

# Swap Tips

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## What

Girl Scouts often exchange gifts of friendship when girls or troops come together. In Girl Scouting, we call these gifts of friendship "SWAPS". Swaps are usually worn on the girl's camp hat and include a safety pin with which to attach the swap to a hat.

## Where

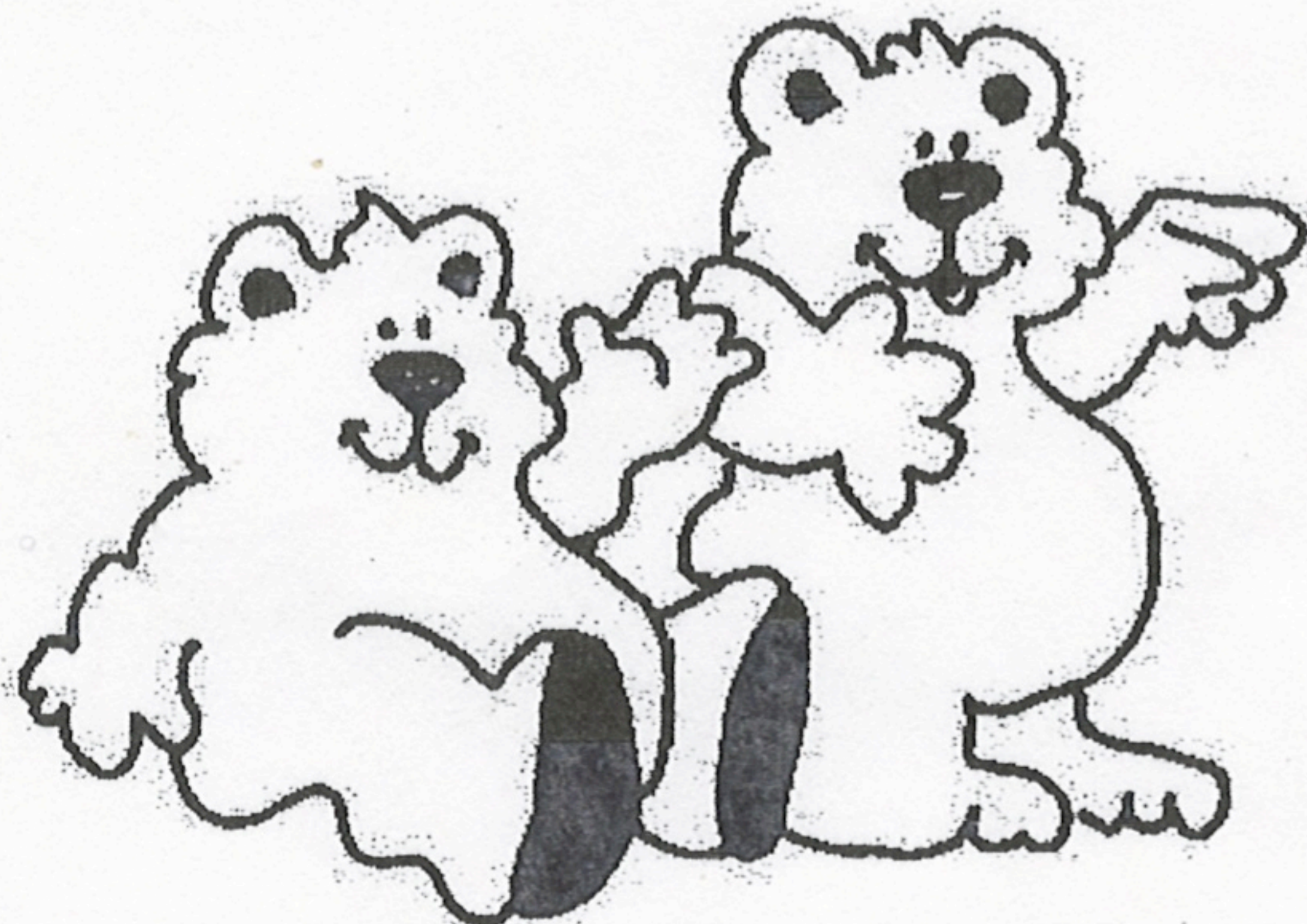
Exchanges can happen at special events such as an inter-troop cookout or campfire, or at Association or Service Unit Events such as Encampments, Thinking Day and Day Camp. Cadettes and Seniors going on Wider Opportunities might also want to exchange swaps

## Quantity

For troop event exchanges, every girl in the troop usually makes the same swap, so she only needs to make as many swaps as there are troops participating plus a few extras. However, it is best to make arrangements with the other leaders to insure all girls get at least one of each kind. Often adults like to trade their own swaps too.

## Quality

Girl Scouts of all ages love to make swaps. When choosing a swap idea, it is important to remember the girls' skill level. It is better to have a simple, well-made, attractive swap than to have a fancy, complicated, sloppily made swap that no one else wants to exchange. The swap ideas in this booklet give suggested age level



## Production

If the idea is complicated or time-consuming, you may wish to pre-cut or sort materials to keep the younger girls interested in the project. Making a sample in advance is recommended. Also swaps made at a troop meeting make a fun activity and insure quantity and quality of production. It is also suggested that the troop leader safe-keep the girl's swaps and bring them to the event. Gallon plastic Ziploc bags labeled with the individual girl's name help keep swaps from getting misplaced at the event.

## Cost

Most swaps cost between 1 and 5 cents each to make. Recycled, discounted, or out-of-season materials help keep the cost down. Parents can save throwaways, e.g., bottle caps and margarine tubs, for the troop's projects too.

## Labeling

Labeling each swap with the troop number, event name and date/year can make the swap more memorable. Permanent, fine-tip markers are good for labeling; however, computer generated strips of paper which can be laminated are much quicker to produce. A hanging thread often facilitates fastening the swap to the hat and it is best to attach a safety pin to each swap too.

## Logistics

At the actual swap exchange, it is important to tell the participants how the exchange will happen, especially if more than one age group is trading swaps. Daisy and Brownie girls may become overwhelmed by the magnitude of the activity. Leaders may wish to work out the logistics before the event. Swap time should be a fun and memorable time.