

SECTION VIII

PROGRAM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

How to Sign Up for Opportunities	Sect. VIII - 2
Tips for using this Program Resource	Sect. VIII - 2
Council Organized Events.....	Sect. VIII - 2
Community Opportunities.....	Sect. VIII - 2
Cultural Patch Programs	Sect. VIII - 3
Program Center Patches.....	Sect. VIII - 3
Program Take Out.....	Sect. VIII - 3
Make the World a Better Place	Sect. VIII - 7
Sensitive Issues	Sect. VIII - 10

Section VIII Revisions Completed

Date	Revision	Page

This section is a resource for you to use in your troop planning throughout the upcoming year. Check out our website for all the latest and greatest program. www.citrus-gs.org/program

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Select the Event:** The program descriptions help you and your girls choose an event. Be sure to note the age level the event is open to.
2. **Register for Event:** Follow the instructions on how to register for each event. For council events, use the Program/Event Registration forms on our website. Please fill out the form completely. You will receive a confirmation letter with details about the program. This letter will be emailed to you unless otherwise requested. Registration is on a first-come first-served basis.
3. **Submit Payment:** Send program registration form and fee to the recipient indicated in the program description. Include a separate payment and registration form for each activity.
4. **Refunds:** Refunds are given if the program fills before your registration is received or if a program is cancelled.
5. **Attend the Event:** Girls must be accompanied by an adult at events. Tagalongs (children of any age who are not participants in a program) should not be taken to events. Any girls participating in a Girl Scout activity must be a registered member of Girl Scouts of the USA, unless otherwise noted, such as family events.

Tips for using this Program Resource:

- Events often fill up before the registration deadline. It's best to register your troop early to guarantee your place.
- Registrations can be mailed, or faxed. Phone registrations cannot be taken unless noted otherwise.
- Registrations will be placed on a waiting list if the event fills up before the deadline.
- Events that do not meet the minimum number of participants may be cancelled.
- **Safety-Wise** standards must be followed when attending activities. Please follow the GIRL-TO-

ADULT ratio found on page 69 of **Safety-Wise** when attending events or workshops, unless otherwise noted. Leaders are responsible for all **Safety-Wise** requirements when participating in Community Opportunities.

The opportunities listed are intended for Girl Scouts only, unless otherwise noted. Non-Girl Scouts may fill out a Girl Scout Membership form and submit the \$10 membership fee along with the Program/Event Registration form.

Please call the contact person if you will not be able to attend a program. A cancellation does not equal a refund.

When traveling, please complete a troop activity request form when needed.

Please check our website for updates and additional opportunities. New opportunities will be posted to the website on a regular basis.

COUNCIL ORGANIZED EVENTS

The Council Program Team comprised of staff and volunteers have planned a variety of events for council wide attendance. In making these events a success for our girls we are always looking for volunteers – girls and adults – to assist with planning, preparation, supervision, guidance, and more. Girls are encouraged to help at events; girl volunteers must be three years older than girl participants. Program Aide Course training is recommended for girl volunteers, but not required. If you, your girls, or your troop would like to volunteer please contact the Program Team Staff at the Council Service Center today!



Check out all the great programs at www.citrus-gs.org/events

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Members of our community are supporting Girl Scouting by making the following opportunities available to Girl Scouts. All of



these opportunities are planned and implemented by the community organization not the Girl Scout of Citrus Council. Please contact them directly with registrations and questions. While we'd love to hear your

opinion of these opportunities if you participate in them, the Girl Scout Council Staff has no authority over the programming that occurs at these opportunities. Leaders are responsible for adhering to all **Safety-Wise** standards, such as girl and adult ratios when participating in the following opportunities.

CULTURE PATCH PROGRAMS

In this part of the Program Resource Section, we have listed a variety of Patch Programs with a brief description of each. Please go to the Girl Scouts of Citrus Council website, www.citrus-gs.org/program for complete patch requirements.

African American Culture Patch

In keeping with the council's goal of pluralism, this patch program was designed to provide the opportunity for girls to gain an insight into the African American Culture and its contribution to society. Learn about several important African Nations, history of the culture, popular traditions, and activities. Learn the impact that African Americans such as Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Zora Neale Hurston, and Oprah Winfrey have made in our country.

Asian Culture Patch

This exciting patch program was designed to help girls take a trip to the Orient, without ever leaving home. These fun-filled and informative activities will help girls gain knowledge, awareness, and understanding of Asian-Americans and their cultures and traditions. Explore the uniqueness of Japan, India, China, and Thailand.

Hispanic Culture Patch

This patch program will give you great appreciation for the beautiful Hispanic culture. Learn how to make a piñata, cook authentic Hispanic food, explore the music and dance, and enjoy traditional Hispanic games.

Native American Culture Patch

Explore the traditions, food, beautiful arts and crafts and the history of the first Americans — the Native Americans. Learn about famous Native American Indians and how they've made important contributions to the world we live in today.

PROGRAM CENTER PATCHES

Amanda the Armadillo

Amanda is a very special armadillo at Mah-Kah-Wee Program Center. She lives near the Ecological Studies Center and her favorite people are Girl Scout Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors. She invites you to do her activities at Mah-Kah-Wee to learn about her habitat and about the environment you both live in.

Eleanor the Egret

Eleanor the Egret is an environmental awareness project that has been developed especially for the Melbourne Scout House. It centers around the study of birds and includes other environmental activities. Visit Melbourne Scout House and enjoy this exciting patch program.

Minerva the Manatee

Minerva the Manatee invites you to do her "Minerva Says" activities at Riverpoint Program Center to learn about her habitat and the environment she lives in. Enjoy the beauty of the Banana River at beautiful Riverpoint and learn about the lagoon, the weather, and endangered and threatened species.

Beatrice the Butterfly

Beatrice the Butterfly is excited to help you explore the city and its habitats. Girls will learn basic mapping skills, how to recognize some native plants and animals, and how to identify what harms the environment, as well as how to promote conservation.

PROGRAM TAKE OUT

If the question, "What are we doing at our next meeting?" has grown as frustrating as the daily dilemma, "What's for dinner?" then make your life easier and just order some Program Take-Out!

The GSCC Program Team is excited to announce a new program opportunity designed to make your next troop meeting fun and simple! "Program Take-Out" offers you a variety of programs-in-a-bag with just about everything you need for a troop meeting! The "Menu" features nearly 40 different choices, including kits for every age level and even options in both English and Spanish languages. There's something for everyone, with topics ranging from Zink the Zebra and programs on



Living Drug Free, to Studio 2B books and nature programs. Not sure where to begin? No problem! Each kit comes with helpful hints to get you started and a list of supplies you'll need to deliver a great program!

Program Take-Out is available for a small rental fee, with a refundable deposit, and the rental lasts for two weeks. Kits can be checked out from the Council Service Center. To order, check out the Program Take-Out Menu. Next, have your girls pick the program of their choice. Then, just send in your Program Take Out_v1a order form to reserve your kit for pick-up! Questions? Contact the GSCC Program Team at program@citrus-gs.org or call 07.896.4475.

ZINK Program

Zink the Zebra, a sweet story written by Kelly, a wonderful girl who lost the battle to cancer at the age of eleven, helps promote the understanding and acceptance of human differences. Because the topic of cancer is discussed throughout this program it requires parent permission through a simple sensitive issues form.

#1 Camp Activity Guide

This Program on the Go is perfect for Camporee Directors or for your next troop camping event. This guide is an excellent resource and contains numerous fun activities to promote acceptance and respect.
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$25.00

#2 Camp Activity Guide

See description above.

#3 Zink for Girl Scout Daisies

1 set available
This wonderful kit includes the Zink, the zebra illustrated book, a program folder with activity outlines, a DVD with the animated version of the story and a cute plush toy for your Daisies to pet and meet Zink.
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$25.00

#4 Zink for Girl Scout Brownies

1 set available
Read along with your Brownies this moving story and earn the Zink the Zebra patch* as you complete the required activities included in the program folder. This pack includes a Tool Kit with craft ideas that allow the girls to explore the virtues of compassion and acceptance.
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$25.00

#5 Zink for Girl Scout Girl Scout Juniors

1 set available
Read along with your Juniors this moving story and earn the Zink the Zebra patch* as you complete the required activities included in the program folder. This pack includes a Tool Kit with crafts and service projects ideas that allow the girls to explore the virtues of compassion and acceptance.
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$25.00

#6 Zink Novel Book Clubs

1 set available
Try something new with your Juniors and Cadettes! Have each girl take a paperback copy of the novel to read at home, then round up your group, offer juice and cookies and discuss this story together. A discussion guide and 18 books are included in this pack!
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$25.00

#7 Zink for Cadettes and Seniors

1 set available
This wholesome pack includes 17 OK2BU* booklets, a patch program folder with activities and guides, a DVD & VHS of the play "Zink: the Myth, the Legend, the Zebra". You will have the opportunity to play the Myth vs. Fact game, discuss what cancer is, share personal experiences and celebrate survivor stories and create your own Zink story book together. Your troop may even choose to do a service project together.
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$35.00

*** Patch may be purchased separately at the Council Shop**

#8 Set of Zink Beanie Babies

25 pieces available
Check out these cute plush toys and use them for illustration purposes during your Zink event.
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$25.00

Living Drug Free Programs

1 set available for each age level.
This program will help you guide enriching discussions and activities about the importance of living a drug and alcohol free life, the consequences and hopefully inspire your girls to share this message with others.

#9 Be Drug Free for Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies

This pack will help you encourage girls to find their "zone" by living a healthy and drug free life. This pack includes 20 **In the Zone: Living Drug Free** booklets with the tools they need to help young people stay drug free.
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$15.00

#10 Be Drug Free for Girl Scout Juniors

This pack will help you encourage girls to find their "zone" by living a healthy and drug free life. This pack includes 20 **In the Zone: Living Drug Free** booklets with the tools they need to help young people stay drug free.
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$15.00

#11 Be Drug Free for Girl Scouts ages 11-14

This pack will help you encourage girls to find their "zone" by living a healthy and drug free life. This pack includes 20 **In the Zone: Living Drug Free** booklets with the tools they need to help young people stay drug free.
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$15.00
* **Patch may be purchased separately at the Council Shop**

#12 Be Drug Free for Girl Scouts ages 14-17

This pack will help you encourage girls to find their "zone" by living a healthy and drug free life. This pack includes 20 **In the Zone: Living Drug Free** booklets with the tools they need to help young people stay drug free.
Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$15.00
* **Patch may be purchased separately at the Council Shop**

#13 Drug Affected Baby

1 available

#14 Alcohol Affected Baby

1 available
Use these two simulators to enhance the learning experience for your Girl Scouts ages 11-17. Each baby includes a facilitator guide. These babies show the devastating effects of substance use by a pregnant woman and some of alcohol's many devastating effects on a developing fetus.
Fee: \$10 Deposit: \$25.00—Replacement Cost: \$200

STUDIO2B Programs

Want to give Studio2B a try! Thousands of teen girls around the country created **STUDIO 2B** by making suggestions about their ideal place to hang out with friends. These packs include 20 Studio2B Focus Books, tips on how to facilitate a Studio2B session at your next meeting and an optional supply list. We have 1 set for each focus book available. **Booklets are to be returned without marks of ink or pencil, so be sure to provide girls with paper and other supplies. All the Studio 2 B programs require a \$25 refundable deposit.**

#15 The Self Esteem Pack: Uniquely Me! The Real Deal

The Real Deal contains activities that teach girls to use their PMA to help deal with peer pressure and stress and feel good about them.
Fee: \$5.00

#16 The Self Esteem Pack: Uniquely Me! The Way 2 B!

This English/Spanish book was written for all girls ages 8 to 10. It helps girls discover the importance of challenging themselves.
Fee: \$5.00

#17 Deal with Stress: Don't Sweat it!

With advice from health experts and 'lots of fun, interesting information and quizzes, this book was written to help girls like you breeze through the hallways of life without breakin' a sweat.
Fee: \$5.00

#18 Deal with Finances: Cashin' In

Cashin' In will help girls afford what really matters in high school—things girls said was most important to them.
Fee: \$5.00

#19 Express Yourself!

This booklet will not only help your hopes, dreams and plans, but also a guide to learning more about and understanding that most important person—you!
Fee: \$5.00

#20 Uniquely Me! Inside Out

Inside and Out has activities to help girls appreciate their strong points and find a style that suits them.
Fee: \$5.00

#21 Defend Yourself: Take Charge!

The world is a crazy place sometimes and girls need to learn skills to protect themselves. This is what Take Charge is all about — learning how to keep themselves and their friends safe.

Fee: \$5.00

#22 Connect with Others: Looking In, Reaching Out

Whether they do activities with an adult or on their own, girls can use Looking In, Reaching Out to help them record this special time in their lives.

Fee: \$5.00

#23 College 101

College 101 is an indispensable tool chock full of information from admissions experts, high school students and college freshmen.

Fee: \$5.00

#24 Got Money! 2 books

Money Rules. And if you've Got Money you'll be able to make your own rules. Learn how to make your money last, throughout your life!

Fee: \$5.00

Hispanic Outreach /Programas Bilingües (English/ Spanish)

Aventuras en Lectura / Follow the Reader

Este folleto basado en el acta "No child left behind" ayuda a las niñas en la comprensión de lectura y vocabulario. Es un proyecto para toda la familia.

As part of the "no Child left behind" act, this book helps girls with literacy comprehension, fluency and vocabulary.

****Bilingual**

#25 Daisies: Aventuras en Lectura / Follow the Reader

Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$25.00

#26 Brownies:Aventuras en Lectura / Follow the Reader

Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$25.00

#27 Juniors:Aventuras en Lectura / Follow the Reader

Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$25.00

#28 Del Suelo al Cielo

Este VHS y guía de actividades le ayudaran a explorar la naturaleza sin importar si vive en la ciudad o el campo. Perfecto para su próximo campamento o reunión.

Fee: \$3.00 Deposit: \$10.00

#29 From Sidewalks to Tree Tops

This VHS and study guide will help you and your girls explore nature in your neighborhood. This pack is perfect for your next camp or meeting.

Fee: \$3.00 Deposit: \$10.00

#30 Fun & Easy Science Investigations Investigaciones Divertidas

This pack includes 20 books and a guide to help you incorporate the love for science into your meetings. ***Este paquete en incluye dos copias de este manual en Español .***

Fee: \$3.00 Deposit: \$10.00

#31 Nature & Science/ Naturaleza y Ciencia Bilingual.

A series of activities that make use of adventure, creativity, self-expression, and fantasy to help girls explore various scientific concepts.

Fee: \$5.00 Deposit: \$10.00

*Bilingual

#32 Daisies: Girl Scouts Against Smoking

1 pack for 20

Spanish with a few copies in English.

#33 Brownies:Girl Scouts Against Smoking

1 pack for 20

Spanish with a few copies in English.

#34 Juniors:Girl Scouts Against Smoking

1 pack for 20

#35 Español Juniors: Girl Scouts Against Smoking

1 pack for 20

#36 Cadettes & Senior: Girl Scouts Against Smoking

1 pack for 20

#37 Daisy Activity Book Pack

Just right for non-readers and beginning readers; colorfully illustrated to maintain interest of 5 and 6 year olds.

Deposit: \$25.00 Fee: \$8.00

All these programs have a \$3.00 fee and require a \$12 deposit.

This informational pack includes some activities appropriate for the different age levels.

MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Project Ideas

The Girl Scout slogan “Do a good turn daily” in its simplest translation means that each girl will do something to help someone every day; however, the slogan holds much more significance for the girl who becomes a Girl Scout. Encompassed in that slogan is the value of service; the belief that there is merit in giving of yourself to others. It is not until girls have the opportunity to experience the excitement that comes when they give of themselves that the real meaning of service is learned.

Please remember the age level of your girls when helping them plan service projects. Some projects, such as working at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter should be reserved for mature older Girl Scout Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts.

Helping at Council Events

All council events need volunteers, both girls and adults, to help plan and run.

- Girls of all age levels are welcome to assist in the planning process, ensuring that activities meet the needs and interests of today’s girls.
- Older Girls are needed to assist with or lead activities for girls at least 2-3 years younger than themselves.
- Program Aide Core Course is recommended, but not required for girls assisting with these events.
- Adult volunteers are needed to act at Program Opportunity Liaisons from each service unit.

You may contact any member of the Program Team to express interest or learn more.

Project Thank You

Troops can help the Girl Scouts of Citrus Council by making Thank You cards to give to donors. If you’re looking for a fun, easy service project to do with your troop, here it is.



Mah-Kah-Wee or Riverpoint Program Center

Service projects at our camps can be tailored to the program age level of our girls, number of adults assisting and the amount of time they want to spend implementing the service project.



Please call the Property Manager for specific Service Project needs prior to your visit.

Juliette Low World Friendship Fund

The Juliette Low World Friendship Fund was established in 1927, the year Juliette Gordon Low died, to honor her dream of spreading Girl Scouting around the world. Delegates at the 13th National Council Meeting created the Fund with the following words:

“In memory of Juliette Low, founder in America of the Girl Scouts, let a fund be raised . . . for the promotion of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding throughout the world, as a contribution toward world peace and goodwill.”

The Juliette Low World Friendship Fund supports a wide diversity of activities and initiatives:

- Opportunities for American girls to travel overseas and for girls from other countries to come to events in the U.S. under the STUDIO 2B Destinations program.



- Support for the four World Centers operated by WAGGGS, enabling them to host seminars and trainings for young women from around the world.



Making Friends
Around the World

- Financial aid to Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting organizations through the Mutual Aid program provides assistance to WAGGGS organizations for training and/or emergency assistance.
- Helps support the development of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in areas where the Movement is not yet established.

Donations to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund may be sent at any time of year, but popular times are

World Thinking Day (February 22), Juliette Low's birthday (October 31) and during Girl Scout Week (the week that includes March 12).

Troop donations should be sent to Girl Scouts of Citrus Council. These donations will be batched and sent to the Fund periodically.

Community Events and Flag Ceremonies

Often we get calls at the office for groups to lead Flag Ceremonies or for Older Girls to assist at community events. A call list is being formed that will be used when an organization contacts requesting assistance for an event. If your troop/group would be interested, please forward your name, email and troop information such as level and number of girls. In some cases uniforms are requested - casual uniforms, formal uniforms, or "logo" t-shirts will work in most cases. Please let us know what your troop has when you share your information. You may email the Program Team with these details.



Working with the Elderly

Contact the Activity Director at a local nursing home. The director will be able to give you some suggestions for appropriate service projects. We suggest that you make a visit to the home yourself before you take the girls for their first visit. Or, adopt someone in the local community that could use a little help. Here are some ideas that Girl Scout Troops have done:

- Donate your time to rake leaves for an elderly person. Plant flowers for his/her home.
- Make craft items to decorate nursing home rooms for the holidays; for example, friendly little bats for Halloween, place mats for Valentine's Day, table decorations for Thanksgiving etc.
- Volunteer to shovel snow off the sidewalks and driveways of older neighbors.
- Adopt a "grandparent" in your neighborhood.
- Draw pictures and write letters to him/her.
- Send secret pal cards to residents in the nursing home who do not receive mail.
- Adopt a nursing home for the year. Decorate for the various



holidays. Visit any time of year to play cards or sing songs.

- Adopt a "grandparent" in the neighborhood and offer to give their home a spring-cleaning.

Help for Children and Families through Community Organizations

Many community organizations working with youth and families in need could use your help:

- Troops can participate in the Ronald McDonald House Charity Pop Tab program by collecting the aluminum pull-tab rings found on beverage cans. The aluminum pull tabs from these cans are taken to a recycling center by McDonald staff, where they are weighted and cashed in by the pound. The proceeds from the tabs go to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. You can collect these tabs in one-gallon milk jugs or quart sized baggies.



- Collect kids' clothing and toys for a preschool, the Salvation Army, Women's Shelter or any other organization that serves the needy. Again, girls may have clothes and toys at home to donate, or they could use troop funds to get these donations by shopping at garage sales.



- Sponsor a family in need at Thanksgiving or at any other time of the year. Churches, the Salvation Army, and sometimes, school counselors can find a family that needs help. Put Thanksgiving basket(s) together for local families or individuals.
- Adopt a family and get family members' gender and sizes and let each girl pick out a family member for whom she can buy or donate clothing, school supplies, or little treats. It's fun to have the girls bring their gifts unwrapped to a troop meeting and then have a wrapping party using wrapping paper, ribbon and gift tags bought by the troop.
- Provide childcare for a family in need. Organize a playgroup for kids of various ages from several families. Plan activities, snacks, and maybe a field trip. Spend a meeting planning the playgroup in advance and assigning each troop

member to a particular age group of "guests."

- Organize or help with a food drive for the Food Bank. Lead your school's food drive participation. Assign each girl to a classroom. Have her make posters for her classroom to advertise the food drive, make announcements about it, and keep track of how much food is brought in. The troop can make a big poster indicating the amount each classroom has donated, and can offer a pizza or popcorn party to the classroom that donates the most.
- Work with a team building a Habitat for Humanity house. Or, for a Daisy or Brownie troop, bake cookies and make lemonade or hot cocoa to serve other volunteers who are building the house.
- Plant flowers or trees. You can do so at your school (check with the principal!), at a Habitat for Humanity house, at the homes of older people, at nursing homes, in front of local businesses or elsewhere. Check with local Parks and Recreation Departments to see if they need any planting done.
- Collect blankets and pillows for local shelters, churches, Women's Shelters etc.
- Make stuffed cloth teddy bears, or simple pillows. You can get pre-stamped pillow halves and sew them together with a simple running stitch, and then stuff them with fiberfill. Give them to the local Police Department or the County Sheriff's Department to give to children whose families run into problems and need to be brought to the police. Give them to Women's Shelters for the children who live there. Bring them to the Emergency Room for kids who are treated there. (Note: There can be no removable objects used on the animals or pillows, such as buttons for eyes. They may have additional restrictions for the safety of the young recipients.)
- Collect winter hats, mittens, and jackets to donate for families in need.
- Collect toys for the Toys for Tots program in December.
- Make tray favors, scrapbooks, crafts for a special occasion to donate to a local children's hospital.

Schools

There are many ways girls can help at school. Contact your PTA or school office for specific suggestions:

- Girls can perform flag ceremonies to open and close PTA meetings.
- Clean tables at fund-raising suppers.
- Gather school supplies and make back to school kits for families in need.
- Start a recycling program in a classroom, a church, a business, or another public building. Take the recycling to the Recycling Center or make arrangements for the group to do so itself.
- Hold a service contest at a school. Challenge each classroom or Girl Scout troop to plan and conduct a service project in a given period of time. Then plan a party or assembly at which each classroom or troop describes its project and the benefits that came from it, and show photographs. Make it an annual event.
- Collect books for a pre-school, such as Head Start. Girls may have books at home that they no longer use. Or take some troop profit and let the girls go to garage sales where they can buy used books for kids and their families.
- Thank a teacher! Make a gift for each teacher at school. Make flowers out of colored tissue paper and straws or pipe cleaners, and put several flowers in a recycled bottle decorated with tissue paper, fabric, or aluminum foil. Buy a bunch of erasers and glue index cards with messages onto them ("thanks for all you do for us!"). Be sure also to thank school janitors and other helpers.

General ways to "Make the World a Better Place"

- Sponsor a "water station" for the American Cancer Society or other organizations that host walking and running marathons.
- Clean up an area! Call Parks and Recreation Departments to see if any city-owned parkland needs cleaning up. Or clean up the playground at your school, or the area around a local business. Be sure to follow reasonable precautions: gloves for everyone, orange vests for girls who may be standing near the road. **(Editor's Note: Check Safety-Wise.)**

- Volunteer to paint or remodel a building: for example, the toy shed of a nursery school.
- Choose a group of helpers; firefighters, nurses, teachers, EMTs, or some other group. Have troop members write letters thanking them for their work. Put these letters together with drawings, collages of magazine pictures of helpful people, and other decorations and make a book. Bring it to the group to thank them personally.
- Veterans: **If your area has a veteran's home or hospital, contact the Activity Director to see what kind of donations would be suitable: Write letters to people being treated in Veterans' Hospitals. Send them drawings and stories.** (Note: Never give out full names and addresses of individual girls!)
- Sending letters to those serving in the military.
- Collect Aluminum Cans for Habitat for Humanity.
- Sponsor a food drives for local food banks/soup kitchens.
- Decorate lunch bags or boxes for the lunches prepared for the homeless.
- Collect personal supplies for women and children living in Women's Shelters.
- Collect books and toys to donate to local Women's Shelters.

Humane Shelter Projects

Check with Animal Care and Control or your local Animal Shelter for special needs and to see if any of these suggestions would be helpful to them:

- Volunteer your time at the Animal Shelter. Collect clean, used, washable towels, blankets and throw rugs.
- Collect chew toys, catnip, cat toys, furniture and gently used cages and crates.
- Canned pet food, animal treats, clay cat litter, pine wood shavings and gently used collars and leashes are also appreciated.
- If you are crafty, you could make bandanas for all sizes of dogs, 3 inch by 3 inch polar fleece squares filled with polyfiber and cat nip for cats,

and collar scrunchies for all sizes of dogs and cats.

Project Linus

Project Linus is an all volunteer, non-profit organization that collects new, handmade, washable blankets to be given to seriously ill and traumatized children. Troops can help by making and donating blankets to Project Linus. Blankets must be NEW, HANDMADE and WASHABLE. Project Linus welcome all styles of blankets . . . crocheted, knitted, quilted, fleece . . . you don't have to be an expert!

Second Harvest Food Bank

Second Harvest is a hunger relief organization in Central Florida. Take action now! You can organize a food drive, volunteer at the food bank or more!

SENSITIVE ISSUES

Definition:

A sensitive issue is a topic of a highly personal nature such as human sexuality, or is rooted in beliefs and values such as religion.

Position Statement:

Girl Scouting provides a wide variety of informal educational activities for girls. The Girl Scout program offers activities that reflect the contemporary world as girls experience it, and that embody the basic ethical values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. It is therefore necessary for Girl Scout program to address sensitive issues such as AIDS, child abuse, family crises, human sexuality, racism, substance abuse, suicide and teen pregnancy. In 1986, GSUSA reaffirmed that sex education and human sexuality training developed in collaboration with family, religious groups, school and community are components of Girl Scout program.

In support of this role and based on the assessed needs of the communities served, Citrus Council accepts the responsibility for presenting training addressing the issues listed above.

The Citrus Council Board of Directors therefore approves and agrees to present projects consistent with established guidelines and to support leaders and other adults in these efforts.

Purpose:

- To reinforce Citrus Council's commitment to providing a wide variety of informal educational activities with a position statement regarding sensitive issues. The statement is established by action of the Citrus Council Board of Directors.
- To provide guidelines for event directors, troop leaders and other adults to follow when planning projects/activities or presenting materials addressing sensitive issues
- To establish responsibilities for the Program Department regarding delivery of training on sensitive issues

Sensitive Issues Guidelines:

The following guidelines should be used when planning projects or presenting materials addressing sensitive issues, including those based on the Contemporary Issues series and Issues for Girls developed by Girl Scouts of the USA.

1. Consult with educators, clergy, community leaders and/or social workers to review sensitive issue materials for their appropriateness in the community. It is important to ensure sensitivity to community needs and/or concerns.
2. Trained community consultants can be used, when appropriate, to present sensitive issues. Adults, who are knowledgeable about a specific subject, and comfortable with making a presentation on such, may proceed without a consultant.
3. Criteria for selecting consultants include:
 - willingness to present factual information rather than advocating a specific position.
 - ability to present accurate and up-to-date information in a clear, interesting manner that is suitable for the group.
4. Criteria for selecting consultants include:
 - willingness to present factual information rather than advocating a specific position.
 - ability to present accurate and up-to-date information in a clear, interesting manner that is suitable for the group.
 - ability to be sensitive to emotions and attitudes related to sensitive issues.
 - ability to be supportive and non-judgmental to all participants.
 - willingness to work with other community

agencies.

- willingness to follow Citrus Council and GSUSA policies, standards and procedures.
5. Consultants should be given a copy of the above criteria and any corresponding materials. **A packet can be obtained from your Service Unit Manager or school coordinator. The consultant should then sign a letter of agreement if he/she is in agreement with the information supplied.**
 6. The event director/adult determines the specific subject matter based on the maturity of the girls and its appropriateness in the community.
 7. Professionals from the specific topic area should address the follow-up of problems and/or concerns that develop from the presentation/workshop.
 8. Troop/group leaders need to inform their immediate supervisors when planning activities which involve sensitive issues at least 10 days in advance of event date.
 9. **WRITTEN PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR ACTIVITIES THAT INVOLVE A SENSITIVE ISSUE (See *Safety-Wise*, page 40, "Guidelines for Sensitive Issues" and page 67, *Parental Permission - Standard 10*.)** Attach the event/workshop outline to the Troop Activity: Parent/Guardian Permission (PG1). Girl attendance is optional for all or part of the program and parents/guardians are to be advised of this option.
 10. Sensitive issues often are brought up by girls in an informal setting. The need for permission from parents/guardians for planned programs should not discourage the leader from answering girls' questions/comments as they arise. Such interest from girls may lead to more formal programs.
 11. Information will be made available upon request to troop/group leaders about legal implications of the issues, e.g., when, where and how to report child abuse. Contact the Council Service Center at (407) 896-4475 or (800) 367-3906.