Appreciation

Ways to say "Thank You" – from girls and adults

Appreciation is an ongoing, daily process for all volunteers. Showing appreciation for one another is one way to show respect, to relate to each other's strengths, and to build mutual commitment for Girl Scouting.

People want and need appreciation for the work they do, for the contributions they make toward improving the lives of those around them. Adult Girl Scout volunteers play a significant role in the lives of girls, helping them grow into strong, capable women and leaders of tomorrow. Girl Scout Volunteers have earned and deserve appreciation. We want to create a climate where Girl Scout Volunteers know they are appreciated and respected for their commitment and involvement in Girl Scouting.

How is appreciation demonstrated?

Expressions of appreciation may take various forms, such as formal acknowledgment at a GS Troop meeting or GS Service Unit event, presentation of a gift or certificate, sending a thank you note, or making a phone call. Any GS Troop or GS Service Unit event could include public or personal expressions of appreciation for all Girl Scout adult volunteers who work to put on the event. Giving special attention to when and how you acknowledge the recipient can enhance the significance of the appreciation.

An easy way to show appreciation to someone is through the use of Just Say Thanks. Go to www.gsnetx.org/justsaythanks and fill in the requested information. A letter from the CEO of Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas, Colleen Walker, will be sent.

An attitude of appreciation can be created by:

- being aware of the extra effort put forth by an individual.
- taking the time to mention a person's service or to thank them for a job well done.
- helping people achieve a high level of accomplishment.
- developing a climate where work is sincerely noticed and noted at all levels.

GS Troop Leaders will want to recognize:

- GS Troop Committee Members & Support Team
- Parents/Guardians
- GS Troop Sponsors
- Individuals sharing resource skills
- Troop Cookie Managers
- GS Service Unit Team Members

Here are a few things girls or adults could do for leaders or other special people at any time:

- Arrange to have a song on the radio dedicated to their leader.
- Bake a cake or make a favorite recipe.
- Call the GS Troop Leader to say "thank you."
- Dedicate a service project in the name of the GS Troop Leader.
- Design and present a greeting card.
- Design and present their own award or certificate.
- Do a "good deed" service project for their leader or their GS Troop Leader's family.
- Give a handmade gift.

- Give a picture of the girls in the GS Troop.
- Make a contribution in the person's name to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.
- Make and present a scrapbook of their activities.
- Plant a tree or garden in honor of their GS Troop Leader.

GS Troop/Group committees could do the following:

- Encourage and work with girls in their activities to honor GS Troop Leaders.
- Encourage parents to get in touch with GS Troop Leaders and to offer their personal thanks.
- Offer to substitute for GS Troop Leaders at troop meetings.
- Plan a luncheon, tea, picnic, or covered dish supper.
- Plan a surprise "thank you" party.
- Provide baby-sitting, after-school, or elder-care services for GS Troop Leaders.
- Send flowers to the GS Troop Leader's home.

Girl Scout Service Unit teams will want to recognize:

- New GS Troop Leaders
- Ongoing GS Troop Leaders and GS Assistant Leaders
- Individuals who share resources and skills
- Local task group members

GS Service Unit Teams could do the following:

- Arrange for a community display of Girl Scout Leader's Day greeting cards designed by girls.
- Design and write thank-you notes to GS Troop Leaders and their families.
- Give a Girl Scout gift from your local GSNETX Shop or the GSUSA catalog.
- Involve religious or community leaders and sponsors in recognizing Girl Scout adults.
- Place notices announcing special recognitions in PTA or church bulletins.

People and Organizations supportive of Girl Scouting who should be recognized:

- Community Leaders
- Organizations that provide meeting places
- School Principals
- Custodians
- Local Newspapers
- Teachers
- School Clerks/Secretaries
- Cookie Booth Sale Location Providers

When and how to say "Thank You:"

- Immediately following the service rendered
- Local recognition event
- Special Girl Scout days:
  - October 31 – Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday
  - February 22 – Thinking Day, the birthday of both Lord Baden Powell & Lady Baden Powell
  - March 12 – Birthday of Girl Scouting in the United States
  - April 22 – Leader's Day
  - Last full week in April – National Volunteer's Week