

# S.W.A.P.S.

"Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned SomeWhere"

Girl Scouts and Girl Guides first gathered for fun, song, and making new friends. SWAPS were widely exchanged at national Girl Scout Senior Roundups in the 1950's and 1960's.

In more recent years, some Girl Scouts describe the types of objects now preferred as swaps by calling them "Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned SomeWhere,"

Why swap? The girls and leaders "S.W.A.P." with new friends they make at various events such as wider opportunities, national meetings and camps. S.W.A.P.S. are made and given to promote friendship and to make new friends. Swapping allows us to share our handiwork with other scouts and to bring back a memento of a special occasion.

Most S.W.A.P.S. are made with pins attached so they can be pinned onto a camp shirt, tie or hat. S.W.A.P.S. do not have to be pins. They can be bracelets, necklaces, council patches\*, event patches\*, or other small items.

## **Girls should:**

- Think about the kind of swap they would like to receive from someone else.
- Try not to spend a lot of money. Make something from donated or recycled material.
- Be creative, and take time to make hand-crafted swaps. (Include directions for making the swap if it is a craft project that can be replicated.)
- Plan ahead so there's time to make the swaps.
- Avoid using food, glass and sharp objects in swaps
- Make swaps that can be worn, used, or displayed.
- Include the information such as your first name and troop number on your S.W.A.P. You Mark it with the date and/or the event name to help identify the S.W.A.P. later on.

## **Girls can:**

- Include swaps with thank-you letters to sponsors and those who helped them go to a travel or *destinations* event.
- Make a display or scrapbook.
- Keep swaps in a memory box or shadow box.

## **When swapping::**

- Never refuse to swap with another person.
- Swap face-to-face, especially if exchanging addresses or email information.
- Always have a few extra S.W.A.P.S. on hand . It is also nice if you give someone a S.W.A.P. who doesn't have one to give in return. That's what being a Girl Scout is about.

**ALWAYS say thank you! A Girl Scout is courteous.**

Martha Bratton, [dpueblos@aol.com](mailto:dpueblos@aol.com)