



Discover: Discover SWAPS are and the tradition behind them.

Connect: Learn how to make your own SWAPS

Take Action: Make your own SWAPS to keep and share

Step 1: Discover SWAPS

- **SWAPS:** Girl Scouts often make small tokens of friendship to exchange with the Girl Scouts they meet while traveling. These little gifts are called "SWAPS," which stands for "*Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere.*"
- The exchanging of Girl Scout swaps dates back to the first round ups in the 1950's and 60s as a way to create international friendships. A round up, a gathering to show off the best of international Girl Scouts occurred every three years. The first round up was held at Highland State Park, Milford, Michigan on June 29th 1956. 5,000 girls attended the Americana themed event. The swaps were intended to encourage a correspondence with someone from other state or country. Today *swaps are exchanged at council, service unit or troop events, day camp, neighborhood events and national conventions.* During quarantine, SWAPS are being mailed to girls in other areas, there are FACEBOOK GROUPS dedicated to exchanging SWAPS worldwide.
- **Swap Guidelines:** As a general rule Swaps should be about one to two inches in length, include a safety pin and have the scouts name and troop number attached. Girls usually take a theme, either about themselves or the event they are attending and create a swap using a variety of materials. *Swaps should be portable, handcrafted, and often made from recycled or donated materials.*
- **Swap Etiquette:** There are several etiquette guidelines when participating in swaps, the main one being that it is considered rude to refuse a swap. This is even more important as the focus has become more about collecting different swaps as well as about building friendships.
 - Other etiquette rules include –
 - Accept swaps politely, always say thank you.
 - Swap face to face.
 - Avoid sharp objects and glass in swaps.
 - Avoid using food products.
 - Some councils have rules that all swaps pinned on hats/vests are off limits. Others that swaps on hats can be traded, but not those on vests.
- **Swap Storage:** There are a variety of ways girls can store their swaps, the inclusion of pins makes the possibilities endless. Pinned on a hat, scarf or blanket, on a lanyard or tote bag even a specially decorated storage box enables girls to display their swaps creatively. Other ideas are banners, swap trees and swap sashes. Tons of options online with a quick Google search.

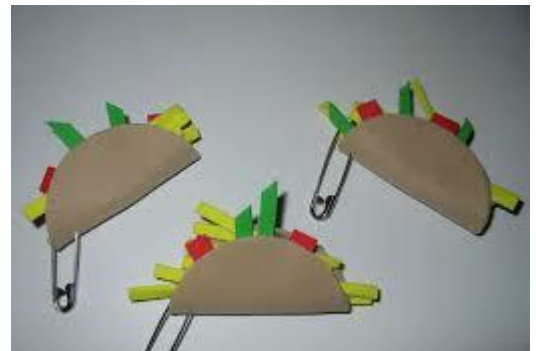
Step 2: Learn how to Make SWAPS

- SWAPS for any occasion or activity
- SWAPS that show something about you (favorite food or activity)

What are some SWAPS you can create with recycled/reused materials around your house?

Samantha made a couple of videos to show you how to put 4 different SWAPS together to go along with the kits

- **Video:** Sleeping Bag SWAP
 - <https://youtu.be/c8tu-poHRhs>
- **Video:** Canoe SWAP
 - https://youtu.be/X_yFtDodx_I
- **Video:** Water Jug SWAP
 - <https://youtu.be/FWCgYqMPzU0>
- **Video:** Taco SWAP
 - <https://youtu.be/Ce-HHX4UZfs>



Step 3: Make SWAPS

- Make any/all of the SWAPS in your kit
- *Make any additional SWAPS you can think of using materials you have at home (optional)*
- Take pictures of your SWAPS and share!
- *Practice Social Distancing, reach out to your sister girl scouts to see if anyone wants to trade SWAPS (optional)*

Some additional SWAPS ideas



Girl Scouts Superhero SWAPS

