

Daisy Behaviors and Group Dynamics

One of the greatest challenges in leading a troop is effectively managing the behavior of the girls. Today, we'll discuss the typical behaviors of Girl Scout Daisies (grades K-1).

Energy Levels and Sociability

Daisies have a ton of energy and love to move around or dance. Take your activities outside where girls can walk, run, and play—they are the perfect age for nature walks and scavenger hunts.

Fine Motor Skills

Daisies are great builders and budding artists and are developing their fine motor skills. This means you can encourage them to express their creativity by making things with their hands.

Cognition Levels

Girls at the Daisy age are concrete thinkers and focused on the here and now. This means you can show instead of tell. For example, instead of explaining how animals are cared for, you can plan visits to animal shelters, farms, or zoos and meet care providers.

Numbers

Daisies are only beginning to learn about basic number concepts, time, and money. You'll want to take opportunities to count out supplies together.

Writing and Spelling

Daisies are just beginning to write and spell—they don't always have the words for what they're feeling or thinking. Having girls draw a picture of what they're trying to communicate can be more meaningful for them.

Following Directions

Daisies know how to follow simple directions and respond well to recognition for doing so. It's important to be specific and offer only one direction at a time. Acknowledge girls when they have followed directions as it will encourage them to listen and follow directions next time.

Letting Girls Take the Lead

The girl leadership (or girl-led) model encourages girls to take increasing responsibility for planning and implementing activities. No matter where your troop is in this progression, remember to not do anything for the girls that the girls can do for themselves—even if it takes a little longer. Troop Leaders can use the following tips to incorporate the girl-led model at every grade level.

Girl-Led for Daisies (K-1)

As the troop leader of a Daisy troop, you will be making the majority of troop decisions; however, it's important to let the girls know that by sharing their opinions and ideas they will be guiding the activity of their troop. You'll want to repeat activities that the girls say they really enjoyed, listen to their ideas on how to make activities even more fun, and give girls the opportunity to ask questions or predict what is going to happen next.

Girls at the Daisy Age

Girls this age love to be helpers. You can allow girls to help collect forms, take attendance, pass out supplies, lead a game, choose a song to sing, and other small tasks. Daisies may need to practice taking turns when talking and sharing—the Daisy circle (troop government for Daisies) is a great way to help to your troop learn to be open to others' ideas and to cooperation.

Girl-led Examples

Here some ways to ensure girls are taking the lead in your Daisy troop:

- Allow girls to make simple choices, such as which petal to work on at the next meeting, or to decide between two field trip options. Try to limit choices to two so that girls are not overwhelmed.
- Allow girls to take on responsibilities that are short and easy enough to accomplish.
- Help them identify new experiences with ones they already know.