

Traditions

Girl Scouts North Carolina Coastal Pines invites girls, families, and volunteers to stay involved while at home. We know that today's girl is ready to pivot on a moment's notice and is willing to embrace new ways to explore Girl Scouting. That's why we're promoting these options for engaging with us while you're at home today ... or any day!

TRADITIONS encourage Girl Scouts to continue to maintain a connection with the Girl Scout traditions. Each Tuesday we'll share ways for you to learn about, celebrate, and practice traditions that are at the heart of the Girl Scout Movement. Join the conversation online. **#OurGSNCCPCommunity**



S.W.A.P.S.

Traditions give Girl Scouts a sense of history and inspire them to be the best they can be.

Sharing traditions with millions of Girl Scouts and the huge network of Girl Scout alumnae who came before them helps remind girls they belong to a big, powerful, and inclusive sisterhood.

What better tradition to discover than that of S.W.A.P.S. First why don't we talk about what the acronym stands for. It stands for "Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere." Definitely a mouth full. Now you know why we call them S.W.A.P.S. On a serious note though what are they? Good Question! SWAPS are small tokens or keepsakes that girls (and adults) trade with other Girl Scouts that serve as a reminder or a memory or special event.

Now let's find out where this amazing girl scout tradition started. They made their first appearance at national [Girl Scout Senior Roundups](#) in the 1950s and 1960s. Historically, S.W.A.P.S. are a way to provide contact information for girls to stay connected after larger events; a sort of Girl Scout business card. Now a days girls usually place troop information on their S.W.A.P.S. SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS!

Let's talk a little about swapping etiquette. When Girl Scouts swap S.W.A.P.S., there are certain norms that should be followed so that all girls can enjoy the experience.

S.W.A.P.S. intended for trading that are taken to a meeting or event should be in a box or baggie. S.W.A.P.S. pinned to the hat or vest are usually considered off-limits unless a Scout offers it to you.

Treat the other girl like you would want to be treated.

- Say "thank you" when you receive a S.W.A.P.
- Don't refuse an offer to swap. It's considered rude.
- Never say anything negative about a S.W.A.P. you receive.
- If you see a girl with few pins or nothing to trade, offer to simply give her a S.W.A.P. It's what being a siter to every Girl Scout means
- When you are passing a S.W.A.P, make sure the pin is closed so that no one gets stuck.
- Don't pin your SWAP onto the other girl. Allow her to do that.



Remind your girls that if they receive a SWAP they don't really like or one they already have, they can swap it with other Scouts. The Girl Scouts should accept each pin offered with a smile and can decide what they want to keep and what they want to trade later.

Questions? programteam@nccoastalpines.org

www.nccoastalpines.org