

**RANDOM THOUGHTS ON HOW GIRL SCOUTING
CAN HELP CONGREGATIONS DEVELOP ASSETS IN YOUTH**

<p>Developmental Asset</p> <p>[Copyright ©1997 by Search Institute, 700 S 3rd St., Ste 210, Minneapolis, MN 55415 www.search-institute.org 800-888-7828]</p>	<p>What this asset may look like when nurtured in a faith community</p> <p>[<u>Take It to Heart</u>. Copyright ©2000 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran Brotherhood. Permission to use granted by E.L.C.A.]</p>	<p>Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.</p> <p>[Random thoughts by P.R.A.Y. on how the 40 assets relate to and are supported by Girl Scouting's 4 program goals: self esteem, respect for others, developing values, and service to others.]</p>
<p>1. Family Support Family life provides high levels of love and support.</p>	<p>The congregational mission statement and program ministries focus on nurturing loving and caring lifestyles and relationships</p>	<p>The Girl Scout program presents opportunities for families to be involved with girls in program activities.</p>
<p>2. Positive Family Communication Young person and her or his parents communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from</p>	<p>Children, youth and adults are given opportunities to learn and model skills for healthy communication and grace-filled conflict resolution.</p>	<p>The Girl Scout program presents opportunities for families to be involved with girls in program activities.</p>
<p>3. Other Adult Relationships Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.</p>	<p>Adult members are actively involved in fulfilling their baptismal promise to welcome, encourage, and support children and their parents as members of God's family.</p>	<p>Troop leader, camp counselors, "special interest" adults, God and Country mentors</p>
<p>4. Caring Neighborhood Young person experiences caring neighbors.</p>	<p>Inreach: All areas of ministry are committed to nurturing the needs and strengths of children, youth, and families.</p> <p>Outreach: The church is sensitive to the dynamics of the surrounding neighborhood and looks for ways to engage its neighbors in a family-friendly way.</p>	<p>Troops/groups are often based in neighborhoods.</p>
<p>5. Caring School Climate School provides a caring, encouraging environment.</p>	<p>Members of the congregations work with local schools to ensure that they provide a safe and supportive environment for learning.</p>	<p>Troops/groups are often based in schools.</p>
<p>6. Parent Involvement in Schooling Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.</p>	<p>Parenting classes offer helps and encouragement for active involvement in the education of their children.</p>	<p>Girl Scout leaders are often parent volunteers at school.</p>
<p>7. Community Values Youth Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.</p>	<p>Children, youth and adults perceive that they are welcome, needed, and valued members of your faith community.</p>	<p>Program Goal #4 (Service to others) Youth empowerment Involvement in decision making Troop meetings Councils model this</p>
<p>8. Youth as Resources Young people are given useful roles in the community.</p>	<p>The interests and gifts (talents and abilities) of children, youth, and adults are identified and nurtured through a variety of opportunities for leadership and involvement.</p>	<p>Program Goal #4 (Service to others) Leader-in-training Counselor-in-training Gold Award projects Leadership Award Mentors: older girls teaching younger girls</p>
<p>9. Service to Others Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.</p>	<p>There are on-going intergenerational and age-appropriate ways to reach out to others in the church and community.</p>	<p>Program Goal #4 (Service to others) Service Projects Core element in Girl Scout Promise</p>

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10. Safety Young person feels safe at home, at school, and in the neighborhood.	Congregational policies for personal and physical safety are always considered in program planning, volunteer recruitment, and leadership development.	First Aid / CPR Contemporary Issues: Growing Up Female Safety Wise Program/property facility management Adult Training courses Forms Manual
11. Family Boundaries Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.	There is a congregational commitment to model and teach children, youth, and adults the importance of rules, expectations, and accountability in relationships.	Girl Scout values can help uphold family boundaries and expectations.
12. School Boundaries School provides clear rules and consequences.	The congregation stays informed about and strives to support the goals, rules, and expectations of local schools, and works to create consistent boundaries in its own educational programs and events.	Girl Scout values can help uphold school boundaries and expectations.
13. Neighborhood Boundaries Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.	Adult members of the congregation take initiative in affirming and monitoring the behavior of younger members.	Girl Scout values can help uphold neighborhood expectations.
14. Adult Role Models Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.	Parents and other adults model lifestyles and behaviors that are Christ's style - caring, consistent, healthy, and responsible.	Leader Awards/recognitions Atypical female career Gold Award projects require adult mentors God and Country counselor God and Service recipients
15. Positive Peer Influence Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.	It is a congregational priority to exhibit a sense of unconditional love, support, and age-appropriate maturity.	Program Goal #2 (Respect for others) Troop government/structure and expectations: each girl gets a chance to be a leader
16. High Expectations Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.	Programs and relationships inspire a desire in children, youth, and adults to see themselves as uniquely gifted children of God.	Girl Scouting encourages age level progression in activities and recognitions.
17. Creative Activities Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.	There are ongoing opportunities to develop and encourage talents and interests in vocal and instrumental music, drama, and artistic expression.	Exposure through troop/group activities and recognitions.
18. Youth Programs Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs or organizations at school and/or in the community.	There are a variety of age-appropriate programs for meeting social, spiritual, recreational, athletic, and academic needs.	Troop activities "Special Interest" Activity groups
19. Religious Community Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.	Well-planned programs with youth and family-friendly schedules are offered on Sunday and other days. The settings for Christian education are unconditionally loving, supportive, and accepting. There is a strong partnership between the church and the home in fostering a child's social, emotional, and spiritual growth. Children, youth, parents and other members have a clear understanding of the goals, rules, and expectations of educational programs and events.	Religious Recognitions programs Girl Scout Promise and Law

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20. Time At Home Young person is out with friends “with nothing special to do” two or fewer nights per week.	Children, youth, and adults appreciate the importance of leisure time at home. They also perceive the church as a safe and supervised “home away from home” to be with other members of God’s family.	Independent work on recognitions
21. Achievement Motivation Young person is motivated to do well in school.	Congregations find ways to support children and youth in their school work. A focus on competition to “be the best” is replaced with an ongoing inspiration to “do their God-given best.”	Girl Scout program encourages achievement, leadership development, and “doing one’s best” in all aspects of life (including school).
22. School Engagement Young person is actively engaged in learning.	Children, youth, and families are enthusiastic participants in educational programs.	Girl Scout program encourages achievement, leadership development, and “doing one’s best” in all aspects of life (including school).
23. Homework Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.	After-school study halls at church, guided by peer or adult tutors, nurture academic accountability and support.	Girl Scout program encourages achievement, leadership development, and “doing one’s best” in all aspects of life.
24. Bonding to School Young person cares about her or his school.	Children and youth are encouraged to be active participants in their schools.	Troops/groups are often encouraged to do service projects for schools.
25. Reading For Pleasure Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.	Books and periodicals in the youth room and church library increase youth interest and involvement in reading.	QSP reading programs “Brownie” library books
26. Caring Young person places high value on helping other people.	Children, youth and adults place a high value on helping others. They are engaged in ongoing acts of kindness.	Program Goal #3 (Developing values) GS Promise and Law Service projects
27. Equality & Social Justice Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.	Children, youth and adults have a passion for fair and just treatment and care for all God’s children.	Program Goal #2 (Respect for others) Contemporary Issues: Gender Equality
28. Integrity Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.	Children, youth, and adults have a strong sense of what they believe and an inner strength and commitment to act accordingly.	4 Program Goals: self esteem, respect for others, developing values, service to others
29. Honesty Young person “tells the truth even when it is not easy.”	Children, youth, and adults exhibit a growing interest and commitment to speak the truth in love.	Program Goal #3 (Developing values) GS Promise and Law Girl Scouts: Who We Are: What We Think
30. Responsibility Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.	Children, youth, and adults are accountable to themselves and others.	Program Goal #3 (Developing values) Caper Charts 4 Program Goals Self government teaches responsibility
31. Restraint Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.	A growing awareness of a lifestyle that’s Christ’s style empowers children, youth and families to refrain from unhealthy sexual and drug-related behavior.	Program Goal #3 (Developing values) Issues for Girls Video: Talking to TJ
32. Planning and Decision Making Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.	Children, youth and adults express a growing maturity in their ability to plan ahead and make good choices, ever mindful of God’s power to protect, guide and daily forgive them. They acknowledge God’s presence in their daily walk.	Gold Award Girl planning is part of Girl Scouting at the troop through council level

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33. Interpersonal Competence Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.	Inspired by 1 John 3:16-18 children, youth, and adults model a friendship, empathy and sensitivity to others they meet each day.	4 program goals
34. Cultural Competence Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.	Children, youth, and adults value a Christian understanding of age, gender, culture, and ethnic diversity. (Galatians 3:28)	Diversity training for girls and adults 4 program goals Council-wide activities Camp
35. Resistance Skills Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.	Children, youth and adults have been empowered and equipped with a strong confidence and ability to resist peer pressure and potentially dangerous situations.	Program Goal #3 (Developing values) Video: Talking with TJ All activities reinforce these assets
36. Peaceful Conflict Resolution Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.	Children, youth, and adults have been equipped with peaceful, practical, grace-filled options for conflict resolution.	Program Goal #2 (Respect for others) Video: Talking with TJ Contemporary Issues All activities reinforce these assets
37. Personal Power Young person feels he or she has control over “things that happen to me.”	Children, youth, and adults have been inspired with an appropriate understanding of Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things in him who strengthens me.”	4 program goals Troop government Wider Ops (i.e. opportunities beyond the troop)
38. Self-esteem Young person reports having a high self-esteem.	Children, youth, and adults value themselves as baptized, loved, and forgiven children of God.	Same as above
39. Sense of Purpose Young person reports that “my life has a purpose.”	Children, youth, and adults have a growing sense of vocation or purpose with age-appropriate understandings of 1 Corinthians 12:24-31.	Same as above
40. Positive View of Personal Future Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.	Children, youth and adults are optimistic about their future with age-appropriate understandings of Hebrews 12:1-2b. “We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our life complete.”	Same as above Career exploration Gold Award