

## WHAT IS A SHORT & SNAPPY?

- Short training or information segment provided at a Service Unit meeting.
- Any interested volunteer may lead a Short & Snappy
- Short & Snappy are 10-30 minutes in length.

### What You Will Need:

- ◇ Short & Snappy outline
- ◇ SWAPS samples
- ◇ Supplies to make SWAPS of your choice.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER:

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

# Short & Snappy

Learning Opportunity for Volunteers

## SWAPS 20-30 minutes

SWAPS stands for Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere. It is a long time tradition of Girl Scouts to exchange keepsakes when meeting a new friend. SWAPS started long ago when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides first gathered for fun, songs and making new friends. SWAPS are a perfect way for Girl Scouts to meet each other and promote friendship. Each one becomes a memory of a special event.

### What is a SWAP?

*Ask the participants: Have you ever heard of SWAPS? Can anyone share what SWAPS stands for?*

- Origin is from the Native American "Potlatch" which is a ceremonial exchange of gifts
- SWAPS stands for "Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere" or "Share With A Pal"
- Lord Baden-Powell started the idea of Scout SWAPS
- SWAPS are handmade, thus the girl is giving a part of herself to show friendship
- SWAPS are exchanged anywhere Girl Scouts get together: day camp, resident camp, council events, special Girl Scout events.

### Why We SWAP

*Ask participants: Why SWAP?*

- To promote friendship
- To learn to talk to other people
- To give and receive mementos of a good time
- To share something about where we live and what we do

### Swapping Etiquette

*Ask participants: Why do you think SWAP etiquette is important and what needs to be considered?*

- It is considered rude to refuse to SWAP with someone who asks
- Always say thank you
- SWAPS for trade are carried separately from ones you want to keep - one bag for keepers/one bag for trading
- Most SWAPS are 1"-2" in size
- Make a few extras for those people who don't have any to give
- SWAPS can be bracelets, necklaces, council patches, event patches or any other small items
- SWAPS **should not** contain edible food
- Tags can be attached with the event name and date, troop number and/or council name, but **not** with the girls' last name or personal information.

## A FEW IDEAS:

Felt trefoils with troop number written in fabric paint

Pom pom critters. Add eyes, feet and antenna if desired.

Add beak and feathers for a bird, flippers for a seal, a trunk for an elephant, etc.

Use netting and yarn and make a mini-dunk bag. Cut the netting in circles and have girls thread yarn through the top to make a drawstring.

Maybe you can create mini dishes to put inside.

Make friendship pins with beads on a safety pin.

Mini sit-upons made from vinyl with plastic lacing.

Wooden clothespins painted and made to look like different animals or people. A pin is glued to the back.

Shells - glue eyes on to make shell critters.

Nut shells are great for animals, baskets and many other things.

S'mores can be made from felt using 2 squares of tan, with a white square and dark brown square between and all layers secured with the pin.

Pizza made of tan felt with yellow, red and green scraps glued on.

Sleeping bags of rolled felt rectangles tied with yarn on either end.

## Where SWAPS are worn

- Pinned on hats, bandanas or a similar holder. There are examples of other types of SWAPS holders on the internet (necklace, ribbons, etc.)

## How are SWAPS made

Review some samples of SWAPS that you have brought to share/show

*Ask participants: Do some look harder than others? What needs to be considered when making SWAPS?*

- Make sure SWAP that is chosen is age-appropriate
- Try one yourself first to see how difficult it is to make
- Consider what tools you will need to complete (glue gun, sharp tools, drill, etc.) and make sure you have enough help so everyone is supervised
- Pre-cut some parts for younger girls to save time
- Do what is needed to SWAP and a few more for those that don't have any. Don't make so many that the girls get bored
- Be accepting of what your girls do. Allow them room for creativity
- Make SWAPS sturdy enough to be around awhile
- Have girls in the troop make different SWAPS so other troops they SWAP with get unique ones depending on whom they SWAP with

## Supplies You May Need

- Basic crafting supplies: scissors, craft glue, low temp glue gun, glue sticks, ruler, pencils, safety pins, permanent markers and cord or twine
- Extension cord
- Zip closing baggies to hold the SWAPS
- Clothespins make good clamps
- Toenail clippers are great for cutting chenille stems, pipe cleaners or tie twists
- Dental floss is great for stringing, hanging or tying crafts
- Corn holders or pushpins can be used to punch holes
- Plastic tablecloths or newspapers for table covers

## Make a SWAP

If time allows, make a SWAP for participants to take home. See example below or look for more examples on the internet

This knot symbolizes the ties which bind the girls and adults who belong to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and is a sign of the continuous friendship they share. The four ends of the knot represent the Promise, the ten parts of the Law, the Motto and Service to Others. The four squares stand for the four World Centers.

## Supplies:

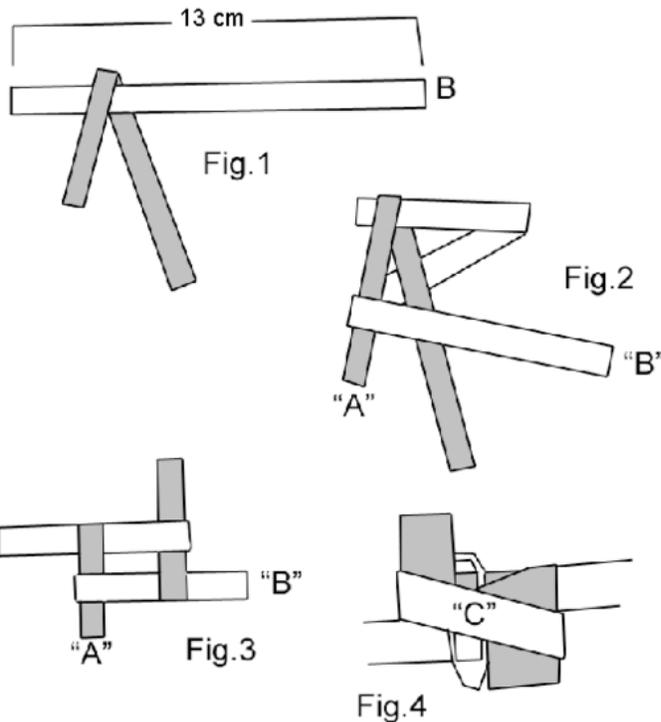
1/4" ribbon, cut 5" long

Small safety pin



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING FRIENDSHIP KNOT

Material: 2 pieces of grograin or velvet ribbon 6 mm (1/4") wide and 13 cm (5") long.  
1 small safety pin.



Directions:

Fold end A over B (Figure 1).

Fold B behind A and around to the front and over A (Figure 2).

Weave long end "A" over B's end and under B's loop. Pull gently to make even the four ends of the knot (Figure 3).

Check to see that the front and back of the knot look like Figures 3 and 4.

Attach a small safety pin under C (Figure 4).