



Girl Scouts – Illinois Crossroads Council



## Tips for Working with Girls (Dos and Don'ts)

### Do -

- ★ Provide an atmosphere of openness, freedom, and trust so that girls will feel comfortable expressing themselves and seeking advice from you.
- ★ Listen seriously to what girls saying.
- ★ Encourage girls to listen to each other and accept one another.
- ★ Be sensitive to the differences in girls' ethnic and cultural backgrounds, religious beliefs, family traditions, and social customs.
- ★ Be in touch with your own attitudes and behaviors related to these issues. Be aware of any personal biases you may have.
- ★ Be a positive role model.
- ★ Use creative methods like games and role-playing to learn what is on girls' minds and what they are experiencing in their lives.
- ★ Help girls feel positive about themselves – their strengths, skills, and abilities.
- ★ Help girls become assertive and let them know it is okay to say no in instances of negative peer pressure.
- ★ Take a preventative approach.
- ★ Give factual information in terms girls can understand.
- ★ Foster the idea of peer support – girls helping each other.
- ★ Inform girls that they should always tell a trusted adult if they themselves or someone they know is in distress or has something bothering them..
- ★ Report any unusual situation or behavior to the service unit manager.
- ★ Review health forms before activities to make sure each girl will be safe (i.e., food allergy), and empowered to participate (i.e., special accommodations).

(Over)

## Don't –

- ☹️ Impose your own values or opinions on girls.
- ☹️ Promise to keep information confidential if it might affect the girl's safety.
- ☹️ Leave a girl alone if the situation may be life-threatening.
- ☹️ Act judgmental regardless of what you are told.
- ☹️ Be afraid to seek help from others when you feel uncomfortable discussing certain topics.
- ☹️ Forget to enjoy your time with the girls.

