

Girl Scout Traditions

What's that all about??

SWAPS

SPECIAL WATCHAMACALLITS
AFFECTIONATELY PINNED SOMEWHERE



What are they: Girl Scouts often make small tokens of friendship to exchange with the Girl Scouts they meet while traveling. These little gifts are called “SWAPS,” which stands for “Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere.”

History: SWAPS made their first appearance at national Girl Scout Senior Roundups in the 1950s and 1960s. Historically, SWAPS are a way to provide contact information for girls to stay connected after larger events, a sort of Girl Scout business card.



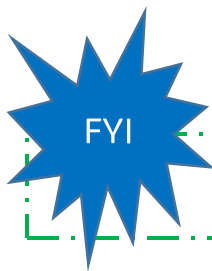
Basics: SWAPS should tell something about the givers or their group. Girls may include their address or e-mail information so others can write to them. They should also represent the girls' country, community, or local Girl Scout council.



Construction: Girls should --

- ✓ Think about the kind of swap they would like to receive from someone else.
- ✓ Try not to spend a lot of money. Consider making something from donated or recycled material.
- ✓ Be creative, and take time to make hand-crafted SWAPS. (Include directions for making the SWAPS if it is a craft project that can be replicated.)
- ✓ Plan ahead so there's time to make the SWAPS.
- ✓ Make SWAPS portable. Remember: SWAPS must be carried or shipped ahead to the event, where other girls will be carrying them away.





FYI

Traditionally, SWAPS are designed with something that can fasten, usually a safety pin.



FYI

SWAPS are made to trade and display proudly!

What to do with them: girls can - -

- ✓ Include SWAPS with thank-you letters to sponsors and those who helped them during travel, meetings, and adventures.
- ✓ Swap with Girl Scout friends-new and old!
- ✓ Make a display or scrapbook for community, council, or family events.
- ✓ Keep SWAPS in a memory or shadow box.
- ✓ Create a quilt out of their SWAPS.
- ✓ Display on a hat, jacket, back pack, or bulletin board.



Safety and Etiquette:

- Swap face-to-face, especially if exchanging addresses or e-mail information.
- Avoid using glass and sharp objects in SWAPS.
- Follow all *Safety Activity Checkpoints* guidelines.
- Avoid using food products. SWAPS are saved for years and you don't want to encourage bugs.
- Always swap with someone who asks; never refuse to give even if they don't have a SWAP to give back.
- Negative comments about another SWAP are uncool and Girl Scouts are always cool 💖



Remember, girls will need to make MANY SWAPS for an adequate supply

Keep it simple and cost-effective

Do the girls' SWAPS look like they were made by children? Don't fret – they are!!

SWAPS don't need to be perfect just perfectly fun 😊



Would the girls like to see more examples of SWAPS to get their creative juices flowing??? There are many websites, including Pinterest, GSUSA, and others, that provide further direction on SWAPS – bust out the Google time!



SWAP without the final 's' means "Share with a Pal".

FYI

Have fun, make friends, and SWAP!!