**Junior Agent of Change**
**Take Action Project Sample Sessions: Read-A-Thon**

There is no argument when it comes to the importance of reading. To promote reading among Girl Scouts and the greater community, girls can organize and participate in a Read-A-Thon. A Read-A-Thon is a spin on a traditional book drive; instead of solely collecting books, girls earn book donations through reading. Girls will ask for pledges of children's books based on the number of books they pledge to read. Girls can donate the children's books to the library, a children's hospital, a day care center, a crisis nursery, doctor's waiting room or anywhere else they can think of. Girls can also take a trip to the site where they will donate books and read to children.

**Session 1**
Book Concentration—*think about books*
Missing Books—*create list of possible donation recipients*

**Session 2**
Goal Setting—*set reading and collecting goals*

**Session 3**
Reporting—*report progress*
Collecting & Marking—*gather book donations and make bookplates*

**Session 4**
Site Visit—*donate books*

**Session 4**
Roundtable Storytelling—*think about project experience*

**Session 1: Book Concentration**
Objective: Encourage girls to think about the importance of books in everyday life.
Time Allotment: 10 minutes
Prep Needed: Become familiar with the game Concentration.

Game:
1. Girls sit in a circle.
2. Establish a six-count rhythm by slapping thighs twice palms down, clapping hands together and snapping first with one hand and then the other.
3. Once everyone is in rhythm, chant "Con-cen-tra-tion, now- in- ses-sion, rea-dy, be-gin" and name a category such as "types of books," "favorite books," "famous books," "where to find books," "other things to read," etc.
4. Moving clockwise around the circle, each person takes a turn saying the name of a book, etc. on the snap beats only. The slapping and clapping beats are pauses for thinking.
5. See how long the group can go without stopping the rhythm.

**Session 1: Missing Books**
Objective: Create a list of possible book donation recipients.
Time Allotment: 10 minutes
Materials Needed:
- Chalk and chalkboard or large sheets of paper

Brainstorm:
1. Gather girls around chalkboard or the paper.
2. Brainstorm places where children spend time entertaining themselves. Some suggestions are:
   - Doctor's offices
   - Day care centers
   - School libraries
   - Shelters
   - Crisis nurseries
   - Children's hospital
3. Vote on a place to donate books.
4. Follow-up calls may be necessary to determine if the site will accept donations and which books they prefer.


## Session 2: Goal Setting
Objective: Set goals for the Read-A-Thon.
Time: 20 minutes
Materials Needed:
- Read-A-Thon Pledge Form (end of packet)
- Read-A-Thon Goal Worksheet (end of packet)

Prep Needed: Become familiar with how to set Read-A-Thon goals. Copy worksheet and forms for each girl.

Group Work:
1. Explain the Read-A-Thon. Each girl will ask friends, family, teachers, etc. to pledge to donate a book based on how many books the girl chooses to read. The Read-A-Thon can be done over a period of time or it can be done as a reading slumber party.
2. Work together to fill out the Read-A-Thon goal sheet.
3. Each girl receives a pledge sheet and fills it out.
4. It may be beneficial to practice asking for pledges. It may also be beneficial to research appropriate book titles for donation and deliver a list of book titles to the people who pledge at the time of the pledge.


## Session 3: Reporting
Objective: Girls share their progress.
Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Sharing Circle:
Each week girls report on their pledges and their reading progress. This is an excellent time for girls to share good books with each other.


## Session 3: Collection and Marking
Objective: Collect and make bookplates for the books.
Time Allotment: 20 minutes
Materials Needed:
- Plain white office labels or bookplates

Collection and Craft Activity
1. After girls have completed the reading portion of their Read-A-Thon they can contact their pledges and plan to collect the children's books. Pledges may need to be reminded of the appropriate books to donate. Girls may want to make additional lists of titles to give pledges.
2. After girls have collected the books, they may want to make bookplates for the books. These bookplates can include the troop number, the recipient's name and a donation wish to the reader of the book. It may read:

**This book was donated to the Children's Hospital in _____
by Girl Scout Troop #_____ (Month, Year). Happy Reading!**

**Session 4: Site Visit**
Objective: Girls meet recipients or see where the books will be used.
Time Allotment: 45 minutes
Prep Needed:
- Arrange for site visit.

Site Visit
Make a visit to the site where girls are donating books. Girls may be able to spend some time with children by reading the books. Girls will get to see where the books are going and who will use them.

**Session 5: Roundtable Storytelling**
Objective: Girls create a story based on their experience with the Read-A-Thon.
Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Sharing Circle:
1. Girls sit in a circle.
2. One person begins with a sentence that starts a story.
3. The next girl adds on a sentence and so on.
4. The title of the story is "Our Read-A-Thon".
5. Girls tell the story of their service project one sentence at a time.

# Read-a-Thon Pledge Form

Name: _____ Troop #: _____

Troop Leader Name and Phone Number: _____

Donation Recipient: _____

Troop Goal: _____ Girl Goal: _____ Books per Week: _____

| Name: | Address: | Phone Number: | I pledge _____ books per _____ books read. |
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**Read-a-Thon Goal Worksheet**

1. How many books would you like to donate? _____

2. How many girls will participate? _____

3. Divide the number of books to be donated by the number of girls participating. This is each individual's goal of books to donate.

   Example: The troop's goal is 100 books. 10 girls will be participating. 100/10 = 10. Each girl's goal is to donate 10 books.

1. Your goal: _____

2. How many books do you read in a week? _____

3. How long is your Read-A-Thon in weeks?_____

4. Multiply the number of books you read in a week by the length of your project in weeks. This is the number of books you pledge to read for the Read-A-Thon.

   Example: You read three books a week. Your Read-A-Thon will last three weeks. 3 x 3 = 9. You pledge to read 9 books in three weeks.