Preparing for the Red Robin Project

The Red Robin Award recognizes that girls can fly out into the world just like Robin, the red robin, to teach others about caring for animals. So for the next several gatherings, you’ll be guiding the girls to plan what new knowledge they want to share with others, how they will share it, and with whom.

Keep in mind the Daisies’ teaching doesn’t have to be elaborate to have an impact. Their audience doesn’t have to be big, either. What’s most important is that the Daisies have the confidence-building experience of teaching others and have fun “telling the story” of what they’ve learned. So use the tips on these pages to guide the Daisies’ efforts.

As you guide the girls to zero in on what they will teach, also assist them in choosing a creative way to teach it. Make use of all the learning and art the Daisies have done along the journey. Take your cues from the girls, and make use of all the ideas of animal caring they listed on their “Comparing the Caring” chart in Session 6. The following examples of Red Robin Project ideas will make the most of journey activities and get you and the girls thinking.

A successful Red Robin Project gives girls an opportunity to:

- Meet new people.
- Have fun sharing what they’ve learned along their journey.
- Use one (or more!) creative ways to tell stories that they’ve explored (song, dance, postcard, mural, etc.).
- Ask their audience to spread the word about caring for animals, too.
A POSTCARD IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

ANIMAL-CARE FAIR
If the girls enjoyed a range of the activities and animal-care ideas along the journey, they might present them at various “booths” set up like a fair or exhibit, where the audience can roam from booth to booth, as Daisies at each station talk about one small tip for animal care, such as a grooming tip, a feeding tip, or an exercise tip.

ANIMAL-CARE MURAL
If making their Team Animal Mural and drawing excited them, they might create a new mural in panels or make posters or a team scrapbook to show the animal-care ideas they want to share with their audience. They might even give their audience copies of what they create.

PERFORMANCE OR DANCE
If they loved the “Busy Squirrels Song and Dance” and “Fly, Fly Away” activities, they might enjoy making up and performing a dance that dramatizes an animal-care idea.

ARTS AND CRAFTS
If they enjoy arts and crafts, they might want to take photographs to create a photo story, or they might use their papier mâché birds and other critters to tell about an animal-care issue.

OTHER IDEAS
If you have other ideas, go for it! Just keep in mind the time you have available and whom it is possible to gather for the Daisies’ “audience.”

From 3 Cheers for Animals! (Daisy), page 76
Identify and Reach Out to an Audience

Once you and the girls have settled on what to teach and how to teach it, it's time to choose an audience the girls would like to inspire.

- A good audience doesn’t have to be large. Five or six interested folks will do! They might be siblings of the Daisies, or a few teachers or PTA members who agree to add a half-hour to a meeting. What’s important is that the audience is made up of active listeners—people who will hear what the Daisies say and pass it on!

- Encourage the girls and your Network to talk about who would be the right audience. Any experts the girls have visited may also have recommendations.

- Keep in mind that, depending on the situation, either what the Daisies are teaching will determine their audience, or their audience will determine what they teach! For example, animal-safety tips might be an appropriate message for an audience of younger children; the importance of adopting pets from a shelter or putting ID tags on pets might be a good lesson for families or neighborhood groups. If the Daisies are presenting to preschoolers, they might “tell” their story in a simpler way, too, than if teaching a group of adults.

Audience ideas:

- a preschool group (that way, the Daisies will be the “big kids”!)
- a group of Daisies from another area
- family members and friends or people from their neighborhood
- animal-care organization
- their school, either as part of a class or during a lunch period
- a Sunday school or other religious class
- an existing after-school program

Tap your Network for help

If Network members teach or volunteer at preschool, after-school programs, or places of worship, or if some belong to a block group, tap them for ideas on audiences or locations where the girls can present.

If you’re inviting adults, you might let them know that this is an opportunity for the Daisies to gain confidence and leadership skills and to meet new people, and that their attendance can help the girls grow!

From 3 Cheers for Animals! (Daisy), page 77
Choose one (or more) animal-care ideas as the basis for the girls’ teaching.

- Use the Team Birdbath and/or the “Comparing the Caring” chart for ideas, and brainstorm with the girls and your Network, or use your discretion.

- Keep in mind that what Daisies teach can be simple safety tips, such as asking if it’s safe before petting a dog you don’t know; simple Do-It-Yourself projects, such as making a bird feeder; or regional issues, such as the importance of preserving open spaces for birds and wild animals.

Add some creativity to the Daisies’ teaching!

- Consider which activities the girls have enjoyed along the journey, and what time and resources allow.
  
  - If the Daisies will host a series of animal-care stations, make use of any or all the creative mediums they have explored along the journey and those they explore in Sessions 7 and 8: photos, murals, drawings, papier mâché, posters, etc.
  
  - If they will teach their audience by using a “story” that they speak or perform, consider enhancing the telling with a puppet show, dance, or play; or by making and sharing a book of the story; or by creating an exhibition, fair, mural, or photo show-and-tell; or simply by taking turns telling parts of the story.
Keep in mind that what the Daisies teach and what form they teach it in are not nearly as important as the fact that the project gives the girls the opportunity to see for themselves that they have knowledge to share with others!

**Make use of activities already built into the Sample Sessions.**

For example, if you choose to do an exhibit or fair, use activities such as “Busy Squirrels Song and Dance” (Session 4), “Comparing the Caring” chart (Session 6), and “The Power of a Postcard, Part 2” (Session 6) for exhibits. Use the “Animal Riddle Poem” (Session 7) as an icebreaker for the crowd. Or girls can simply pick one animal-care tip from their Team Birdbath and an object to represent it, and talk about it. (For example, “It’s important for cats to have fresh water,” and a water bowl. A girl can talk about her own pet, the cat in the flower story, a cat she saw at the vet, etc.)

**Decide how much time you, the Daisies, and your Network can spend—and plan accordingly.**

If you have just one session for planning and one for presenting, that’s fine. Just offer a few stations or displays or a short show. If you have more time, the girls can set their imaginations and creativity free and do something more elaborate. And perhaps they can add some teaching on the Girl Scout Promise and Law! Either way, let the girls use teamwork and take the lead in planning what they want to say and do.
Use this template to create invitations for the Daisies’ audience:

Join Our Littlest Leaders as They Tell Their Story of Animal Care!

Please join us on ..................................................
at .................................................................
to hear our Daisy group, ........................................
teach about the importance of animal care.

As the Daisies share what they’ve learned, they are also achieving some of the important leadership benefits of Girl Scouting. They are connecting with their community and gaining a great sense of themselves as leaders who can make the world a better place.

This gives the girls a great sense of confidence in all they do!

From 3 Cheers for Animals! (Daisy), page 80
Use these “script starters” to create speaking points for the girls:

Script Starter for the Red Robin Project

**Daisy Announcer:** Today our Daisy group will share with you important ways to care for animals and invite you to keep animals safe and sound, and teach others how to do that, too!

**Daisies in unison:** “To keep animals safe and sound, it’s important to

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Following their presentation, the girls say:

Will you join us in pledging to do your best to keep animals safe and sound? If you do, will you keep spreading the message of animal care by making and sending a postcard?

**Reach out to your Network, older Girl Scouts, and community resources.**

- Community-theater troupes, high-school drama classes or clubs, college dance departments, photo clubs, and classes can all provide help.
- You may be able to find enthusiastic students or Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors to provide guidance on making simple costumes or props if you need them, or to offer other assistance.

**Give the girls time to practice, and hold a “dress rehearsal” before the presentation.** There’s no need for a “perfect” performance, but practice will allow the girls to feel confident about the message they will deliver.