

# How To Tell If The Girl Adult Partnership Is Working

The Girl/Adult Partnership for GS 11-17

If your girls are not at this age level yet, read on and understand the path you should be following to reach it.

We know girl/adult partnership and planning is happening when:

- Girls are allowed to make mistakes (as long as they are non-threatening)
- Everyone has a chance to voice her opinion
- Brainstorming is an accepted way of generating ideas
- Girls and adults are talking with each other
- Girls are participating in self-governance
- Girls are making their own plans, and adults are encouraging them
- There is evidence of compromise and trust exists on both sides
- Girls tell the advisor the agenda
- Girls are actively directing an event
- Girls are planning complete events
- Events for older girls have greater attendance because they have done the planning
- More events are occurring
- Girls take responsibility for getting consultants, drivers, and permission forms and for reading
- Girls ask "What does Safety-Wise say?"
- Everyone's schedules are taken into consideration

- Meetings run smoothly and in a timely fashion, with everyone participating
- Both sides live up to agreements and project commitments
- Girls and adults say "our" project
- Everyone's ideas are respected
- Responsibilities are rotated equally or agreed upon democratically
- Girls take the adults along "to drive the car and sign the checks"
- A girl says "I can do that-I can do anything"
- The premise that Girl Scouting is for the girl guides decision-making

#### Adults Actions Are:

- The advisor asks girls what is going to happen
- Adults are sitting around serenely
- Adults are close enough to answer questions when needed-and far enough away not to interfere
- Adults ask, "What can I do?"
- Adults do not speak for girls if groups are asked to report out
- The advisor asks each girl in the troop for her opinion
- Adults can let go of ideas, traditions, histories, and stereotypes
- The advisor comes back "less tired" and more relaxed than her girls

Of course, this is a process. The more the girls are nurtured through it, the more effective they will become.