parent/Guardian Involvement:

There are many benefits when parents are involved with Girl Scouting. Consider the following:

- Parents/guardians know their children better than anyone else. They can provide insight and will be helpful when it comes to planning and problem solving.
- Involving parents/guardians can help keep girls interested in the troop and troop activities.
- Parent/guardian assistance can ease the workload. Be sure to ask each parent/guardian to be involved. One of the top reasons why people do not volunteer is because no one asked them. Ask them to be involved.
- Parents/guardians benefit from their involvement—they become closer to their daughter, they develop an extended social network, and they can actively contribute to the community.

