**Troop Finances (Narrative)**



You’ve made it through Cookies for this year, and are ready to finish out this year with some fun activities or travel adventures.

From cookie sales, the girls learn five essential business skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. Did the girls meet their **goals**? If so, is the troop ready to move forward to plan their big trip or have a scheduled camping trip planned? If not, can they manage their goals, with a little less money? Do they need to do an additional money earning project? That will take some **decision making**. Have them think about what is in the checkbook and how that money will be used for the rest of the year and even into the next year. Most of the profit should be used for spring or summer activities, unless there is a big plan for a couple of years down the road! Discuss what money should be held back for dues for 2019-20, for new uniform pieces if bridging, abridging event, badges earned this year, and some money to start the next year before fall products. This is **money management**.

***With group****: Discuss what their troop plans are for the spring and summer months.*

Additional money earning projects is an option if additional funding is needed. But there are restrictions for how money can be earned. First and foremost, talk to our council for ideas for group money-earning and then fill out the Group Money Earning Form found on our website under forms and documents. Troops will not be approved for games of chance, raffles contests or bingo, or product demonstration parties. Additional information can be found in Volunteer Essentials, found on our website. There are also some suggestions listed.

“Remember, money earned, raised or received by the troop belongs to the troop, and decision on the use of these funds must be made by the girls in the troop.” (from Volunteer Essentials) Individual girls within the troop do not get “more” for selling more when it comes to troop profit. They are individually recognized through the prizes and program credit.

Lastly, it is the responsibility of the troop leader and or treasurer to fill out the **Year End Financial Report** that can be found in the Volunteer Toolkit under the Finance Tab. All troops are required to submit a completed report. It is wise to keep a running total of finances (income and expenses) throughout the year so it will be easier to fill out this report at year end. If you are not saving receipts for your expenses, begin NOW! If there is ever a question on what is being spent by the troop, having receipts will show that it is a legitimate expense. The deadline for completion and submission is **August 31, 2019.** That will get you through all of your summer activities. The report will also be asking questions about the activities and other expenses you have had this year, including what were your achievements and struggles, and plans for renewal.

***With group****: Share if their troop filled out their Financial Troop Report and the best way to prepare before filling out. Also discuss tips and trick for staying organized and prepared.*

There is no handout for this session.