

SENSITIVE ISSUES PROGRAMS
Guidelines for Leaders

1. The Girl Scout program is wellness oriented and is to be presented in a positive manner. The purpose is to help adults present activities that will enhance a girl's self-esteem and develop skills in communications, problem solving, stress management, personal safety, and family living.
2. GSUSA is an information-giving, educational organization, not a crisis or advocacy organization. Information should be factual and not favoring personal points of view.
3. Council approval must be obtained at least *two weeks prior* to finalizing plans which involve sensitive or controversial issues by submitting the form below to the program center.
4. Parents need to be informed, in detail, about activities that involve sensitive or controversial topics and give permission for their daughter(s) to participate. Parent permission forms for any sensitive issues program are available at the program center or in the *VEG* (page 64).
5. Use trained personnel in your community to present sensitive issues program activities whenever appropriate.
6. If you recognize signs of child abuse, child neglect or substance abuse in girls, or are faced with any other type of sensitive issue while working on the program, it is important that this information is reported to the council immediately. As soon as you return home from your meeting, please use the emergency numbers in the Crisis Communications Plan (page 2).

Such issues are also to be documented on Incident Reports. Please refer to the Incident Report Guidelines found on page 3 of the *Volunteer Enrichment Guide*.

Troop/Group leader _____ Troop # _____ Service Unit _____
Address/City/Zip _____
Day Phone () _____ Evening Phone () _____ Email _____
Sensitive or Confrontational Issue _____

Who is presenting this material? _____
Date of planned discussion? _____
Have parents been informed and permission slips obtained? _____
OFFICE USE: Date received _____ Date approved _____ By _____

**PARENTAL PERMISSION
for participation in a sensitive issue program**

I, the parent/guardian of _____,
give permission for my child to participate in _____
on the following date(s)_____.

I have read the attached description of the activity planned. I understand that my daughter will be exposed to issues and discussions that are, or could be, considered to be of a sensitive or controversial nature. I have discussed the above activity with my daughter and am confident she has the maturity and ability to participate in this activity.

I understand, and have shared with her, that her attendance is optional for all or part of the activity. However, it is my or my daughter's responsibility to communicate to the leaders of this activity our needs *in advance* of the date the activity is to be conducted.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

**PARENTAL PERMISSION
for participation in a sensitive issue program**

I, the parent/guardian of _____,
give permission for my child to participate in _____
on the following date(s)_____.

I have read the attached description of the activity planned. I understand that my daughter will be exposed to issues and discussions that are, or could be, considered to be of a sensitive or controversial nature. I have discussed the above activity with my daughter and am confident she has the maturity and ability to participate in this activity.

I understand, and have shared with her, that her attendance is optional for all or part of the activity. However, it is my or my daughter's responsibility to communicate to the leaders of this activity our needs *in advance* of the date the activity is to be conducted.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date