Spotlight On...

Cooperative Learning

Cooperative Learning means sharing knowledge, skills, and experiences in an atmosphere of respect and cooperation. Virtual troops differently involve families and technologies, and activities can require creative resource distribution. Everyone contributes!

Five Key Steps for Cooperative Learning

Plan | Plan group size, style of interaction, and measure of success. Consider 8 C's.

Introduce | Model activity, discuss accountability, set time limits & welcome questions.

Facilitate | Remain engaged, monitor and intervene as needed to help mediate conflict.

Assess | Work with girl scouts to measure personal and collective success. Try these ?'s.

Reflect | Encourage scouts to set goals to improve their contribution to cooperative work.

Try a JIGSAW

Break a big task (like deciding how to use cookie money) into smaller tasks (like researching service projects, events, and camp). Assign each task to a pair, trio or team in a separate breakout room. After a set time, groups report findings, and decide next steps together.

Virtual Spotlight Strategy | Use Breakout Rooms to support small group work.

Pro Tip: gsZoom allows you to preassign groups or assign randomly; and you can activate recording in breakout rooms to ensure accountability.

Rotating Roles

Establish rotating roles to ensure everyone participates in a meaningful way, and use these fun virtual tools to make small group work fun and efficient. Click here for more role suggestions.

Recorder: Track roles and results using "Post-Its" on a free virtual corkboard!

Timekeeper: Try out these online timers to keep your group on task and on time!

Presenter: Experiment with virtual backgrounds to make presenting findings more fun!

Engineering Challenge

Distribute the same number of materials (ex: marshmallows and wooden toothpicks) to each girl scout. Challenge them to create the tallest/most creative structure in a set time then share out.

Alternately: Distribute materials for two projects. Half your troop gets project 1, the other gets project 2. Have girl scouts work in virtual pairs. One scout gives suggestions while the other builds project 1, and roles reverse for project 2. Share out with the whole group at the end.

Adaptable Activities | Check out our Non-Contact Teambuilding Exercises for more ideas.

Pro Tip: Consider an "activity in a box". Purchase necessary materials with troop funds, assemble kits in boxes or baggies, then reach out to families to arrange no-contact drop-offs or pick-ups.

Storytelling Round-Robin

Group leader begins a story by saying the first line. One by one each girl scout adds one sentence with new details to the story. The story does not end until everyone has participated.

Additional Resources

Girl Scouts at Home   Volunteering at Home   GSUSA Resources   Virtual Meeting Tips