

SCOUTS-L

**GSUSA
ISSUES**

Date: Sun, 27 Aug 1995 09:57:22 EDT
From: MRS JUEL A FITZGERALD <RBEB96B@PRODIGY.COM>
Subject: Girl Scout vs Boy Scout Program

Michael,

I am sorry to hear you had one of the worst case scenerios of being involved in girl scouting.

IMHO I believe a great deal has to do with the council, troop leadership and parents of the girls involved. In my contacts with different people from other councils and troops I have noticed ideals, policies are handled in totally different ways. Being involved in both Boy Scouts and Girl I have noticed GSUSA is much more safety conscience than boy scouts. This sometimes do put a brake on the things the scouts can do. I think it is GSUSA's way of preventing potential injury lawsuits. At times I agree with whatever the restriction is and at others I don't.

It is most unfortunate you were alone in your efforts. Personally and from other leaders I know from my own council and other councils the issue of GIRL PLANNING is the major emphasis of how the program is run. The girls plan the entire year and execute the plan. The leaders are there to help keep them on track. This is especially true as they get older. It all starts when they are Daisy's (five old). As a Council Trainer I can never stress this enough to the new leaders. However, I know there are troops out that where the leaders don't allow the girls to make any decisions. This is NOT what girl scouting is about! (Unfortunately, I have seen this happen on the boy scout side as well.) An individual can not learn to lead if they are not allowed to practice.

There are also other troop leaders who hate to camp and have no desire to be in the out of doors and have parents in the troop who are also on this same page as the leader. This is most unfortunate for those girls in the troop who do want to camp. Fortunately for our troop our leadership loves to camp, love the travel etc. We also let the girls do the planning, make mistakes where a learning experience will occur and let them get what THEY want out of the program.

All registered members from age 14 and up are allowed to be delegates from their neighborhoods (service units) in voicing what changes or supplements are needed in the overall program. In our council and I know in many others what they Girl comments on are a major part of the decision making process. Several of them go on to the national convention and make what they believe on an issue count! Unfortunately, maybe this is not happening in come councils.

The reality of this and any program if the leadership (meaning from national down to the parent) has no desire to do what the GIRL/BOY wants out of the program than the girl/boy suffers.

Personally, I like the idea the scouter from Canada mentioned about our country offering units for both: 1. all boy units 2. all girl units and 3. mixed girl/boy units. This would give both the girls and boys an opportunity to choose what type unit they can best thrive in. Some boys and girls best thrive in a same sex environment and some in a mixed sex environment.

Juel A. Fitzgerald
Girl Scout Lake Erie Council
RBEB96B@prodigy.com

I am the Eagle who flies high in the sky
And the Buffalo who loves to roam nature's open plains
EC-330W
EC-CS-14

Date: Sun, 27 Aug 1995 11:11:58 -0400
From: Earl Needham <ENeed81834@AOL.COM>
Subject: Re: Girl Scout program vs Boy Scout program

In a message dated 95-08-27 04:32:05 EDT, mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG (Michael F. Bowman) writes:

>5. Try to find supporting program literature. We couldn't, not here. We >tried to get the leaders to take advantage of stuff we'd got in BSA, but >it got the "it wasn't invented here" treatment. Even the handbooks are >not oriented towards a lot of outdoors experience. The new ones just out >focus more on discussions of a number of very serious topics like sex, >etc. My daughter was interested in going to have fun, this is not her >idea of fun - she couldn't imagine sitting in a group sessions to discuss >what are very personal things to her. Neither could she bear any more >sessions of handicrafts or badge requirements done in a school cafeteria.

Maybe it's time for your local organization (church, school, or whatever) to come up with its own group resembling Scouting, but not infringing on copyrights. Sounds a little difficult, but it might be time to

start this. If you did, you could use any literature you wanted, as there really isn't anything to keep you from buying BSA books. I think Scouts Canada will mail order anything you wish, and you can probably find a BSA store that will also. As for GSUSA, I have no earthly idea if you can buy their items or not.

>7. The local Council's idea of volunteer input into decision making was
>an annual meeting where decisions were announced not discussed. One of
>the better ones was the expenditure of several thousand dollars on smoke
>detectors for each tent at each camp. They announced it was required
>under the County's hotel regulations. I've seen how fast a tent burns
>and am not sure that the ones they purchased would go off before the tent
>was ashes.

I've heard the same thing from other GSUSA leaders I have known -- they were dictated to, and not allowed any input in anything. It sounds like GSUSA wants robots and not leaders.

It's obvious some changes need to be made somewhere. I don't relish the thought of having girls in my troop, because I'm not sure my younger Scouts would stay in a co-ed outfit. I also am a bit apprehensive about what campouts might turn into.

But something needs to change. Maybe a new co-ed program? Gee, *I* don't know the answer, but there's a lot of hurtful things going on out there.

Earl Needham
Cannon AFB
Clovis, NM
Used to be a FOX!
| >>>---> |

Date: Sun, 27 Aug 1995 18:07:00 UTC
From: Elizabeth Grimsley <e.grimsley@GENIE.GEIS.COM>
Subject: Girl Scouting and BSA

It sounds like some on this list would like to start a Boy Scouts is better than Girl Scouts debate. For those that do, I suggest that you also include in the comparison 4-H, Boys/Girls Clubs, Awana, Campfire Boys and Girls, Little League, church youth groups, Exchange Clubs, Junior Achievement, etc.

Why? Because these other youth organizations have as much association with BSA as does GSUSA. Each program is as strong or as weak as its volunteers - their skills and the time/energy they are willing to commit. Each program has something to offer to youth in the United States and there is not a single organization that is right for all.

I would like to ask the men on this list - do you spend as much time leading/supporting your daughters programs/activities as you do your sons?? Most only support the sports oriented activities. I had one set of parents who would not spend any time helping because they were spending so much time with their sons activities. What does that tell the daughter about her worth?

And how many of those on this list that are married stay home to mind the kids and do housework while their wives are volunteering in the community? Usually women hold down a full-time job at work PLUS home and, if they volunteer, have to make all the home arrangements while they're gone too. I have known several leaders who would love to take their troops camping but the husband would not take care of the other kids at home for that time.

Now for those who are not familiar with the GSUSA program, here are a few facts (not comparing them to BSA, of course, but simply to inform):

1. Men can be Girl Scout leaders. GSUSA wants a woman as a co-leader/ asst leader also to show women in a leadership position and to prevent any possible "he touched me" situations (false or otherwise). Many girls are growing up in a single parent home and a male GS leader may be the only positive male figure that they know.

2. Several studies have shown that a lot of girls learn in a single-sex situation. The most recent comment about this is an "In My Opinion" article in Woman's Day magazine (9/19/95, last page). Girl Scouts is chartered as a educational organization for girls. GSUSA has no intention of becoming a coed organization.

3. Most of the badges that girls can earn in Girl Scouts ARE NOT related to cooking, sewing or traditional homemaking skills. Here's some of them:

a. Brownies (usually grades 1-3) - Outdoor Adventurer, Plants, Animals, Math Fun, Space Explorer, Science in Action, Safety, Building Art, Listening to the Past, Careers, Citizen Near & Far.

b. Juniors (usually gr 4-6) - Health & Fitness, First Aid, Geography Fun, Creative Solutions, Active Citizen, My Heritage, Aerospace, Math Whiz, Sky Search, Weather Watch, Car Care, Geology, Science in the Worlds, Small Craft, Business-wise, Computer Fun, Science in Action, Video Production, Leadership, Architecture, Prints and Graphics, Troop Camper, Outdoor Cook, Ecology, Hiker, Horseback Rider, Careers, Discovering Technology, Arts and Media. Plus Junior Leadership pin.

c. Cadette/Seniors (usually gr 7-9 and 10-12) - Emergency Preparedness, Skills for Living, Global Understanding, Leadership, American Indian Lore, The Law, Auto Maintenance, Career Exploration, Money Management, High-Tech Communications, Audiovisual Production Advanced, Computers, Geology, Space Exploration, Entrepreneurship, Outdoor Survival, Backpacking, Cycling, Orienteering. Plus Silver/Gold award, Program Aide, Challenge Pin, Counselor in Training, etc etc.

4. The girls in each troop in Girl Scouts decides what what direction the troop will go. There is no lockstep program that they must follow, although there is a progression in the badges/skills at each level. This is why you'll see some troops that go on long outdoor hiking/rapelling/canoing trips or bicycling through Europe, others that do plays, and others who just enjoy crafts or service projects in their community.

5. Troops do not buy craft supplies from the national organization nor are the girls required to buy the uniform to be a Girl Scout. GSUSA does not even sell craft items. The only money from them that has to go to the national level is the \$6 yearly dues for insurance. Money from annual cookie sales stay in the council and go to support the troop and items like the council camps, council-wide activities and "scholarships" for girls who cannot afford the modest cost of Girl Scouts. In addition, GSUSA makes a commitment that the items carried in the GS catalog are made in the United States.

6. Girls do service projects without compensation and learn the true meaning of service without expecting something in return. (OK one BSA comparison. I know in one area BSA was given a lot of publicity about doing a service project by cleaning up at a basketball tournament when actually the council was paid for it and each boy who worked got \$5/hour credited in his account. Hmm, a service project or a money maker? And what was the lesson the boys learned?)

5. The highest award in Girl Scouts is the Gold Award. Girls cannot START the award project until after they have completed a number of prerequisites at the Senior level including Interest Patches relating to the project. This means that they cannot even start their project until usually the middle of their Junior year of High School. I have heard that quite a few of the projects have been so successful that they became established events in their community/GS Council. One I just heard of was about a group that now goes to schools and nursing homes performing a play based on the poems of Shel Silverstein. A project submission such as blacktopping a church parking lot would not be approved.

Well, time to get off my soapbox. I have to help my oldest daughter with her applications to the Girl Scout Wider Opportunities for aquatic biology and primitive camping/canoeing. Since she doesn't turn 13 until Feb, she won't be applying for the international travel until next year.

Elizabeth Grimsley
Council Executive Board, Jr & Ca/Sr leader
Shining Trail Council of Girl Scouts
Keokuk, IA
E.GRIMSLEY@GENIE.GEIS.COM

Date: Sun, 27 Aug 1995 13:16:54 -0700
From: Claudia <Claudia@NS.NET>
Subject: Girls in BSA

All who recall my stance a year ago, can now chuckle at my about face. ANY girl who is not getting the kind of program that she wants in GSUSA needs to go to her Council. There is no shortage of outdoor and physical skill activities available. The only limitation is adult resources. As with the family that is suing Golden Empire Council, they DON'T THINK that there is a troop in their area. Well, I know for a fact that there are several troops available in their area. But rather than search for a troop OR CREATE a new troop, they chose the now popular US tradition of SUING people without

resources. If you feel as strongly as I do about frivolous law suits, send your donations to Golden Empire Council, 251 Commerce Circle, Sacramento, CA. 95815 for their legal defense fund. And for those Scouters on the list who feel that their daughters are being short changed (as Mr Yeaw feels), then give of your time to GSUSA or Campfire and let the girls do the activities they want. BTW, my son's Wolf den did sewing as did his 3rd grade class.

Claudia@ns.net
Parent of Jessica & Matthew Best kids in my world
Junior Girl Scout Leader Cub Scout Committee Member
Sacramento, CA California Native
If we SEE you smoking, we will PRESUME that you are on fire, and ACT accordingly.

Date: Sun, 27 Aug 1995 04:24:42 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
Subject: Re: Girl Scout program vs Boy Scout program

Alan,

Your posting made a number of points that are near and dear me as a father of daughter who just recently quit GSUSA, the spouse of a wonderful lady who quit GSA and the son of a mother you dropped out of GSA. All three generations quit for the same reason - it wasn't fun and they couldn't do the level of outdoor activity they wanted. You asked:

- >Are there institutional barriers within GSUSA that make it more difficult?
- >Or is it the fault of the girls' parents?

Bear with me as I speak from limited experience and realize that my comments are not intended to offend those GSUSA leaders that do deliver quality program. When our daughter started in Daisys and as she progressed through to Juniors, my wife was deeply committed and went to training session after training session, argued for outdoor activities, etc., but in each case the leadership was happy to just have meetings and do indoor badge work, with only a few notable exceptions. When our daughter decided she'd had enough we knew all too well why but still asked why the GSUSA had to be the way it turned out for her.

Several things hit us at once:

1. GSUSA doesn't have much infrastructure in terms of long-term leadership with outdoor experience. From what we could tell there was a Council Office, but no real organization between there and the unit. Yes there were "Service Units" but their focus was on a few small events with only a very few units three times during the year. No one was looking at the quality of the program. It was left up to whomever decided to be a leader. When there were severe unit problems committed and willing parents were at the mercy of the #1 and #2 with nobody to turn to and the service unit didn't want to be involved. Not much like commissioners

trying to give advice to a wayward leader at all.

2. GSUSA training is stifling and not focused on program delivery. Ask my wife about this and be prepared for two hours of lecture!! Before the unit could do anything remotely related to the outdoors training in painful detail on the obvious was required; e.g. a course on cookouts. Now who doesn't know how to flip a few burgers? That sure puts a brake on things. The focus of training as near as she could figure out was on what you couldn't do and never on how to have a successful year-round program with outdoor activities. Even in courses that by their title implied this would be the content, the training went the other way. When she later went to BSA training, she said that the difference was that in BSA she felt empowered to lead and to help kids have fun.

3. GSUSA seems to have gone overboard, at least here, on "safety" requirements. On one of the rare occasions when they went camping (actually slept in a cabin, but one where they were not permitted to have a fire or cook despite fireplaces - on GSUSA property) they had to reel out colored tape from each bedding area through the door and down half a mile of road to the camp gate or leave. This was to mark fire exits. And some folks thought BSA was overboard.

4. The summer camp program seems more like YMCA/YWCA than Scouting in GSUSA. In this area it is really REALLY rare for a troop to go together and as in our case, the girl ends up going to camp and staying with strangers which does a lot to make the first experience more difficult.

5. Try to find supporting program literature. We couldn't, not here. We tried to get the leaders to take advantage of stuff we'd got in BSA, but it got the "it wasn't invented here" treatment. Even the handbooks are not oriented towards a lot of outdoors experience. The new ones just out focus more on discussions of a number of very serious topics like sex, etc. My daughter was interested in going to have fun, this is not her idea of fun - she couldn't imagine sitting in a group sessions to discuss what are very personal things to her. Neither could she bear any more sessions of handicrafts or badge requirements done in a school cafeteria.

6. Youth leadership - this is something that is up to the leaders and from what I can see, it is not much promoted. For my daughter, everything was what the adult decided period. No input, no questions. No involvement in planning. As she watched her brother planning to go places he and his buddies wanted to go, getting food, packing gear, etc., more than once there was a tear, cause it just wasn't there in her troop.

7. The local Council's idea of volunteer input into decision making was an annual meeting where decisions were announced not discussed. One of the better ones was the expenditure of several thousand dollars on smoke detectors for each tent at each camp. They announced it was required under the County's hotel regulations. I've seen how fast a tent burns and am not sure that the ones they purchased would go off before the tent was ashes.

Before anybody asks - yes we did get involved and we did suggest activities til we were blue in the face. And yes we tried to get other

parents to join in doing more outings. We succeeded a few times, but it was like banging your head against a brick wall - a lot of pain and not much forward progress. Most of the parents were happy to have little Mary or Amanda safely away from dirt, bugs, tents, etc.

Sorry to go on for so long. I guess I'd better get off the soap box myself. :-) Anyway, let me echo Alan's closing thoughts:

>Please note that I am not arguing for either coed or separate gender
>Scouting. I share many of the thoughts that have been argued eloquently
>by both sides here, and I can see merits in having both.

>And I especially think that the girls deserve to have the same opportunities
>as the boys, and not just after age 14, by whatever program is available to
>them. All preconceptions, philosophies, and dogmas aside, how can we make
>that happen?

Couldn't resist one final thought - wouldn't the idea of new hordes of eager young Scouts make most DEs drool at the thought of upward curves in their membership graphs!?

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

Date: Mon, 28 Aug 1995 10:57:16 -0400
Sender: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
From: Richard Babcock <Bcsoft@AOL.COM>
Subject: Re: Girl Scout program vs Boy Scout program

In a message dated 95-08-27 04:32:05 EDT, you write:

>Your posting made a number of points that are near and dear me as a
>father of daughter who just recently quit GSUSA, the spouse of a
>wonderful lady who quit GSA and the son of a mother you dropped out of
>GSA. All three generations quit for the same reason - it wasn't fun and
>they couldn't do the level of outdoor activity they wanted. You asked:

>
>

>Sorry to go on for so long. I guess I'd better get off the soap box
>myself. :-) Anyway, let me echo Alan's closing thoughts:

It may be obvious that I have some strong opinions on this subject but I want to thank you, as I have others, for shedding some light on the workings of the GScouts.

Richard Babcock

Date: Sun, 27 Aug 1995 10:57:35 -0800
Sender: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
From: Scott Drown <scottdd@HALCYON.COM>
Subject: Re: Girl Scout program vs Boy Scout program

I would like to echo what Mike Bowman said in his post. My daughter has been active in Girl Scouts as a Daisy, Brownie and now a Junior. And she

is thinking about dropping out because of the lack of camping experiences and other attractions. My wife has been the leader for some years and is also dropping out as she is disgusted with the overwhelming rules involved in Girl Scouts that Mike Bowman so eloquently cites. BTW this is her second stint as a GS leader as she had a Brownie Troop before we had kids because she believed in the program. I will add some comments as to what she has seen.

snip

>>Are there institutional barriers within GSUSA that make it more difficult?
>>Or is it the fault of the girls' parents?

snip

>1. GSUSA doesn't have much infrastructure in terms of long-term leadership with outdoor experience. From what we could tell there was a Council Office, but no real organization between there and the unit. Yes there were "Service Units" but their focus was on a few small events with only a very few units three times during the year. No one was looking at the quality of the program. It was left up to whomever decided to be a leader. When there were severe unit problems committed and willing parents were at the mercy of the #1 and #2 with nobody to turn to and the service unit didn't want to be involved. Not much like commissioners trying to give advice to a wayward leader at all.

Right on Target. In fact the leaders seemed do make up the rules as they went along. Almost no follow-up from the Council level. In fact no leader even seemed to be aware of what the Council level wanted or did for support except badges. And even then it was a real problem to get cooperation.

The Council office is located in Seattle, a bit of a drive, and not easy to deal with. This I see as a danger for Boy Scouts as the mergers of Councils continues. Local may not be as efficient but you sure have a voice!

>2. GSUSA training is stifling and not focused on program delivery

snip

My wife, a classroom teacher of over 15 years, was told that she had to take the leadership classes so she would know how to deal with the girls and build a successful program. I pointed out to her that I thought the Boy Scout Basic Leader courses were good and that more than just these topics were taught so she went to the first in the series. And won't attend another. Unlike Basic Leader there really was not a whole lot of planning and she was not given new ideas. No program development. Their response was to threaten to fire her as a leader.

>

>3. GSUSA seems to have gone overboard, at least here, on "safety" requirements. On one of the rare occasions when they went camping (actually slept in a cabin, but one where they were not permitted to have a fire or cook despite fireplaces - on GSUSA property) they had to reel out colored tape from each bedding area through the door and down half a

>mile of road to the camp gate or leave. This was to mark fire exits.
>And some folks thought BSA was overboard.

My wife tried to organize 2 outings of several days. She foundered on the lack of participation of parents and also on the requirements re safety for certain types of equipment, sign offs, waivers, and also the requirement to have a Registered Nurse on site at all times. I volunteered but a Red Cross First Aid Instructor and police officer was not acceptable.

>

>4. The summer camp program seems more like YMCA/YWCA than Scouting in
>GSUSA. In this area it is really REALLY rare for a troop to go together
>and as in our case, the girl ends up going to camp and staying with
>strangers which does a lot to make the first experience more difficult.

Isn't this the truth.

>

>5. Try to find supporting program literature.

Yup. There is nothing like the support Boy Scouts have.

>

>6. Youth leadership

Non-Existent and not encouraged by the program.

>

>7. The local Council's idea of volunteer input into decision making was
>an annual meeting where decisions were announced not discussed.

Snip

Recently the Seattle Council tried to sell two of it's Girl Scout Camps. The Units discovered this mostly through word of mouth since it was not put out in any newsletter. I found out myself thru and Internet posting and passed it on to my wife. These are two fabulous facilities which girls can never get into because they are always full - yet the Council wanted to sell them. Replacement would have been difficult if not impossible. The move was defeated by a grass roots response.

I recall reading a few years ago where the Girl Scouts National Exec had done such a wonder job of turning a failing organization around. Seems to me that much has yet to be done. But I also think that the parents need to do more coupled with the Service Units and the Councils. The overbearing rules need to be relaxed (fire the lawyers and risk managers who dictated them), but the parents need to take those girls who are interested on the outings, the heart of Scouting. This does not seem to happen as much as in Boy Scouts.

I am not against girls in Boy Scouts but I have to agree that at the entry age they have a tendency to segregate themselves. Before we get there though GSUSA really needs to look at changing and making a program that works.

How Much of Your reality is imagination?

Scott Drown

ASM Troop 39, Maltby
Mt. Baker Council, Everett Wa.

From bhabbs!ralph.romig@nuchat.sccsi.com Tue Aug 29 09:56:19 1995

From: Ralph.Romig@bhabbs.com (Ralph Romig)

Date: 29 Aug 95 05:29:00 -0600

Subject: Re: Girl Scout program vs

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FB>Council Office, but no real organization between there and the unit. Yes
FB>there were "Service Units" but their focus was on a few small events with
FB>only a very few units three times during the year. No one was looking at
FB>the quality of the program. It was left up to whomever decided to be a
FB>leader. When there were severe unit problems committed and willing
FB>parents were at the mercy of the #1 and #2 with nobody to turn to and the
FB>service unit didn't want to be involved. Not much like commissioners
FB>trying to give advice to a wayward leader at all.

Here they have a really good sailing program administered through Camp
Casa Mare (10 miles from our home.) But the rest of the program IMHO
sucks. Jennifer only stayed in the last 2 years because she wants to
join a Sea Scout Ship that sails out of Watergate Marina. (Also 10
miles from our home.) She has gotten her General Sail and Mates rating.
She turns 14 in just about 6 months. I've been encouraging her to call
the leader to "visit" the unit over the next few months.

I wish she could take part in our program. She's bigger, stronger, and
been camping more than most of our 13 year old boys. And she's a great
organizer.

FB>2. GSUSA training is stifling and not focused on program delivery.

Yep.

FB>3. GSUSA seems to have gone overboard, at least here, on "safety"
FB>requirements.

Yep. And I thought BSA was bad that way, but GSUSA is even tighter.
They assume leaders have zero outdoor knowledge and conduct training in
minutia.

FB>4. The summer camp program seems more like YMCA/YWCA than Scouting
in

FB>GSUSA. In this area it is really REALLY rare for a troop to go together
FB>and as in our case, the girl ends up going to camp and staying with
FB>strangers which does a lot to make the first experience more difficult.

Jenn actually went with a "buddy" most years. Last year her buddy
wasn't committed to going to camp and Jenn decided to not wait on her
because she wanted to get her reservation in on the first day (1st come,
1st served for camp). Turns out she knew about half the girls at the

camp from her previous year and had a great time despite not having a buddy at the camp.

FB>6. Youth leadership - this is something that is up to the leaders and FB>from what I can see, it is not much promoted.

You got that right.

I'm looking forward to the day Jenn visits one of the two ships. I think she'll click. Many of the BSA camp staff are Explorers and female. Jenn would be a great aquatics staff member. She will have her lifeguard certificate as soon as she hits minimum age to take the course. (This summer) I'm hopeful that she can do some of the really neat stuff. She also really wanted to backpack Philmont. She was 3 months too young when I went this year. (Even though she was bigger, stronger, and in better physical shape than most of the girls who did trek. <grin>)

* * *

* OLXWin 1.00a * Back Up My Hard Drive? I Can't Find The Reverse Switch!

Date: Sun, 29 Oct 1995 16:24:28 -0500
From: Lynn Whited <whited@ASTROSUN.TN.CORNELL.EDU>
Subject: Re: (long) GS troop size/government

On Fri, 27 Oct 1995, Lisa Varner wrote:

>
> ---exerpt from Girl Scout Leader Magazine, Fall 1993---
> -Karen White
>
> station wagon. For many long term volunteers and staff, this
> request for smaller groups is very diferent from what they are
> used to and contrary to the recommended troop/group size found on
> page 44 of the new "Safety-Wise".
>
> ---rest deleted (ways leaders can increase the numbers(perhaps
> someone will "Safety-Wise post recommendations as I don't have
> "Safety-Wise" with me.)
>

"Safety Wise" recommendations are:

Daisy Girl Scouts	5-15 Girls
Brownie Girl Scouts	15-25 Girls
Junior Girl Scouts	15-30 Girls
Cadette Girl Scouts	10-30 Girls
Senior Girl Scouts	10-30 Girls

There are also limitations when taking the girls to events, trips and troop camping. According to Safety Wise Standard 13 pg 39 you need two adults for every 5 Daisies, 12 Brownies, 16 Juniors, 20 Cadettes, and 24 Seniors. Plus one additional adult for every 3 Daisies, 6 Brownies, 8 Juniors, 10 Cadettes, 12 Seniors. For my troop that (18 Juniors) We need to have 3 adults every time we go anywhere. Usually this isn't a problem as those who help to transport stay and particiapte with our troop, but we have had occassions we have had to do a lot of calling to find enough adults. And we have three registered co-leaders.

> > My wife and I investigated our church starting a Girl Scout
> > Troop, but were rebuffed by the professional who wanted us "to
> > provide meeting space" and not leadership or anything else.
>
> While I cannot answer you on your particular incident, I wonder
> if they understood that you were interested in supplying
> leadership. I cannot understand any council not needing more
> leaders!
>

Our council had to recently turn down a church starting a Girl Scout troop because they were not willing to open the troop to any girl that wanted to join it was going to be limited to girls who were members of the church. That is against National policy. My troop meets at a local Catholic parish, and are sposed by them, and as 3/4 of my troop belongs to the parish, we have girls from other faiths as well.

Lynn

Lynn Whited
ljw5@cornell.edu
Cornell University
315-787-2281

Junior Troop 401
Junior Program Consultant
Canoe Instructor / Leader
Seven Lakes Girl Scout Council
