

G-I-R-L-S: 5 Problem-Solving Guidelines



If your group is facing a big challenge or comes face-to-face with an issue girls cannot agree on, use the steps below. And remember: The key is to support girls in solving the problem or issue themselves.

G—Gather the facts. Sometimes a visual can help a group. Brainstorm and list information on a big piece of paper. Be sure that all sides of the story are represented.

I—Indicate whether the problem is solvable by you and the girls exclusively. Think of all the ways the problem can be solved. You may have to include other adults to act as mediators or objective listeners.

R—Recommend possible solutions as a group. Discuss the consequences. Some actions may have a positive impact and some may have a negative effect.

L—Look for a mutually agreeable solution. You can make decisions in a number of ways: by deciding for the group, by having the group vote democratically, or by having each person take a moment to share her opinion until everyone in the group reaches a consensus.

S—Solved? Make the solution happen. Let the girls in your group try to implement their decisions on their own. Provide guidance and reminders to keep them accountable— and thus “responsible for what I say and do”—when needed.