

SWAPS

Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere

Girl Scouts have many traditions, SWAPS being one of them. SWAPS stands for “Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere” or SWAP “Shared With a Pal”.

SWAPS are small tokens of friendship that Girl Scouts can exchange with one another. SWAPS do not need to be complicated or require a lot of supplies—part of the Girl Scout Law is to use resources wisely! Making SWAPS the perfect opportunity to use old craft supplies or recycled objects.

How to earn the SWAPS patch the Girl Scout way:

Steps:

1. **Discover**—Learn about the history of SWAPS.
2. **Connect**—Make a SWAPS.
3. **Take Action**—Share your SWAPS with another Girl Scout.

Materials Needed:

In order to complete this patch, you’ll need:

- Resources (You can either go online with an adult or ask an older or former Girl Scout.)
- Piece of felt or fabric (approx. 2” x 6”)
- Ribbon, string, or yarn
- Foam or cardstock (approx. 1.5” x 3”)
- Marker or pen
- Safety pins (one per SWAPS)

Step 1

Learn about SWAPS.

With the help of an adult, go online and learn about SWAPS or find a local Girl Scout volunteer who knows the history of SWAPS. See if you can find answers to the following questions:

- Where did SWAPS originate?
- Why do Girl Scouts make SWAPS?
- How do you exchange SWAPS?

Step 2

Make a SWAPS.

Gather your supplies and get ready to make SWAPS. Use the ideas below or find your own ideas online—whichever you choose, be creative!

Sleeping Bag SWAPS

Supplies needed: Felt or fabric, ribbon, string or yarn, safety pin

Directions:

1. Tightly roll your piece of felt or fabric, like you would a sleeping bag
2. Wrap your ribbon, string, or yarn around one end of the sleeping bag. Repeat at the other end.
3. Carefully attach safety pin to felt or fabric.



Step 2 - Continued

Girl Scouts Rule SWAPS

Supplies needed: Foam or cardstock, marker, safety pin

Directions:

1. Cut out rectangular piece of foam or cardstock. No larger than 1.5" X 3".
2. Draw ruler lines on the foam or cardstock. This does not have to be to scale.
3. Add "Girl Scouts Rule!" to the front or back of the SWAPS and carefully attach the safety pin.



Step 3

Share your SWAPS with another Girl Scout.

Now that you have made a SWAPS, it's time to swap them! Attend a Girl Scout event to swap your SWAPS with another Girl Scout. Here are some ways to share your SWAPS with your Girl Scout sisters:

- Plan a local Girl Scout event or SWAPS Meet for girls in your community. Be sure to let everyone know what you learned about SWAPS.
- Find a virtual SWAPS meet online (with an adult) to swap SWAPS with Girl Scouts from around the United States or world.
- As you plan or attend an event where you can swap your SWAPS with another Girl Scout, keep these SWAPS Safety and Etiquette tips in mind.

Girl Scouts should:

- Never pin your SWAPS onto the other girl. Allow her to do that herself.
- Never refuse to swap with another person.
- Avoid using glass or sharp objects in SWAPS.
- Follow all Safety Activity Checkpoints guidelines.
- Avoid using food products.
- If you see a girl with few SWAPS or nothing to trade, you should offer to give her a SWAPS.



All done? CONGRATULATIONS!

You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the SWAPS patch.

After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at 800-248-3355 to purchase your patch.* A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash or tunic.

*Patch shown may be substituted with similar patch, based on availability.