

Credit where it is due:



The information in this pamphlet was compiled by Cyn Bowen using her own experiences and the amazing information found on the internet. There is so much SWAPS info on the internet it is best for you to do your own searching. The easiest way is to pull up a search engine, such as GOOGLE. Type in %Girl Scout SWAPS+and pages of information will appear. Please remember to use %Girl Scout+especially if children are around. Asking for %SWAPS+information by itself will pull up web sights not fit for young eyes.



One of the best places to find SWAPS history and instructions is MakingFriends.com. The owner of this site is a Girl

Scout leader and it provides not only lots of free instructions but also sells the bits and pieces required to make them. Here is the web address:

<http://www.makingfriends.com>

Below are examples of the SWAPS you can find instructions for on her web site:



If you would like to have a SWAPS training for your Service Unit contact: Claudia Reich at ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org or by calling 800-798-0833.

Simple SWAPS projects:



Toilet Brush SWAP

Materials:

- plastic coffee stirrers
- pipe cleaners
- safety pins

Instructions: Cut coffee stirrers into 1-inch pieces. Cut pipe cleaner into 1-inch pieces. Bend pipe cleaner into a U-shape and insert both ends into the stirrer. Attach the safety pin to the other end.



Camp Bed Roll SWAP

Materials:

- 2" X 6" piece of felt
- yarn
- hot glue
- pin back

Instructions: Roll the felt from short end until it comes to the other end. Then tie yarn around both ends. Add a pin and voila! ...a bed roll!

Girl Scouts of
Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois

S.W.A.P.S.

Special Whatchamacallits
Affectionately Pinned Somewhere



or

Share With A Pal



SWAPS History

The origin of SWAPS is Native American. Potlatch is the ceremonial exchange of gifts practiced by Native Americans of Northwest Coastal tribes.



The idea of Scout SWAPS was started at the original National Roundup Conferences.

At that time a SWAPS was a little remembrance that one Scout gave another. SWAPS are handmade, thus the girl is giving a part of herself to show friendship.



SWAPS are exchanged at National Conventions, Council events,

Wider Ops, service unit or neighborhood events, troop meetings and most frequently at day camp. They can have a tag attached with the event name and date or the troop number, council name or State. In some countries SWAPS are called ~~hat~~ crafts.

Swapping promotes friendship. It encourages girls to talk to other people.



SWAPS are great mementos of a good time as well as a great way to share something about where we live and what we do.



SWAPSing Etiquette

SWAPSing %~~of~~ and don~~ds~~+vary from council to council but there are some basic rules that everyone should be aware of.

- SWAPS for trade are carried separately from the ones you want to keep. Keepers are frequently pinned on to hats or bandannas. Sometimes they are pinned onto a specific area of a shirt or a SWAPS necklace.
- SWAPS for trade can be in a SWAPS bag, zipper baggie, shoe box, a friendship tie or pinned onto ribbon, any thing that can be easily carried. SWAPS are usually 1+to 2+.
- It is considered rude to refuse to swap with someone who asks. If you don~~d~~ like the item you have been given or already have an



identical SWAPS, accept it politely and give them one of yours with a Girl Scout smile. *(Try to make your SWAPS something you would want to receive.)*

- ALWAYS say Thank You!
- Try to have a few extra SWAPS on hand for those people who don~~d~~ have any to give in return. Most SWAPS have a pin on them so they can be pinned to a hat or a shirt but they don~~d~~ have to. SWAPS can be bracelets, necklaces, council patches, event patches, district/division/camp crests, or other small items. SWAPS can also be displayed on a banner, troop flag, or the kitchen curtain.
- SWAPS should NOT contain edible food. Food items can attract bugs and critters when outdoors.

