



# SPOTLIGHT on... Connect!

Girls feel connected to their communities,  
locally and globally.

## DISCOVER + CONNECT + TAKE ACTION = LEADERSHIP

"Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others  
belong to us as well." Voltaire

When girls feel connected to their communities, they learn to recognize the importance of building diverse, supportive social networks for their personal and leadership development.\* As they discover, connect, and take action this year; chances are they have reached out, and connected with others, either by asking for help, by delivering service to their community, or even both. Thanking those who have assisted them in reaching their goals is an important part of feeling connected to their community.

\* from Transforming Leadership

January is the perfect time to have the girls stop and reflect on the previous semester of their troop year and think about the help they received along the way. Once they have recalled the connections they have made, have the girls think of ways that they can show their appreciation for these people and the help that they provided.

**Step One – Reflection:** Lead the girls in a reflection about the activities of the past semester of their troop year. Ask them to discuss about what they did, and who helped them, and have the girls make a list. They might surprise you with what they recall about their activities from the previous few months. You may have to prompt them to remember some things such as; don't forget the people who provide your meeting place, drivers to meetings and fieldtrips, and those who provided funds through the fall product sales. Once their list is complete, ask the girls if they could have accomplished as much as they did without the help provided by these individuals? Do they understand the contributions of these people? Are they surprised at the number of people from the community that have assisted them?

**Step Two – Brainstorm:** Now, how can the girls say thanks? There are as many ways of showing appreciation as there are those in the community that can help. Allow the girls to take the lead so their appreciation truly comes from the heart. There are many websites that have ideas that can be shared. Stumped? We have provided a few ideas below to help you get started. For more ideas visit these websites with your girls:

<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/Training/Awards.htm>

<http://www.leaderlobby.net/recognition/thankyou.htm>

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Safety Note:

Don't forget to follow the guidelines for Girl Scouts who use the internet found on pages 128 – 130 of *Safety Wise* and our own council guidelines found in Chapter 8 of the GSSJC Resource guide on pages 7 & 8. Using the suggestions on page 7, you can create an internet usage pledge for the girls to sign. Send copies of the pledge home with the girls so that their parents know what they've agreed to.  
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**Step Three - Create and Deliver:** Whether it be delivering a hand written card or hosting a Thank You tea, remember to have fun with the girls! Be sure to include the girls in whatever method they choose for delivering their "Thank You's"!

The focus of this year's **SPOTLIGHT** activities for the troop, is the 3 leadership keys—Discover-Connect-Take Action. Check out the previous months Spotlights for activities that will help girls **Discover**—August & November, **Connect**- September, and **Take Action**- October. If you need more information about the Girl Scout Leadership Experience see "What's the latest on the changes in the Girl Scout Program" on the homepage of our website:

([www.gssjc.org](http://www.gssjc.org)).

Click on the bullet/hyperlink called "Find out more...Here's the Scoop the new Girl Scout Leadership Experience":

(<http://gssjc.org/join/newprogram.cfm>)

This page will provide you with information about the new Journeys as well as links to additional pages (under the heading of "New Leadership Pathways" to explain all of the information that was provided at our summer "Scoop" meetings.

## Ideas for Saying Thanks

### Bookmarks

Using drawings provided by the girls cut and laminate them to make special bookmarks. Include a thank you message on the back prior to laminating. The girls could also use stamps, pressed flowers or many other methods for creating their bookmarks.

### Layered Bath Salts

2 cups Epsom salts

1/2 c. sea salt

4-6 drops of any essential oil for scents

2-3 drops food coloring (any color the girls choose.)

Place 1 cup Epsom and 1/4 cup sea salt in a bowl. Add 2-3 drops oil. Place the remaining ingredients in a second bowl. Mix well. Layer the colored and white salts in a clear bottle or pretty jar. Have the girls create nice tags and tie them around the container with ribbon.

Allow the girls to be creative— peppermint oil and red food coloring; lavender oil and a mixture of food coloring to make purple etc.

<http://www.parentinghumor.com/activitycenter/craftrecipes/bathsalts.htm>

### "Pat on the Back"

Here's an idea for a very inexpensive recognition idea that works well for an event—such as a thank you tea, or even an end of the year court of awards where the troop could also say thanks. Have the girls trace around their hand on colored paper that has been printed with *for example* "Here's a pat on the back for *Ms. Suzie* for helping with *the Fall Product sale.*" (Usually you can get two hands per page). Then cut out the hands and let the girls decorate to create "nail polish", and "jewelry." Use these hands to decorate the wall during the event, and then give them out for a very visible, but inexpensive way to recognize a large group of volunteers.

<http://www.energizeinc.com/ideas/ongoing.html>

### S'Mores Gift Jars

Layer in a wide mouth 1 quart jar:

1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs (about one sleeve of crackers, crushed)

1 1/2 cups mini marshmallows

1 1/2 cup chocolate chips or mini Hershey kisses or M&Ms

1/3 cup brown sugar

### **Instructions for Jar Label to include with “S'mores in a Jar”**

Combine the contents of jar with 1/2 cup of melted butter and 1 tsp. of vanilla.

Press mixture into a 9 inch square baking pan and press firmly.

Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Cool completely. Cut into bars. Yield 12 bars

<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/SubPages/SmoeresGiftJars.htm>



What are Developmental Assets? Want to know more? Want to dig deeper?

Check out this website on building assets: <http://www.search-institute.org/>

#### A Training Moment

The activities in this month's Spotlight will help girls acquire both internal and external assets.

These activities will help girls attain the external assets of empowerment. Girls need to discover the joy of making a difference. You empower them when you: help them feel valued and valuable; give them opportunities to serve others, and keep them safe.

The internal assets that they will attain are those of positive values. Positive values give girls and youth the "internal compasses" they need to guide them. You help to shape their values when you: model positive values; give girls opportunities to think and talk about their values, and support and guide them as they put their values into practice.