



## Sponsorship Information for Girl Scout Leaders

Girl Scouts Heart of Central California | 6601 Elvas Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819 | [www.girlscoutshcc.org](http://www.girlscoutshcc.org)

Do you want the happiest and best troop ever? Then you will want to consider troop sponsorship as one way to make it happen!

Girl Scout troop sponsorship is a voluntary association between a Girl Scout council and community organizations working together to bring Girl Scouting to girls. The willingness of community groups such as businesses and industrial firms, schools, churches, synagogues and ethnic and service organizations to assume certain responsibilities for troops is a prerequisite for this partnership. A written agreement, drawn up **annually** between a troop and a troop sponsor, delineates these responsibilities. (Forms are available in the service unit.)

Here is a partial list of things that a sponsor might consider doing for a troop:

1. Provide a meeting place; donate utilities.
2. Provide financial aid.
3. Provide volunteers for programs and events.
4. Help with recruitment of girls and adults.
5. Sponsor girls for wider opportunities.
6. Provide program consultants.
7. Provide opportunities for service projects.

Things a troop might do for a sponsor:

1. Perform flag ceremonies.
2. Help with special mailings (stuffing envelopes).
3. Help with clothing drives.
4. Help with ecology projects.
5. Help with service projects for sponsors.
6. Keep sponsor's meeting place attractive by planting flowers.
7. Invite sponsors to attend Girl Scout event.
8. Announcing sponsor events in troop newspaper.
9. Involve sponsors as a resource group in planning Girl Scout program.
10. Include sponsor's name whenever troop is mentioned in newspaper.

These suggestions are meant as guidelines only. The agreement should reflect the wishes of the sponsor and troop.

**The written agreement is drawn up and reviewed annually.** When the Membership Secretary's copy is received at the council office, a welcome letter and certificate will be sent to the leader for presentation to the sponsor.

**Maintaining Good Relations.** Good relations between the troop and the sponsor depend upon keeping the sponsor informed about troop activities. The troop committee can be an ideal communications link between the troop and the sponsor. The sponsor should be asked to appoint its own official representative to serve on the troop committee; she/he may be the same person who was the sponsor's initial spokesman.

A positive relationship between Girl Scouting and a community sponsor benefits both. The sponsor derives satisfaction from making its expertise and facilities available to Girl Scouts in the community. Girl Scouts benefit from additional personnel, meeting places, camping opportunities, and financial support.

The girls themselves should, from time to time, communicate directly with the sponsor about their current activities, future plans, and need for help. The girls should find appropriate ways to thank the sponsor for assistance and to reciprocate by providing services, within their capabilities. Ideas for recognizing a sponsor follow:

- \* Make a formal acknowledgment at a meeting or special event of the sponsoring organization.
- \* Send informal words of thanks or cards composed by the girls.
- \* Invite the sponsor to a troop meeting. This can foster a better understanding of Girl Scouting and acquaint the sponsor with the girls and the leader. Presentation of tokens of appreciation at a ceremony can highlight the expression of thanks and enhance its significance for the recipient. A sponsor may also be invited to help the girls say thank you to the leader.
- \* Submit an account of special troop activities for the sponsor to include in its publication. Photographs may also be included.
- \* Include the name of the sponsor in publicity where the troop is mentioned. Doing so will publicly acknowledge that the sponsor is working with the council to put its interest in serving youth in action.
- \* Give council wide recognition to the sponsor by: inviting the sponsor to council events; involving the sponsor as a part of a community resource group when planning Girl Scout program material; sharing council training events and materials with the sponsor when appropriate.
- \* A troop may also plan a special project to improve the sponsor's facilities: plant flowers and shrubs; create a playground or build playroom equipment; make flower arrangements for the lobby or reception areas; mend books and refurbish a library.