

## **Setting & Communicating Troop Expectations**

When families join your troop, they have many different expectations of what the troop is supposed to do and how it's supposed to function. It's important to not only set your expectations for the troop but also to communicate with troop families about their expectations as well, and come to a mutual agreement. Agreeing on clear expectations can help avoid potential miscommunication and frustration. As a leader, clear expectations start with you.

### Tips for setting and communicating expectations

1. Make sure your expectations are clear to you first and foremost. It's difficult to build mutual expectations if you aren't 100% sure what your expectations are yourself. You should be able to state them clearly either verbally or on paper.
2. Know where you need expectations and make sure they are age appropriate. Set expectations about communication, organizational culture (ie: GSLE, traditions), guidelines for volunteer involvement, event registration, timely payment of sums due, letting girls lead, etc.
3. Understand why. Explaining the context and intention behind expectations will go a long way in making them more clear and easier to follow and will help with understanding the bigger picture of the troop and Girl Scouting as a whole.
4. Meet and discuss. Communicate your expectations at every level from troop volunteers, to girls, to families. Meet with your troop families to discuss your expectations of the troop as well as their expectations. State expectations positively.
5. Make expectations mutual. As troop leader you will have expectations for the troop that they will need to know so they can be successful. You will also need to know their expectations of you so that you can be successful. Having a conversation about everyone's expectations will help you come to an agreement on expectations for the troop year.
6. Write them down. This will help to ensure everyone is on the same page and can have a copy of expectations to refer to .
7. Obtain agreement and commitment. After you've written your expectations, everyone will need to review them to ensure they are understood and agreed to.
8. Reconfirm your expectations as needed and be firm. Continue to encourage others to meet expectations and reinforce why they are important.

## Troop 12345 Expectations for Girls and Adults

Signed by Troop Leader, Parent/Guardian, and Girl Participant

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### A Guideline for our Girl Scout Troop

We, the girls, parents/guardians, troop volunteers, and troop leaders of Troop \_\_\_\_\_ united by the belief of the Girl Scout Promise and Law, do hereby agree to the following:

**Girl members of Troop \_\_\_\_\_ are expected to:**

- Live by the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Attend and actively participate in troop meetings
- Bring any dues, paperwork, or other requested items to meetings or activities as requested

**Parent/Guardians and other adult troop volunteers are expected to:**

- Support their Girl Scouts active involvement in the troop by ensuring that their Girl Scout attends troop meetings, arrives on time, is picked up on time, and participates in troop activities.
- Read all communication from the Troop, Service Unit, and GSWCF and if needed contact a volunteer for clarification
- Ensure your Girl Scout has needed items such as paperwork, permissions slips, etc. for activities
- Support your Girl Scout volunteers
- Help with the troop, become a registered member
- Behave as a role model. If you wish to sit in on meetings, please help

**Girl Scout Troop Leaders are expected to:**

- Be a role model. Follow the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Take all trainings required or needed for activities or positions held
- Celebrate diversity and inclusion on the troop
- Ensure activities are girl-led through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience
- With input from girls, create a calendar of events for the troop
- Communicate with Girl Scout families in a timely manner
- Attend or send another volunteer to represent the troop at monthly Service Unit meetings

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Girl Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Leader Signature

Date