

# Games

## Fun with purpose!

Games can be used many different ways in Girl Scouting; breaking the ice, developing teamwork, learning or reinforcing skills, building stamina or just blowing off steam after sitting for too long. Here are some tips for game leaders:

### Choosing Games:

- Be sure the games you select are right for the age, experience and physical condition of the girls.
- Start with familiar games that are quickly learned, then move on to more complex games.
- Avoid games that offend others beliefs or customs. Also avoid games that waste food or other resources.
- Provide opportunities for girls to participate in a variety of games such as get-acquainted games, nature games, action games, international games, relay games, singing games and wide games (games where groups complete activities as they rotate between stations).
- Use the Girl Scout resource books for additional ideas on creating, teaching and organizing games.

### Getting Ready:

- Be interested and enthusiastic about the game yourself.
- Know the game well before attempting to teach it. Identify the safety hazards, anticipate the difficulties and adapt the game to the group and situation.
- Devise method(s) for organizing teams or formations quickly.
- Know your playing area. Make sure to have a safe area and easily recognized boundaries.
- Have equipment ready beforehand.

### Get Set, GO!

- Give the name of the game and some interesting facts about it to help motivate interest.
- Explain the game briefly, giving the basic rules. If needed, demonstrate the game with a small group of girls.
- After explanations, allow girls to get into the desired formation or team positions to start the activity.
- Ask for questions before you start to play.

- If you decide to change rules during the game, try only one change at a time.
- Allow the group to help suggest rules as well. You might say, “Let’s try playing the game *this* way.”
- Stop the game when the enthusiasm is still high. This ensures that the girls will want to play the game another time.
- Arrange for total participation. Devise a plan for rotation. Minimize waiting and maximize playing time.

### **Eight Pointers for Game Leaders:**

1. Establish a warm, positive atmosphere that’s fun for everyone.
2. Encourage everyone to participate and do their best.
3. Be patient.
4. Be fair in your judgements.
5. Show respect for each girl.
6. Encourage fair play and safety at all times.
7. Be flexible and prepared to vary or change the game.
8. Emphasize cooperation and playing for fun rather than winning.

### **The following books are available for purchase:**

- *Let’s Play! Games for Girls Ages 5 – 11* by Toni Eubanks
- *Games for Girl Scouts* by Girl Scouts of the United States of America.