There are many ways parents typically get involved with a troop. The strongest troops balance their support through; parenting, communication, volunteering, learning at home, decision-making, and community collaboration. Troops benefit best from fostering all types of parent involvement.

As a leader, it can be difficult to find ways to communicate effectively with parents and ask for their help when it is needed. Involve the parents at the very beginning of the year by having a parent meeting. The key to a successful meeting is not only telling them about the Girl Scout program, but engaging them in conversation. A sample parent meeting would involve:

- Interaction: Allow time for parents to meet those who are involved with their kids.
- Information: Provide troop details, Girl Scout program information and the benefits to their daughter, promote upcoming events, hand out calendars and circulate a sign-up sheet that lists specific volunteer opportunities.
- Input: Plan for a question and answer time. Begin by bringing up a question yourself and then answering it.

Activity at a Parent Meeting:

Have items from the list in a container. Take the items out in order of the list below and give them to a volunteer, explaining what each represents. Then say: as you can see, this is quite a load for one person to handle. To make this troop a good experience for the girls, I need help. Take an item from the volunteer and ask: who can help us by ____? The leader should be left with the doll (and maybe the handbook).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item:</th>
<th>Represents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A doll</td>
<td>the girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journey Book</td>
<td>program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checkbook/Fake Money</td>
<td>money and financial paperwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juice Box</td>
<td>snacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid Kit</td>
<td>certified first aider for trips/activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cookie box or picture</td>
<td>product sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toy car</td>
<td>transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toy phone</td>
<td>communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scissors &amp; pens</td>
<td>crafts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping Bag</td>
<td>camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample badge</td>
<td>purchasing awards/supplies for GS store</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When describing what you want help with, be specific and realistic about the time commitment. Be sure to include all adult family members if possible.

Explain the Leader/Parent contract and ask all parents to sign it.

What is a Short & Snappy?

- Short training/information segment provided at a Service Unit Meeting.
- Any interested volunteer may lead a Short & Snappy.
- Short & Snappy are 10-25 minutes in length.

Things to Remember

- Have participants sign the sign-in sheet and keep for Service Unit records.
- Stay within the allotted time.
- If you don't have the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate support person.

Supplies Needed

- Leader/Parent Contract
- Copies of Organizing a Parent Meeting
- 15-20 minutes or can be a handout
TROOP LEADER/PARENT AGREEMENT

Please sign, date, and keep a copy of your records as proof to your commitment to make the best possible experience for your Girl Scout(s).

Leader Responsibilities:
- Abide by the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Understand the Three Keys to Leadership that are the basics of the GS Leadership Experience: Discover, Connect and Take Action
- Share your knowledge, experience and skills with a positive and flexible approach
- Work in a partnership with girls so that their activities are girl-led, facilitate learning by doing, and allow for cooperative (group) learning; you and council staff for support and guidance
- Organize fun, interactive, girl-led activities that address relevant issues and match girls' interests and needs
- Provide guidance and information regarding GS group meetings with girls' guardians on a regular and ongoing basis through a variety of tools (which may include email, phone calls, newsletters, other forms of social media and any other method you choose)
- Process and complete registration forms and other paperwork, such as permission slips
- Communicate effectively and deliver clear, organized and vibrant presentations or information an individual or group
- Oversee with honesty, integrity and careful record-keeping the funds that girls raise
- Maintain close connection to your council Volunteer Support team and with other troop volunteers and Service Unit Team support network
- Facilitate a safe experience for every girl

Troop Leader signature ________________________________ Date _____________

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:
- Accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Must complete the girl registration online or paper form and pay the national membership dues. (No girl is denied membership because of an inability to pay)
- Make sure that your daughter is dropped off and picked up on time when attending GS activities
- Communicate with troop leader(s) or others as needed
- Attend parent/guardian meetings by the leader
- Accept an active role in my daughter
- Refrain from behavior that may undermine the leadership of a GS activity/event
- Be prepared for activities and submit requested permission slips, dues and materials in a timely manner
- Follow safety guidelines for activities
- Support my daughter
- Make arrangements with the Troop Leader for absences in order for planning purposes

Parent/guardian signature ________________________________ Date _____________