

Best Practices

Service Unit Meetings

- Start and end on time.
- Provide greeters to welcome everyone
- Organize and schedule older girls to entertain volunteers' kids in adjacent room during meetings.
- Have SU team member organize refreshments, if desired.
- Have nametags so everyone feels welcomed.
- Have a theme – incorporate into agenda, recognitions use to tie year together (ex. Teach a different knot at every meeting, give everyone a campfire recipe at each meeting).
- Do a small craft or swap as part of learning opportunity section or pre-meeting activity.
- Follow agenda, include specific information for events/trainings.
- Include SU team contact information on agenda.
- Make sure whole group discussions pertain to all troops. If there is a topic that only pertains to a small number of people (like older girl events), save that for after meeting so not hold up others. Have a roundtable discussion as part of your meeting.
- Watch use of Girl Scout Lingo, making sure to define and explain to include all volunteers.
- Devote meeting to interactive, hands on activities.
- Schedule mini-trainings on ceremonies, songs, how to get parents to help, etc. For example: teach techniques on how to teach a song. Learn and work on an activity that volunteers can take back to their troops.
- Use round tables or clusters instead of classroom style.
- Ask trivia questions throughout meeting and offer prizes. Make sure volunteers are up to date on policies and procedures, safety activity checkpoints, volunteer essentials, and council policies.
- Say **Thank You** for providing the best program experience for girls