

Attention-Getters

Ways to encourage girls to listen

It's easy to lose the attention of a group of girls, especially when they're excited to see their friends or when they're engaged in a project. Even if the room may get noisy and you may get frustrated, it's never a good idea to yell at the girls to get their attention. Remember that while a Girl Scout meeting isn't school, the atmosphere should still be respectful – for girls and adults alike. There are many fun ways to get girls' attention. You may want to switch between various attention-getters so that the girls won't tune you out.

The following are a few ways to get the attention of your troop. You'll need to explain these to the girls before using them. Explain how the chosen attention-getter works and practice a few times with them. After that, having their eyes on you is a piece of cake! Once you have their attention, remember to thank them for it. This small courtesy will help reinforce that their ability to focus is a positive behavior.

Call and Response

The idea behind Call and Response is that you “call” the first part of the line and the girls who are listening will “respond” with the rest of the line.

You say:

Alligator, Alligator
Window
To Infinity
Peanut Butter
Girl

They say:

Chomp, Chomp, Chomp
Shut It
And Beyond
Jelly
Scout (or: When I say Girl, you say Scout. . .)

The possibilities for call and response are endless! Feel free to make up your own - or even ask the girls to think of other calls and responses!

Other Options

In a normal speaking voice, say: “If you can hear my voice clap once.” The girls should clap once. “If you can hear my voice clap twice.” The girls should clap twice. Mix up the number of ‘claps’ to keep the girls on their toes!

In a normal speaking voice, say: “Catch a bubble, catch a bubble.” The girls should puff up their cheeks as they “hold a bubble” in their mouths.

Purchase a pair of novelty glasses – the bigger and more colorful, the better. When the girls see your glasses, they can bring their hands to their eyes and look through them like binoculars. When everyone has their binoculars focused on you, you can take your glasses off and begin speaking.

Girl Scout Quiet Sign

One Girl Scout tradition that the girls should learn is the Girl Scout quiet sign. This is especially useful when at camp or anywhere that your troop might mix with other troops. As stated in the “Girl Scout Traditions and Ceremonies” section of various training materials:



The Quiet Sign is a way to silence a crowd without shouting at anyone. The sign is made by holding up the right hand with all five fingers extended. It refers to the original Fifth Law of Girl Scouting: A Girl Scout is courteous.

If you'd like to see some of these Attention-Getters in action, check out our YouTube page!