

Short and Snappy

Learning Opportunity for Volunteers

Money Earning for the Higher Awards

10 minutes

One of the challenges facing every girl going for her Bronze, Silver or Gold Award is financial planning. The rules and regulations associated with money-earning can often be confusing. The following is designed to clear up some common misconceptions about money-earning.

If you plan to engage in money-earning activities to help fund your project you must follow the procedures outlined in the Volunteer, Financial, and Group Policies and Procedures in the Financial Policies and Procedures section. These can be found on the GSNI-M website under the *volunteer* tab then *resources and forms* section. In addition to these procedures, here are some quick tips on different ways to acquire money for your award project.

The Basics

1. **Donations:** You can't ask for money as a girl member or adult volunteer of Girl Scouts. This asking is considered fundraising by the IRS and Girl Scout policies and is prohibited.

What you can do: You can ask for goods or services; however, solicitation of goods must be approved by the Fund Development team prior to approaching any company or business. We ask that you call a member of the Fund Development team at 800-283-4812 or email development@gsnim.org prior to asking for goods or services so we can coordinate our efforts and so that we're not overwhelming businesses with multiple requests all at once.

2. **Tax Exempt Status:** Girl Scout individuals and groups are NOT tax exempt under state law. Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana holds the 501(c) (3) status that is regulated by the Internal Revenue Service. The 501(c) (3) status is a federal law strictly governed by the IRS and does not carry over to individual groups or members of the council. As such, only those donations that come directly to the council are eligible to be considered tax-deductible to the donor.

3. **Fundraising for other Charitable Groups:** You can't raise money for another organization as a Girl Scout. This means you can't raise funds and give the proceeds to a homeless shelter or ask for pledges for a walk to benefit a research effort.

What you can do: For example, you can hold a garage sale or charge

Fort Wayne Leadership and Learning Center
10008 Dupont Circle Drive East
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
T: 800-283-4812 F: 855-422-0084

What is a Short & Snappy?

- Short training that can be shared with a group during a Community meeting or simply read by an individual seeking knowledge on the topic.
- Any interested volunteer may lead or complete a Short and Snappy.
- To receive credit submit to Council either a meeting sign-in sheet or completed Short & Snappy Questionnaire.
- Short and Snappys are usually 10-45 minutes in length.

What You Will Need

- Short and Snappy outline
- Sign-in sheet or Questionnaire
- Handout, if applicable

Things to Remember

- Have participants sign the sign-in sheet and submit it to your local service center.
- Stay within the allotted time.
- If you don't know the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate support person.

Questions? Comments?
Contact jean.orcutt@gsnim.org
800-283-4812, ext. 315
www.gsnim.org

a fee to an approved event to earn money for your project. However, you must have Council permission for any money-earning project. See Money-Earning Projects for more information.

4. **Money-Earning Projects:** These are activities that are planned and carried out by girls and supported by adults to earn money. Girl Scout individuals and groups conducting money-earning projects must have prior approval from the council and are only eligible to participate in additional money-earning projects if they have participated in the Council Product Programs. You must request permission in writing using the Group Money Earning Application form prior to starting any money-earning projects.

Some great ideas for money-earning projects:

- Babysitting
- Leaf raking or light yard work
- Pet walking and pet care
- Recycling
- Tutoring younger kids
- Refereeing sports games
- Party giving (face painting, clowning, magic shows, game leading)
- Making jewelry
- Creating hand-made greeting cards
- Providing a calligraphy service for addresses on special invitations
- Garage sales
- Holiday gift wrapping at local fairs
- Spaghetti dinner

When designing your Girl Scout higher award project, be realistic about planning a budget. Financing your project is a huge part of your project. You will gain great leadership skills by conducting supply drives in your neighborhood, doing council-approved money-earning projects, or finding new ways to serve your community that don't require a lot of cash or fancy supplies. It's better to succeed with a smaller project that is within your budget than to be unable to complete a larger project because it exceeds your budget. Work with your advisor to develop a reasonable budget for your project.

If you have any questions, be sure to check with your advisor, Troop Support Specialist or member of the Fund Development team at 800-283-4812.