Policies for Sensitive Issues Programs and Activities

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

Reference: What We Stand For, Safety-Wise, Issues for Girls, *Blue Book of Basic Documents*

GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL OF TROPICAL FLORIDA, INC.

It shall be the policy of the Girl Scout Council of Tropical Florida, Inc. that:

1. Existing Policies and Practices for Operational Volunteers (adopted by the Board 1/15/85, Pers. #158) will be implemented for all volunteers.

2. Leaders planning to conduct contemporary or sensitive issues program activities must take specialized training offered by the Council or an approved community agency, unless leaders possess technical competence and the ability to share specialized skills in related topics.

3. Prior to conducting a contemporary/sensitive issues program or activity, leaders must inform the Service Unit Director of the topic, date, duration, location, purpose and audience and consultant (if applicable).

4. Leaders planning to deal with a contemporary or sensitive issue beyond the content of the GSUSA materials must first seek approval and support of the council's staff member assigned to Program management in order to locate approved resources and experts in specific content areas.

5. Leaders must obtain parental approval and/or disapproval for every girl wishing to participate in one or more contemporary or sensitive issues program activities. Leaders must give parent/guardian the right to decide whether a girl will participate.

6. Leaders must comply with Girl Scout Council reporting procedures for all incidents or conflict situations arising out of contemporary or sensitive issues programs, using appropriate forms.

7. All adults in Girl Scouting must be aware of their roles as health and safety models for girls and must comply with the program standards and activity checkpoints listed in Safety-Wise.

   Prohibitive behaviors include:
   a. Any disregard for local, state and federal laws and ordinances.
   b. Smoking cigarettes in non-smoking areas or in the presence of girls.
   c. Abuse of prescription or over-the-counter drugs.
   d. Use of alcohol, other intoxicants or illegal drugs.
   e. Possession and/or use of firearms during Girl Scout activities or at sites.

8. Leaders must obtain parental permission prior to dispensing any medication - prescribed or non-prescribed - to a girl.

9. Leaders must observe legal and ethical responsibilities in reporting any suspected case of child abuse or neglect.