

Why Thinking Day Matters for Our Troop

Every year since my girls were Daisy kindergarteners, our troop (4338) has presented a country for Thinking Day. Here's our troop presenting China as Kindergarteners:



Thinking Day has become one of our most beloved traditions—and over time, I've seen the benefits go far beyond fun snacks and colorful posters.

Learning to Work Through Differences

Each year, the girls deliberate on which country to present, and what snack, craft, and SWAP to share from their country. Inevitably, there are differences of opinion. They've learned how to express their preferences, listen to others, and find compromise in a safe environment. These moments—sometimes spirited, sometimes silly—are lessons in teamwork and conflict resolution.

Building Confidence in Public Speaking

When the big day comes, each girl has a chance to speak about her troop's country, whether it's explaining the snack, leading the craft, or welcoming visitors to our table. At first, it was just a few words mumbled. But now, public speaking is old hat. Here is a picture of one of my Cadettes who spontaneously stood and persuasively presented an activity idea for the troop on

the spot!



Learning to Organize and Budget

As they've grown older, the girls have also taken on the responsibility of planning the logistics. They learn to organize who is bringing what, how many SWAPS to make, and what supplies are needed. They've even learned to set and stick to a budget—figuring out how to make the most of limited resources while still creating something fun and memorable. These small steps prepare them for bigger leadership projects down the road.

A Pathway to Bigger Goals

Many of my girls are Bronze Awardees, and several are working toward their Silver Awards now. The confidence, collaboration, and organization skills they built through Thinking Day have prepared them for those bigger leadership journeys.

SWAP making is a chance to hang out and chit chat

All my girls love making SWAP! In their busy lives, this is a chance for them to hang out and chit chat while making the SWAPs. If they happen to be making SWAPs during December, they love singing Holiday tunes while making SWAPs. Having hot cocoa is also a hit! Super Hygge-ish, too!

Participating on Thinking Day is Fun!

Of course, it's also plain fun! The girls love exploring the tables, tasting snacks from around the world, and trading SWAPS with friends.

Thinking Day is not just an event; it's a chance for our troop to practice real-world skills in a playful, supportive way.