

# Rose Community Foundation

## Giving in a Box

### Meeting One



Rose Community Foundation works to advance inclusive, engaged and equitable Greater Denver communities through values-driven philanthropy.

#### Steps:

1. Arrival and Opening Ceremony
2. Giving in a Box Introduction
3. What are Values?
4. Giving Focus
5. For Next Meeting

#### Purpose:

Learning about Rose Community Foundation and community giving equips youth with the understanding that they have the power to make a positive impact on their communities. Early exposure to philanthropy can inspire a lifelong commitment to helping others and addressing societal challenges. Additionally, it cultivates important skills such as collaboration, leadership, and financial literacy which can all be translated into Girl Scout Highest Awards. By learning about community giving, youth are empowered to become proactive, compassionate leaders of tomorrow.



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## Giving in a Box

### Meeting One

#### Step 1:

Arrival and  
Opening Ceremony  
(~10 minutes before  
meeting starts)

#### Supplies:

- Paper
- Pencils

Meeting one will focus on the Girl Scouts identifying their values and using those values to inform their Giving Focus.

Their homework will be to research organizations that are potential recipients of their money-earning event or create a service project that benefits their chosen Giving Focus.

#### Warm-Up Activity:

Each Girl Scout should take a piece of paper and a pencil as they come in. On this paper, they should draw or describe an item of high value to them. These will be used later when we discuss values as a group.

Some girls may ask: What are values?

Values are things that are important to you personally, something that has a special meaning or story behind it, or something that has worth beyond cost to you.

Once all Girl Scouts have gathered, open the meeting with the Promise and Law.

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### Meeting One

#### Step 2:

Giving in a Box  
Introduction  
(~10 minutes)

#### Supplies:

- Poster Board
- Markers

**To be read out loud by Troop Leader or Girl Scout to the group:**

*Welcome to meeting one of our Giving in a Box series. This patch program is an amazing opportunity for our troop to get more involved in our community and to encourage our friends and family to do the same! Let us briefly talk about what Giving in a Box is and what inspired it.*

*Giving in a Box is a collaboration between Girl Scouts of Colorado and the Rose Community Foundation (RCF) based on the giving circle program RCF uses with its donors. A giving circle is a group of people who combine their money and decide together where to give.*

*Throughout this process, we will identify our shared values, select a giving focus topic we want to learn more about, and award our dollars or volunteer hours to an organization that is working to address that issue.*

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#### Activity:

Given that conversation is a core component of this experience, have the group come up with at least three guidelines on how to treat each other.

Encourage them to be based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law!

For example, be considerate of other's opinions, respect when others are talking or sharing their thoughts, or be fair if what you voted for does not win.

Write the agreed upon rules on the provided poster board and have each girl sign the board, promising to follow these guidelines during conversations.

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#### **Step 3:**

What are values?  
(~20 minutes)

#### **Supplies:**

- Values list - one per Girl Scout\*
- Pencils
- Values poster
- Markers

\*Value list attached at the end

Everyone should now take out their drawing or description of their valued object. Going around the circle, each Girl Scout shares their object with the group. Each girl should include what the item is, its significance in their lives, and what it means to them.

After everyone has gone, open a discussion about what values are. Here are some guiding questions to get the conversation moving or if there is a pause in the dialogue.

#### **What are values?**

Values encompass how we think, how we behave, and what we ultimately care about. Personal values help us determine what is important, and then we can decide how to act based on those priorities.

#### **How do we use values in everyday life?**

**Can you see any of your personal values in the object you chose to feature? Which ones?**

**Can our values change over time? Why or why not?**

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Rooting giving decisions in values is powerful. There are many prominent issues our giving can address; starting with values helps create focus and purpose. Sharing and discussing our values gives us a deeper understanding of one another and creates a common foundation for our group decision-making. Also, giving in alignment with values is personally fulfilling.

Everyone will now identify and share their individual values and together we will identify a few core values shared by the group. These values will be the starting point for the giving we do together.

Give each member a copy of the VALUES LIST and hang the poster- sized list of all values, visible to everyone, have markers ready as well.

Have the troop leader ask if anyone needs clarification about what any of the values mean.

**Let's take 5 minutes to individually review and reflect on the VALUES LIST.**

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## Giving in a Box

### Meeting One

#### Step 3:

What are values?  
(~20 minutes)

#### Supplies:

- Values list - one per Girl Scout\*
- Pencils
- Values poster
- Markers

\*Value list attached at the end

Identify the top three values that you feel are important for your community, then place a check mark next to your top three values on the posted list. If you have a value that is not on the list, add it.

Tally the check marks.

Ask the group to share observations. What do some of the more commonly held values mean to them?

Together, identify two or three values shared by most members to serve as the group's core values. Ideally, each member will see at least one of their individual values represented.

These shared values are what transform us from individual members to a unique group. For our purposes, we will use these shared values to root our discussions and decisions throughout this collaborative experience.

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#### Step 3: Giving Focus (~20 minutes)

#### Supplies:

- Giving Focus list - one per Girl Scout
- Pencils
- Sticky notes

\*Giving Focus list  
attached at the end

Take a moment to review the Giving Focus topic list, think of it as a starting point. Identify a topic you propose the group should consider as the focus of our giving that most relates to the group's shared values. Circle your top two choices on the sheet.

*Now, let's go around the room, everyone will have a turn to briefly describe the topic they propose and why.*

As people share, post sticky notes on a blank wall or window, visible to everyone. Group similar issues together but be careful not to over group and create one giant issue.

*Once everyone has shared: Based on what you see, do any themes emerge? Are any issues related or interconnected?*

We are now going to vote to decide our top two Giving Focus options. Place a check mark on the sticky notes for the two issues you feel are the best fit for the group, consider our shared values, potential time commitment, and the timeliness and relevance of the topic. Only one vote per sticky note.

After everyone has voted, identify the top Giving Focus option with the most votes. This will be the topic the Girl Scouts do their research into while choosing an organization to complete a money-earning event for or give volunteer hours to.

*You may need to do a tie-breaker to narrow your Giving Focus down to your top choice.*



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## Giving in a Box

### Meeting One

#### Step 4: For Next Meeting

#### Supplies:

- Homework sheet - one per Girl Scout

Each participant should receive a HOMEWORK WORKSHEET that lays out what they need to find in their research into a chosen organization. We do not recommend having meeting two in this series until at least a month later to give Girl Scouts plenty of time to conduct research and create a short presentation. If you have a large troop, you may also choose to partner the Girl Scouts to have fewer organizations to choose from at the next meeting.

Once the Giving Focus has been decided, go around the circle and have each Girl Scout say what she is excited or curious to learn more about this Giving Focus. (This allows all the girls a chance to get excited about this giving focus, even if it wasn't their first choice)

Every participant should come back with their homework sheet filled out to highlight their chosen organization. Meeting two will be fully focused on choosing an organization and planning the event or volunteer hours.

*Congratulations! We covered a lot of ground together at this meeting. Before we part ways, let's quickly hear from each person one thing they are taking away from this first meeting!*

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### Values List

Place a checkmark next to your top 3 Values

Change-making	Equity	Kindness
Citizenship	Freedom	Learning and Teaching
Collaboration	Heritage	Peace
Community	Humanity	Self-reliance
Conservation	Honesty	Stewardship
Courage	Inclusion	Wellbeing
Creativity	Individuality	Wisdom
Empowerment	Inspiration	
Equality	Justice	

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### Giving Focus Topics List

Circle your top two choices

#### Access and Empowerment

Education

Family self-sufficiency

Homelessness

Hunger and food justice

Job training and workforce development

Literacy

Science and Technology Transportation

#### Culture

Arts

Cultural expression and preservation

Religious communities

#### Environment

Animal rights

Environmental preservation and  
sustainability

Historic preservation

Land preservation

#### Health

Healthcare

Mental health

Substance abuse

Wellness

Nutrition

#### Human and Civil Rights

Civil rights

Discrimination

LGBTQ+ rights

Human trafficking

Racial justice

Reproductive rights

#### Violence and Abuse

Bullying

Domestic abuse

Gun violence

Peace and conflict  
resolution

#### Populations

Children

Families

Indigenous peoples

Immigrants and  
refugees

People of color

People with disabilities

Seniors

Veterans

Women

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### Organization Research Homework Worksheet

**Nonprofit name:**

**Mission and vision:**

**Annual revenue or Annual Operating Cost:**

*(Can often be found in organization's annual report or google the organization name 990)*

**Population and geography served:**

**Core work and programs:**

**How this organization and their work fits our shared values and giving focus topic:**

**Would this organization be easier to donate to or do a service project based on their goals:**

*For additional support on many local non-profits visit [rcfdenver.org](http://rcfdenver.org).*

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### Research Advice

- Choose an organization that you're interested in or passionate about! While it should share the values we have previously agreed on, you should agree with the mission and values of the organization.
- Always start on the organization's website, non-profits in the U.S. are legally required to provide all financial information and it can almost always be found on their website.
- Websites such as Charity Navigator can also be used to get a quick comprehensive overview of many non-profit organizations.
- It is important to confirm information that we see about an organization. Always use more than one source when doing research, this can help weed out incorrect information and paint a clearer picture. Also make sure to check if your sources are reliable, up-to-date, and written by experts.
- We want to find good sources that we can trust. Primary sources are the real deal, like talking to someone who was there or looking at an original document. Secondary sources are like the storytellers who explain and analyze the main story. These can be books, articles, or websites written by experts who studied the primary sources.
- Don't be afraid to head into your local library, museum, or community center if you can't find what you need online. Sometimes our resources can be other people too!

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### Research Advice

- Be detailed! It is important to convey all the information as accurately as possible! Things like pictures or graphics can help to convey as well. This presentation should look thoughtful and professional. You will be presenting to your troop, so this is your chance to show off your creative skills and passion for the organization you chose!
- Take some notes and write down important facts or ideas on index cards or in a notebook to help organize your research. You will want to make sure you keep your notes so you can reference them when explaining to your troop, in case they have any questions.
- Create a draft first, make sure to get down your initial thoughts and all the important information. Remember, you only get 5 minutes to present, so you can revise and edit your draft before you make your final presentation to be sure everything is fully and thoughtfully explained.