

GSCNC Book Club
Event Guide

Setting Up Your Book Club!



For Any Program Level

Introduction

Summary

This guide provides a basic outline for hosting four 60-minute Book Club meetings. Details for discussion questions and activities can be found in the Book Club Meeting Guides (www.gscnc.org/capitalnotes/bookclub/index.php). You are welcome to incorporate as much or as little of these into your meetings.

Leaders, do you belong to a Book Club? Think about inviting others to help host these meetings!

This event guide can be used for any Program Level. Troops do not need to follow the GSCNC Book Guides. They are welcome to choose their own book.

Meeting 1: Setting Up Your Book Club

Welcome: Introduce new people. Play a short icebreaker activity. (10 minutes)

Candy-in-a-Bag Icebreaker

Supplies

- Plastic Sandwich Bags (one of each for every girl)
- Candies: M&Ms, Skittles, etc.

Take a sandwich bag and place a different number of candy pieces in each. Amounts should range between 4 – 10 pieces in each bag. When girls arrive have each one choose a bag. They should not eat the candy. Sit in a circle. Each girl should count the number of candy pieces they have. Then, going around in a circle, girls should say one thing about themselves for each piece of candy they have. Examples: name, grade, school, hobbies, sports, favorite book, “most hated” book, etc.

Discussion: Setting up the rules of the Book Club (15 minutes)

Supplies

- Poster board (or chalk board) to record guidelines. If possible, post at your next meeting as a reminder.

Some important things to think about are:

How will girls get the book? Will girls be required to buy the book? Will troop funds pay for them? Can girls borrow the book from the library? Many libraries will order multiple copies of a book for a book club. If the girls need to purchase the book, is there a cost limit? Note: many library systems have

Meeting 1: Setting Up Your Book Club

multiple copies of books specifically for book clubs. They may also be able to provide a meeting space for you!

What if a girl does not finish reading the book? Make sure girls are enthusiastic about reading the book so that they follow through and finish. If a girl is unable to finish reading the assigned section for a book, decide on guidelines for her participation. You want to make sure that she is included, but do not want her to steer the discussion off-track or be confused about what is being discussed.

Who will lead book discussions? An important part of any book club is how the discussion is led. It might be helpful to have one person lead the discussion, either a troop leader or a girl. This will differ depending on the age and program level of your troop. You can also have each girl come up with her own questions and go around the group.

How will girls participate? Will everyone *have* to talk about the book? Will girls have specific turns to talk (i.e. going around in a circle)? Do girls need to raise their hands? In most troops there are both quiet and talkative girls. You might have some girls who have a lot to say and some who rarely speak up. Have girls come up with a fair balance so that everyone contributes in some way.

Are book club discussions confidential? Sometimes girls will share opinions or thoughts about certain subjects that they might not wish to have discussed outside of the troop. Talk to the girls about why this is important and remind them that they have an obligation to be respectful about other's opinions and to not repeat what was said outside of the troop.

Craft: Create a Bookmark (15 minutes)

Supplies

- 18 inches of hemp cord (one for each girl)
- Various beads with holes large enough to fit through cord

Lay the cord vertical. The top will be the top of the bookmark. Make a knot three inches from the top. Place beads on the cord for 1.5 inches (going away from the knot towards the top). Make a knot at the end of the beads.

Make a knot about 10 inches down from the bottom of the first set of beads. Thread 3 inches of beads (going away from the knot towards the bottom). This is the bottom of the bookmark. Knot it when you are done. Trim the ends of the cord to 1/4 of an inch away from the end knot on both sides.

Meeting 1: Setting Up Your Book Club

Book (5 minutes)

Have girls pick the book they would like to read OR give overview of book to read for the next meeting. Explain what the next three meeting will be like: discussion, activities, and Extension Activity.

Closing (5 minutes)

Closing comments/questions.

Meeting 2 and Meeting 3

Refer to Book Club Meeting Guides for discussion/activity information for individual books: www.gscnc.org/capitalnotes/bookclub/index.php

Welcome and troop business. (10 minutes)

Review sections and discuss book. (5 minutes)

Discussion questions indicated in the book meeting guide. (20 minutes)

Activity (20 minutes)

Closing – Girls decide on Extension Activity for Meeting 4 (5 minutes)

Meeting 4: Extension Activity

Extension Activity - can be field trips, projects, movies, internet, etc.

Explain activities for the day. (5 minutes)

Participate in Extension Activity (45 minutes – 2 hours, times may vary)

Closing (10 minutes)

Ask girls what they learned today. How does today's activity relate to what we read in the book? What do you want to learn more about on your own or do together now that we have finished the book and activities relating to it?