

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Service Unit Workshop

Brainstorming with Girls

(adapted resources from Youth Toolkit, engagingtexasyouth.com)

Total Time: 35 minutes

For activity you may have one group or multiple groups depending on number of people

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Identify Five Steps for Brainstorm
- Be able to brainstorm with their troop for ideas

Timing	Strategies	Resources
5 min.	Say what is brainstorming? Give group chance to respond. Definition – brainstorming is a way to produce an idea or way of solving a problem by holding a spontaneous group discussion: "a brainstorming session". Brainstorming can be used to develop a list of anything!	Record group responses.
10 min.	Review basic ground rules for brainstorming and five steps for brainstorming. (give as handout) Discuss reverse brainstorming – allows for new viewpoints to be found by turning the problem around. For example: Water Waste Instead of focusing on how to stop wasting water, think of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All the ways that you CAN waste water to find solutions for stopping• Ways to waste water indoors and ways to waste water outdoors.	Handout attached.
15	Using the ideas presented – have the group or groups brainstorm on a topic. Would be best to provide topics to the group such as Field Trip ideas, Grade Level Event ideas, SU Meeting Topics, etc.	Provide paper, markers and sticky notes to groups Sticky notes can be used for voting for favorite ideas.
5	Recap – Have groups report out sharing successes and difficulties with the exercise. Ask them to share how they will use this with their girls.	

Brainstorming with Youth – Handout

Basic Ground Rules for Brainstorming

1. Criticism is ruled out. To create an atmosphere necessary for uninhibited imaginations, you cannot criticize another's thoughts, opinions, or ideas . . . even you own
2. Freewheeling is welcomed. The wilder the idea, the better! Seemingly preposterous ideas can lead to imaginative, yet workable solutions.
3. Quantity is wanted. The purpose of this activity is to produce a long list of ideas which will, in turn, increase the likelihood of finding good problem solutions.
4. Combination and improvement are sought after. This lengthens the idea list. Actually, during the session, you will "piggyback" on each others' ideas, with one idea inspiring the next.
5. Do not judge, there are no wrong or right answers

Five Steps for Brainstorming

1. Brainstorm Ideas
 - Record all ideas given
 - Keep going – do not discuss them now
 - Quantity not quality
 - Piggybacking is encouraged
 - Do not judge, there are no right or wrong answers
2. Clarify Ideas
 - Discuss all ideas
 - Make sure all ideas are understood
 - Do not judge, there are no right or wrong answers
3. Clump Ideas
 - Group all similar ideas
 - Do not judge, there are no right or wrong answers
4. Prioritize ideas
 - Each person picks the 5 ideas that they believe are the most important
 - Rearrange ideas so that the most voted for are on top
5. Consensus
 - Group discusses what they think are 5 most important ideas
 - Group discusses why they think these are the 5 most important ideas
 - The group needs to be in agreement as the decision is made to recommend these 5 top ideas