



girl scouts
san diego

Short and Snappy

Learning Opportunity for Volunteers

Holidays for All

10 minutes

What is a Short and Snappy?

- These short trainings can be provided at a service unit meeting or reviewed individually.
- Any interested volunteer may lead or study a Short and Snappy.
- Short and Snappys are usually 10-45 minutes in length.

What you will need

- Short and Snappy outline

Things to remember

- Stay within the allotted time.
- If you don't know the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate support person.

Questions? Comments?

Contact training@sdgirlscouts.org
www.sdgirlscouts.org

Today, getting to know what traditions — secular or religious — exist among your group of girls can make a big difference in how you approach the holidays with them. Are the activities your troop plans for the holiday season welcoming to girls of different faiths?

Facilitate the following discussion with the group as an example of how to start a sharing dialog with a troop.

Ask the group: What holidays (if any) do you celebrate, particularly during “the holiday season”? Are they tied to your religion? Your culture? Your family’s heritage?

If the girls all observe the same holiday, compare how their families celebrate. Maybe they go somewhere every year to see holiday lights, or go to their grandparents’ house. Ask about family traditions, and whether they’re tied to places each family comes from.

(With younger girls from families that celebrate Christmas, avoid talking about how Santa comes to visit — it might cause issues. But older girls might have fun remembering how their parents presented this to them!)

If there are girls with different faiths and holidays in your troop, discuss similarities. Ask the following questions:

- Does your holiday reflect on the past?
- How many of you have traditional holiday meals?
- What is it that your family eats for that holiday?
- Do you light candles or lights?
- Do you sign cards for loved ones?

Discuss why it is important to share cultures and traditions among your friends. You see other ways of doing things, which is fun *and* helps you be more inclusive, open and tolerant. Consider having the girls bring in their families’ traditional holiday foods and decorations for a troop party. Enjoy your holidays!