

How to get parents more involved in girl Scouts

First, be Prepared! Having things spelled out at the first/or early meeting is a bit of prep work, but will save you lots of time and effort in the long run. Set up a schedule for meetings at the beginning of the year that parents can help out with and jobs that you need help with. Remind parents that being a leader is a volunteer position and in order for you to best use your time to lead the girls, you need help.

1. Have a Mandatory Parent meeting at the beginning of the year:

A. **Set up a sign up clip board for helping at meetings and providing snacks.** After you set up the date and location for meetings for the year, have a mandatory parent meeting at the end of your first meeting. Tell them to bring their calendars/schedules with them. Have a couple of clipboards available for parents to sign up to help out the troop. One list should be the list of troop meetings with a slot for a parent to sign up to chaperone/drive and provide a snack for a meeting. Usually if you ask each parent to sign up once in the year (or however many times you need, given the # of girls and meetings you have_, they will sign up. If a parent lets you know ahead of time that they have a major commitment and can't make the meeting, e-mail them these documents ahead of time and ask them to sign-up before the meeting. If you need an extra volunteer for driving, add that slot on those days as well.

B. **Set up another clipboard with other troop needs(depending on what you feel is needed)**

These could include the following (* means potentially good for parents working out of home):

1. Troop Treasurer*-Keeps the troop check book (go to the bank with the leader and your ID to sign up on the account) and writes checks for costs of troop expenses. Fill out a short financial report at the end of the year. The time commitment for this is minimal (aside from the time to set up the account, this can be done during non- working hours so is a good job for a working parent.
2. Fall product sales manager*-entering orders on computer, collecting and giving out products to scouts when they come in. Have Treasurer write a check to the service unit for products.
3. Troop cookie parent*-This parent learns about cookie sales (I believe it can now be done online). The cookie parent distributes cookie sales info, and collects the orders from girls/parents, picks up the cookies ordered at the town delivery and distributes them to troop members for them to deliver to the buyers (this can be done through your home-many parents have a pick-up time for distribution. Another option is running a booth sale.
3. Troop shopper-*purchase food/items for camping trips etc.
4. Help to plan activities for a badge (perhaps list some suggestions/badges)
5. Help to organize/chaperone a field trip or outing to a council GS Program event (these are on the GSEM website (you may list some suggestions)*)
6. Help with childcare so another parent can volunteer at a meeting.
7. Help with planning and coordinating encampment or a camping trip (usually on weekends so good for working parents)*
8. Be the troop first aider (attend training and events when needed)
9. Be the troop camper (attend training and events when needed)*
10. Help with communications and e-mails*
11. Provide childcare occasionally for children of other volunteers.
12. Provide transportation for events.
13. Assist with planning meetings/badge activities*
14. Share a skill you have-please list skill _____