

Ten Ways to Involve Girls in Managing Troop Funds

Even very young girls can do things to help manage troop funds. These simple responsibilities you transfer to your girls over time will teach them valuable skills.

1. Elect a girl treasurer for the troop. Her specific responsibilities will vary depending on the age and readiness of the troop in general and the treasurer in particular. Your troop may also want to rotate this position to give more girls opportunities to work with financial records.
2. Have your girl treasurer give a finance report at every meeting. For younger girls this can be as simple as reading aloud the current balance in the troop checking account. As they get older, girls can report on the change from the last reported balance to the current total, reminding their fellow troop members how they choose to spend or earn money.
3. Purchase an inexpensive receipt book. Next time you collect membership dues, have a girl write out a receipt for every check the troop receives. That's one less thing for the adults to do, and it gives the troop a paper trail.
4. Have your girl treasurer do the simple math in the troop check book.
5. When she is ready to apply more difficult math skills, have your girl treasurer balance the troop checkbook (with the help of an adult) when the statement comes.
6. Have your girls help you complete the troop finance report, which is due June 15 every year. You can have the girls determine the category for each expense or income and make sure the category is written on each receipt. They can also help add up the totals for each category.
7. Girls can also make sure receipts for troop expenses are stored in an orderly manner. For example, they can tape them in a spiral notebook in chronological order or by category, or they can sort them into envelopes by category.
8. Help your girls identify a budget for activities they plan. You (or a girl!) can write the math on a white board or flip chart so everyone can see it. Even fairly young girls can do this if you break it down to simple steps. For example, if a group of Girl Scout Brownies is considering an activity that will cost \$5 per girl, write \$5 on the board; then ask how many girls are in the troop, and write that number on the board; then have the girls multiply the numbers to get the total cost. Then write the current balance in the troop checking account on the board and ask the girls if they have enough money to do the activity.
9. Have your girl treasurer write a little summary of troop financial activity as a regular part of the troop newsletter.
10. As your girls get older, have them help develop the troop budget for the year. This will often take multiple meetings, since they will probably have to research costs of the activities they want to do.