

Girl Scout Tea Party



Girl Scouts[®]

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council



*The Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council's
History Committee*

hosts Juliette Low Tea Parties throughout the year.

*This handout was designed by their volunteers especially for troops/
groups and service units to offer ideas on hosting a tea party
for mothers and daughters.*





How afternoon tea began



Anna the seventh Duchess of Bedford, one of Queen Victoria's ladies in waiting, started the custom of afternoon tea. A lady in waiting is a female personal assistant at a noble court, attending to a queen, a princess or other noblewoman. A lady-in-waiting is often a noblewoman of lower rank (i.e., a lesser noble) than the one she attends to, and is not considered a servant or other commoner. Their duties varied from monarchy to monarchy.

At that time (1819-1901) the upper crust (not of bread, but the wealthy) ate a HUGE breakfast, a little lunch and a very late dinner. Every afternoon, Anna would have a sinking feeling and had the servants serve tea and a little cake to hold her over until dinnertime. She liked it so much, that she soon invited friends to join her. Later on, men were invited to the tea parties as well. Often they would dance in between serving little sandwiches, tea and a bite size cake.

Tea parties became so popular that it became an everyday occurrence.



History of the Teapot's Origin

Genesis of the Teapot

The history of the teapot is entwined with the history of tea. Tea consumption is steeped in myth but there are some reliable historical accounts. According to historical evidence, tea was originally consumed as a food. The point in history where we know tea was made into a beverage is the point at which we can start looking for teapots.

Tea from Food to Drink

The backdrop for the history of the various methods of tea consumption is China where teapots were invented and first produced. We enjoy leaves as food (e.g. lettuce, spinach, arugula) and as seasonings (e.g. basil, thyme, mint), and some people experimented eating tea leaves pretty much directly off the bush. In China during the third century, C.E. tea was added to other ingredients and made into a soup. When people started consuming tea as a beverage, the earliest methods of tea preparation did not require a teapot. Tea powder was boiled in a cooking pot or was placed in a cup and boiling water was then poured over it. With "whipped" or "whisked" tea, tea powder was put into a bowl, boiling water was then added and it was stirred or whipped as vigorously as possible with a bamboo brush.

The Need for a Teapot

When people stopped using powdered tea, tea bricks, cakes and tablets and stopped boiling and beating the leaves, they began steeping loose leaf tea instead. With the change in the way people prepared tea arose the need for a teapot.

Ideas from www.blissborne.com/teapot-library/teapot-history.aspx

A Girl Scout Tea Party

Supplies:

- Guest invitation and apparel
- Hats
- Table Setting
- Placemats
- Manners (see Brownie try-it book)
- Conversation
- Thank you notes
- Juliette Low Story (included)
- Language of the Fan (included)

- Quiet Party Games
 - Get Acquainted Game
 - Kim's Game
 - Drop the Handkerchief
 - Gossip
 - Pin the handle on the teapot
 - Musical chairs
 - Hide the glass slipper
 - Drop the tea bag in an old-fashioned milk bottle
- Crafts: napkin rings and paper fans



Available in the Council Library for check out by troops/groups or individuals:

"A girl's guide to good manners" by Nancy Holyoke—has tips on eating, conversing, invites, parties, etc.

"Manners by Alik" Green Willow Books—for younger kids, good pictures, animated.

"Guide to good Manners for Kids" by Peggy Post—a little more formal type book but good for older girls

Manners

“Good manners will take you anywhere.” Betsy Custer

Leaders/mothers or older girls can facilitate an informal discussion with the girls. You could role play good and/or not mannerly behavior...be careful, this can get out of hand. Buddy with someone to help each other remember their manners throughout the rest of the tea party.

Manners ease the stress of living with others. Mannerly behavior recognizes the right of others to share the space. Many of our daily expressions of politeness reflect this function. Saying “excuse me,” for example, shows that you recognize that you have invaded another’s space, and regret the necessity of doing so. It is a basic tenet in law that it is wrongful to cause damages to another. Since there cannot be a law for every slight, manners serve to acknowledge minor damages.

American table manners

- A prayer may be customary in some families, and the guests should join in even if they are not religious or do not follow the same religion. Most prayers are made before the meal is eaten. The Hutterites pray both before and after a meal.
- After stirring, place your spoon on the right side of the saucer next to the cup.
- Always ask the host or hostess to be excused before leaving the table.
- Break bread into smaller pieces when eating, only butter small pieces, not the whole piece.
- Only eat finger foods such as bread, fries, chicken wings, pizza with your fingers.
- Eat quietly.
- Food and table utensils are not toys.
- Sit up straight and remember elbows out, not on table.
- Begin eating when at least two people are served OR wait until the host/hostess lifts his/her fork (or spoon).
- Speak quietly to your neighbors.
- Myth: you must extend your pinkie finger when drinking from your teacup.
- Utensils are for eating with, not gesturing.
- Place your napkin on the table when you are ready to leave.
- Sip your tea from the cup, not a stirring spoon.
- You look great, no need to touch your face or head during teatime.
- Eat soup noiselessly and with the side of the spoon.
- If at all possible, refrain from coughing or sneezing at the table.
- It is acceptable in most places to not finish all of the food on your plate.
- Keep napkin on lap.
- Keep your feet straight in front of the chair.
- Look into your cup of tea while drinking.
- Eat up at a formal dinner, no take home.
- Ask your neighbor to pass something to you when you can’t reach it.
- Wait until you’ve swallowed before speaking.
- If you must take an urgent phone call, ask your host or hostess to be excused, and go outside. Apologize when you return.
- Sit straight in your chair.
- Elbows go where?
- Rise to greet your guests, and shake hands with them.
- Say please and thank you when passing.
- Spread your biscuit or muffin first with jam or jelly, and then the cream.
- Swallow your food before you sip your tea.
- The fork is used to convey any solid food to the mouth.
- The fork may be used by either the left or the right hand.
- Try a little of each course offered.
- When a dish is presented, the food is served to one’s plate and then passed on to the next person.
- When at an informal dinner, ask for a box when full.
- When at formal dinner it is not required to finish plate.
- When serving, serve from the left and pick up the dish from the right. Beverages are both served and removed from the right.
- When stirring your tea, don’t let the spoon bang against the sides of the cup.
- When using paper napkins, never ball them up or allow stains to show.



Scandinavian countries follow very similar rules.

Ideas from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table_manners
and <http://shenanchie.tripod.com/Articles/teatime.htm#etiquette>

Your Table Setting

Inventory:

Here's a shortcut so that you can know exactly what is yours.

1. Your plate is in the center.
2. Your knife and spoon are on the right and the fork and napkin are on your left.
3. Solids (bread plate) are on your left.
4. Drinks (water) are on your right.
 - a. Think drink is **drink right**

Napkin

- Place napkin on your lap immediately when you sit down.
- The napkin should never be on the table except when you are finished with your meal and leaving the table.

Bread

Now you may take some bread from the breadbasket.

1. You may need to tear a piece from a loaf. Do so neatly.
2. Put your bread on your bread plate.
3. Take some butter and place it on your bread plate.
4. Tear off a bite size piece of bread, and butter only that piece.

Extra utensils

Many fancy meals will have more forks and spoons that we have at a regular meal.

1. Remember to use in the order your utensils are from the outside one and work in towards the plate.
2. The first fork is for the appetizer.
3. The first spoon is for the soup.
4. The next fork is for the salad.
5. When in doubt about which utensil, just observe those around you and follow their lead.
6. Remember to cut small bites and close mouth when chewing.
7. When a utensil is used, it never touches the table again.
8. Your knife should be placed either cross the top of your bread plate or across the top of your dinner plate.

Pace yourself

- You are not in a race, but don't be too slow either.
- Try to eat at the same pace as the rest of the table.

The Finish

- Place your knife and fork parallel to each other and across the plate at the 11 o'clock position with the points away from you.
- Place your napkin, folded loosely, on the table beside your plate.
- Remember – do not put your napkin on the table until EVERYONE at the table is finished.
- You may leave the table along with everyone else.

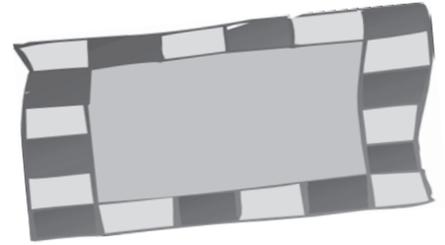


Crafts

Placemats

Materials needed:

- 12 x 17 paper
- pencil
- Plate
- Silverware
- Cup
- Napkin



Procedure:

1. Have the items in front of each guest.
2. Ask the girls to name each item.
3. Talk about what is a place setting:
 - A. Starting your meal with a table that is set properly makes the meal more pleasurable, whether it is a holiday meal or just Wednesday night dinner. Therefore, learning how to set the table is an important undertaking.
 - B. Make the table look inviting with added flare. Use the napkin as part of the decorations. Napkin rings, or folded cloth napkins, add a pleasing touch to each dinner place setting. A simple centerpiece can make a table setting. Place cards are a superb touch when you have company or at a holiday meal - as are charms added to water goblets. Kids and teens love to make these things, so employ their help.
 - C. Give yourself time to remember the little things. Do not put the table setting last on the list of things to do when preparing your meal. You'll need time to remember everything and you will not be able to do that if you are rushing around while people are standing there waiting to sit. Being prepared for little spills and mishaps is also a good idea when setting the family table.
Ideas from http://parentingteens.about.com/od/chores/a/set_table.htm
4. With a time limit appropriate for the age, have the girls, either individually or with a buddy, try to place all the items correctly.
 - A. Walk around to ensure all girls are successful.
5. When everything is in its proper place, trace around each item with a pencil.
6. Have the girls write their name on the placemat and take it up for them to take home.
 - A. Have other placemats for the tea to allow for spills.

Napkin rings

Napkin rings add an elegant touch to any table. Whether simple or ornate, napkin rings add style and finesse and are a perfect finishing touch for casual or formal dining. The napkin ring is used with cloth napkins and their use can be traced back hundreds of years when they were actually used for practical rather than decorative purposes.

They were used to identify the user of the napkins. Before washers and dryers, it was not practical to do laundry every day and the same napkin was used for several meals.

A napkin ring was used to identify who had used the napkin.
Information from www.coffeeandteatime.com/napkinrings.htm

Materials:

Empty toilet paper rolls, cut into 11/2" lengths
Ivy
Stapler
Wrapping paper and glue stick or contact paper

Procedure:

Napkin Rings—Using gift wrap paper or a colorful page from a magazine, cut to the size of the paper roll. Using a Glue stick place on roll with a little edge overlapping at the end. Then wrap a short piece of small ivy around the roll and staple in place. Or if they use a plain color of paper, they could stick on cute stickers—little lady bugs, a butterfly, etc.

Paper Fans

Language of the Fan worksheet included

Materials:

8 x 10" construction paper in pretty colors or wallpaper
rubber bands or ribbons

Procedure:

1. Pleat a piece of paper.
2. Fasten with a rubber band or ribbon bow at one end.
3. Fan out paper.

Milk Delivery

Before milk bottles, milkmen filled the customers' jugs. In 1880 milk bottles were first produced and delivered by horse-drawn carts several times a day. These first bottles used a porcelain stopper top held on by wire.

When the pasteurization process for milk was developed in 1894, the milk could then be sterilized and safely stored for longer periods, allowing for a once daily delivery. 1920 saw the first advertisements on milk bottles, etched onto the glass using a sandblasting technique. This largely disappeared with the introduction of infrared bottle scanners, designed to check cleanliness, in the early 1990s.
Info from www.delivermilk.co.uk/milk.htm

Reusable glass milk bottles

A bottle is a small container with a neck that is narrower than the body and a "mouth." Bottles are often made of glass, to store liquids. For some bottles a deposit is paid, which is returned after returning the bottle to the retailer.

Info from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bottle>

Drop a teabag into the old-fashioned milk bottle

Materials:

Teabags or clothespin for each team
Old fashioned milk bottle or large teakettle for each team

Procedure:

1. Girls form teams, in a gracious and polite fashion.
2. From a height designated about your head height, each girl drops one the item into the bottle.
3. Each girl can have 3 tries.
4. The one whose item goes in the most times, wins.

Hostesses may find some theme appropriate items (glass slippers) and hide them around the room, giving the guests an opportunity to find them.

Napkin Folding

Older girls may like this activity.
There are numerous Web sites and resources in your local library to assist you.



Games

Materials needed:

- prizes
- stickers
- small charms
- small sticky pads with a design
- your girls' ideas

Selecting sides

- The leader might count off everyone by 3's or 4's and then all 3's are a team, etc.
- Everyone wearing a red or blue top be on a team,—look around the room and see how many of one color might be a team first. Could be shoe colors, or color of eyes. If it's a large group it could be everyone with a birthday in April, etc.
- Better not to have them choose sides because then they are with all of their friends, and it's more fun to mix the groups.

Good sportsmanship

- Girls need to be nice to each other
- Let everyone have an equal chance, allow others to answer questions, etc.

Kim's Game

Lord Baden-Powell borrowed Kim's Game from Rudyard Kipling's book, "Kim." This is the story of the orphan son of an Irish soldier in India who grew up among the native boys and was later trained for government intelligence work. The training began by showing Kim a tray of precious stones and gems for a minute's observation, then covering it, and asking Kim how many stones and what kind they were.

At first Kim could remember only a few, but soon, by practice, he was able not only to say exactly how many, but to describe the stones. Then he practiced with other articles, and ultimately was able to glance to see all sorts of details of items that were of value in tracing and dealing with criminals.

In its commonly used form, 24 articles of different kinds — a key, a pocket knife, a computer disk, a coin, a marble, a comb etc. — are placed on a table and covered with a cloth. The player steps up to the table the cloth is removed for exactly one minute; the player looks, endeavoring to remember as many as possible, and the player writes down as many as they can remember.

As with Kim, the purpose of this requirement is to develop the faculty for observation and memory.

Ideas from www.inquiry.net/outdoor/games/b-p/kims.htm
www.artandantiqueemporium.com/table/pages/queen_anne_drop_leaf_handerchief_table.htm

Drop the Handkerchief

Materials needed:

- 4 or more players
- handkerchief

Procedure

1. Form a circle holding hands facing each other. Drop hands.
2. The person that is "it" will skip around on the outside of the circle holding the handkerchief while the others in the circle sing:

*I sent a letter to my love,
And on the way I dropped it,
One of you picked it up,
and put it your pocket.*

3. The person that is "it" will quietly drop a handkerchief behind one in the circle.
4. The person that drops the handkerchief will skip around the circle in hopes the person the handkerchief was dropped behind won't catch them.
5. The people around the circle have to keep checking to see if the handkerchief was dropped behind them.
6. The person where the handkerchief was dropped picks up the handkerchief and skips after the person.
7. The first one to fill in the empty spot wins.
8. The one who loses will be "it" next.

Ideas from <http://library.thinkquest.org/CR0210182/games.html>
and www.playgroundfun.org.uk/gameRules.aspx?gameID=62

Gossip

The game of "Gossip" is not only a fun parlor game for children, but it is a good demonstration of what happens to information when it is passed by word of mouth.

Materials needed: None

Procedure:

1. The players line up in a row or a circle.
2. The first person is given a sentence or perhaps several sentences written on a piece of paper or whispered to her quietly in her ear so no one else can hear.
3. She commits the information to memory and then sets the paper aside.
4. She "whispers" the information, as well as she can remember it, to the next person in line.
5. This person does the same, passing the information down the line until it reaches the end.
6. The last person reveals what she has been told to all assembled.
7. The first person then reads the paper.
8. There are typically no prizes or winners associated with this game, but the results are often quite hilarious. It is recommended for more than six players. Ideas from www.holidaycook.com/party-games/gossip.shtml

Pin the handle on the teapot

Materials needed:

Poster board
Blindfolds
Tape

Procedure:

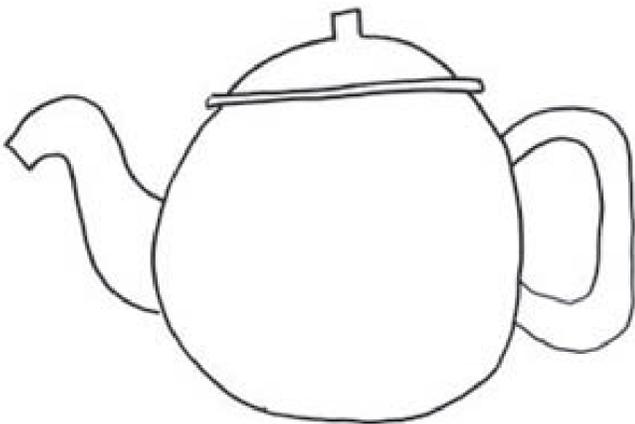
1. Cut the poster board in 2/3's and 1/3.
2. Have the girls draw a large teapot on the 2/3's piece of poster board.
3. Trace the teapot handle on the additional piece of poster board and cut it out.
4. Have masking tape or some other sticky substance to stick the handle on the teapot.
5. Divide up the group into teams, in a polite and nice way.
6. Each team lines up.
7. The first girl in line for each team is blindfolded.
8. Taking turns, each girl tries to pin the handle in the correct place.
9. Continue this until someone is successful.
10. Give prizes if appropriate.

Teapot design from <http://quiltville.com/tonya/teapot1.shtml>

Girls could be singing during this game:

I'm a little teapot, short and stout
Here is my handle [one hand on hip], here is my spout [other arm out straight]
When I get all steamed up, hear me shout
Just tip me over and pour me out!
[as song ends, lean over and tip arm out like a spout]

I'm a clever teapot, yes it's true
Here's an example of what I can do
I can change my handle to my spout [switch arm positions and repeat tipping motion]
Just tip me over and pour me out)
Idea from www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/lyrics/teapot.htm



Musical Chairs

Idea from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_chairs

Musical chairs is a game played by a group of people (usually children), often in an informal setting purely for entertainment.

Materials needed:

Chairs
Music that can be started and stopped (radio, cassette, cd, etc.)

Procedure:

Procedure:

1. The game starts with any number of players and a number of chairs one fewer than the number of players.
2. The chairs are arranged in a circle (or other closed figure if space is constrained; a double line is sometimes used) facing outward, with the people standing in a circle just outside of that.
3. A non-playing individual plays recorded music or a musical instrument.
4. While the music is playing, the players in the circle walk in unison around the chairs.
5. When the music controller suddenly shuts off the music, everyone must skip and sit down gracefully in one of the chairs.
6. The player left without a chair is eliminated from the game, and one chair is also removed to ensure that there will always be one fewer chair than there are players.
7. The music resumes and the cycle repeats until there is only one player left in the game, who is the winner.

Versions:

Instead of using chairs, one version of the game has players sit on the ground when the music stops, the last to sit being eliminated. This is known as 'musical bumps'.

In 'musical statues', players stop moving when the music stops, and stay standing in the same position. If any player is seen moving, they are out of the game.

In the non-competitive version of "musical chairs" one chair but **no player** is eliminated in each round. All players have to sit down on the remaining chairs, while their feet must not touch the floor.

A Cold Wind Blows is another noncompetitive substitute for "musical chairs."

A circle of chairs, one fewer than the number of players, is arranged in a circle. One player is initially designated as "it." "It" stands in the middle of the circle; all other players sit in the chairs. In each round of play, "it" calls out any sentence, beginning with the words "A cold wind blows," that refers to one or more players. For example: "A cold wind blows for anyone wearing blue." "A cold wind blows for anyone whose name begins with 'D.'" "A cold wind blows for anyone in fifth grade."

All of the players for whom the cold wind blows—that is, players that fall into the named category—must vacate the chair that they are in and attempt to find another seat. At the same time, "it" attempts to sit in a chair. When all chairs are occupied, the person who failed to get a chair becomes "it" for the next round. No player is ever eliminated. The game can proceed for as long as players are interested in playing.

Idea from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Cold_Wind_Blows



Get Acquainted Game

Each guest receives one game card to fill in one name of a new friend in each square.

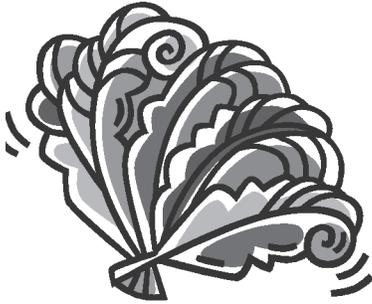
Each guest sign each game only once, please.

Plays the piano	Had a Girl Scout doll	Was NOT born in Texas	Has a dog
Has a sister	Has painted her toenails	Likes to sing	Wears braces
Is wearing blue today	Keeps a diary	Has been to New York	Has a brother
Has ridden on a train	Likes to bake cookies	Owens a pair of pink flip flops	Uses a flavored toothpaste



Leader notes:

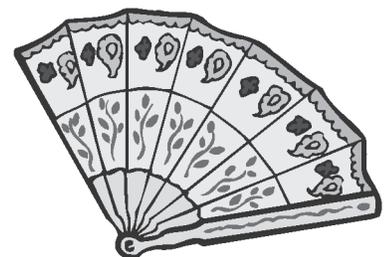
- Explain why women had to find different ways to communicate, i.e. didn't have the freedom of speech we do now.
- See if the girls can match the messages to the action. Before distributing this worksheet, have them guess by stating the message and have them do a fan motion
- By these messages, what can you tell took up the majority of women's time in "what era?"
- What takes up your time...etc.
- Have girls make up their own appropriate and polite messages with each other using the fan. For example: meet you outside, can you come visit, etc.



The Language of The Fan

In the past, hand fans were used as cooling instruments, AND communication devices, mainly for sending love messages. A language of the fan was widely used.

Action	Message
Fanning herself with her left hand.	"Don't flirt with that woman"
Moving her hair away from her forehead.	"Don't forget me"
Slowly fanning herself.	"Don't waste your time, I don't care about you" OR "I am married"
Dropping the fan.	"I belong to you"
Resting the fan on her lips.	"I don't trust you"
Quickly fanning herself.	"I love you so much" or "I am in love"
Passing the fan from hand to hand.	"I see that you are looking at another woman"
Running her fingers through the fan's ribs.	"I want to talk to you"
If she appears briefly at the balcony, excitedly fanning herself, and quickly goes inside, leaving the balcony open.	"I'll go out soon"
Carrying the fan closed and hanging from her left hand.	"I'm engaged"
Hitting any object.	"I'm impatient"
Quickly and impetuously closing the fan.	"I'm jealous"
Hitting her hand's palm.	"Love me"
Half-opening the fan over her face.	"We are being watched over"
Carrying fan in right hand, front of face	"Follow me"
Placing fan on left ear	"Go away"
Drawing across the eyes	"I am sorry"
Lady on balcony, slowly fanning herself, returns inside, shuts balcony door.	"I can't go out"
Drawing through the hand	"I don't like how you are behaving"
Twirling in the right hand	"I love someone else"
Drawing across the cheek	"I love you"
Closing it	"I wish to speak to you"
Letting it rest on left cheek	"No"
Open wide	"Wait for me"
Carrying in left hand, front of face	"Want to meet you"
Twirling in left hand	"We are being watched"
Dropping it	"We will be friends"
Letting it rest on right cheek	"Yes"



The Story of Juliette Low

The participants divide into eight groups, each with a special name and sound effect:

Group	Sound Effect
Little Girls	Stand and giggle
Juliette Low	Curtsy and say, "Be my friend"
Georgia	Wave and say, "hey y'all"
Horses	Say, "neighhh"
London	Bow formally and say "How d'ya do"
Lord Baden-Powell	Sing first line of "London Bridge is falling down"
Boy Scouts	Make Boy Scout Sign and say, "Be Prepared"
Girl Scouts	Sing first line of "Girl Scouts Together"

When you hear your group name, make the sound effect

Story

Once upon a time there was a **little girl** named **Juliette Low** who lived in **Georgia** and loved to ride **horses**. After she grew up, she went to **London** where she met **Lord Baden-Powell**, who founded the **Boy Scouts**. **Juliette Low** was fascinated by the work he was doing. She studied with him awhile, and decided to start a troop of **Girl Scouts** for **little girls** in **Georgia**, who also liked to ride **horses**. So, **Juliette Low** said goodbye to the **Boy Scouts** in **London** and came home to **Georgia** with the idea that **Lord Baden-Powell** gave her. She formed a group of **little girls**, who liked to ride **horses** and do other interesting things, into a troop of **Girl Scouts**. They all loved it so much that the idea spread and now there are **Girl Scouts** all over the United States of America.

(Story reader, please speed up here)

Aren't we glad that a **little girl** named **Juliette Low** from **Georgia**, who liked to ride **horses** and do other interesting things, went to **London** and met **Lord Baden-Powell**, founder of the **Boy Scouts**, and came home to start the wonderful world of **Girl Scouts!**

STATEMENT ON PLURALISM

Embracing and promoting pluralism is an integral part of every activity and plan of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, not disconnected or separate projects. Only individuals willing to accept and be educated about the basic tenet that Girl Scouting is for all girls may serve in volunteer leadership or staff positions.

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