

S&S- Holidays for All

What is a Short and Snappy (S&S)?

- These short trainings can be provided at a service unit meeting or reviewed individually.
- Any interested volunteer may lead or study a Short and Snappy.
- Short and Snappies are usually 10-45 minutes in length.

What you will need

- Short and Snappy outline

Things to remember

- Stay within the allotted time.
- If you don't know the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate support person.

Do you make every member of the troop feel welcome? Do you schedule meeting and event times that fit your girls' schedules or just your schedule? Do you share events with girls even if you can't attend? Girls may still want to attend on their own (with an adult chaperone, of course). How are you being inclusive or exclusive in your troop? Are the activities planned for

How many of you 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? These questions are a great way to start a sharing dialogue with your troop.

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, like 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!

Encourage Participation!

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 lists, 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?

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.

If there are girls with different faiths in your troop you can discuss similarities. There are lots of similarities. Start by asking the following questions:

- How many of you celebrate a holiday that reflects on the past?
- How many of you have traditional holiday meals?
- What is it your family eats for that holiday?
- Do you light candles or lights for this holiday?
- How many of you sign cards for loved ones?