

Permission for Sensitive Issues

During the course of an activity, Girl Scouts may be exposed to issues and discussions that are, or could be, considered to be of a sensitive or controversial nature. There is no definitive list of sensitive issues but possible examples include substance abuse, child abuse, puberty/human sexuality, violence, youth suicide and religion.

Many topics are often brought up in a very casual manner while on the way to or at a Girl Scout activity. When signing the Annual Permission form, parents/caregivers give permission for the leader/advisor to answer questions or facilitate conversations as they arise informally (only when a Girl Scout in the troop begins a discussion) Parents/caregivers also acknowledge responsibility for communicating to the leader about any needs their Girl Scout may have in regards to sensitive topics, and of their maturity and ability to participate.

For all planned discussions/activities relating to sensitive issues within the troop, written approval by a parent/caregiver is required for each Girl Scout to participate. If a Girl Scout or their parent/caregiver wishes to opt-out of a discussion or activity, the leader/advisor will acknowledge their right and be sensitive to their feelings. If the activity is being done to fulfill a recognition requirement, the leader/advisor and Girl Scout should discuss an alternate activity that can be done to allow the completion of the requirement.

In all cases, the leader/advisor will follow GSUSA and GSSOAZ procedures, standards, and practices. This guideline affirms the responsibility of all adults to foster an environment of trust, be sensitive to differing attitudes and strong emotions, ensure age-appropriateness of material and be non-judgmental.

Either attached or written below is information about the appropriate age-level discussion/activities proposed. Your signature below gives permission for your Girl Scout to participate with the troop.

Discussion/Activity Date:	Discussion/Activity Topic:	
Discussion/Activity Facilitator:	Discussion/Activity Facilitator Training or Experience:	
Troop Leader/Advisor Name:	Phone:	Email:
List any content/activities that are considered "Sensitive or Controversial":		
List any action steps the Girl Scouts will take when the activity is complete, if applicable:		

Parent/Caregiver: Please complete the section below, tear off, and return to Troop/Group Leader/Advisor.

Discussion/Activity Date:	Discussion/Activity Topic:	
Girl Scout's Name:	Troop #:	Current Grade:
Parent/Caregiver Name:	Phone:	Email:
My Girl Scout: (Check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Has my permission to participate in the discussion/activity <input type="checkbox"/> May NOT participate in the discussion/activity		
Parent/Caregiver Signature:		Date: