Hot Topic on Managing Girl Behavior

(Greet audience and introduce yourself.)

Managing girl behavior in meetings is a really large topic that we will try to cover in a small amount of time. My goal in our time together is to give you some ideas and some resources to try with your troop. This Hot Topic is designed to be a starting place rather than a full workshop. So rather than spend a great deal of time dealing with specific problems within your troop I would like us to concentrate on general problems that are common and be able to spend more time discussing solutions.

Can you help me list some common problems during troop meetings in three words or less?

Examples:

- Cliques
- Bullying
- Shyness
- Rowdiness
- Lack of interest

Now can you help me list some of the solutions that you have found were successful?

Examples:

- Assigning buddies
- Team building games
- Talking with girl and parents outside of meeting
- Changing meeting format to use up excess energy before beginning a project
- Skits to demonstrate aspects of the Girl Scout Law

Often the most difficult thing about managing girl behavior is to maintain our own composure. When we decide to sit down and discuss the problem with a girl and her parents we want to keep calm and we want to listen to what the girl has to say. It can help to practice the conversation you want to have with the girl and/or her parents. In pairs let’s practice talking one
on one with a girl whose behavior is disruptive to troop meetings. Take turns being the disruptive girl and have a little fun with it so your buddy gets some real practice.

If the group is a small one you can do this exercise one pair at a time while the whole group watches.

How did that go? Did you learn anything from doing this practice exercise?

Thank you all for your participation. I have handouts for you that list some resources you can look up and some practice situations.
Resources for Troop Leaders

Safety-wise (pages 19-21)

Volunteer Policies and Volunteer Guide

Age level handbooks and Journeys books

Volunteer Learning classes and workshops

Volunteer Magazine (January 2009 issue, pages 4-5)

Girl Scout Leader Magazine

www.girlscoutsww.org/for_teens/healthyrelationships
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Stratagies</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participants will begin to recognize their peers as resources.</td>
<td>Introduce topic and ask for examples of problems within troops. (Note: limit discussion of problems in order to focus on solutions.)</td>
<td>2-3 min</td>
<td>Can use easel and pad, but not necessary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants will come away with at least 2 new ideas to try with their troops.</td>
<td>Ask for examples of solutions that have worked in the past.</td>
<td>5 min</td>
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<td>Break into pairs to practice one on one conversation with disruptive girl and her parents.</td>
<td>5 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants will be given a handout with a list of resources for more information.</td>
<td>Share with large group about what was learned during the exercise.</td>
<td>2 min</td>
<td>Copies of handout.</td>
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<td>Give handout to participants and thank them for their participation.</td>
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