

## Ground Rules for Handling Discussions with Girls on Sensitive Issues

- **Confidentiality** - what we share in this troop/group will remain in this troop/group.
- **Openness** - it is important to be open and honest but there should be no disclosure of others' [family, neighbors, friends] personal/private lives, it is OK to discuss general situations as examples but not to use names.
- **Nonjudgemental Approach** - it is OK to disagree with another person's point of view but not to judge or "put down" another person.
- **I-statements** - it is preferable to share our feelings or values using "I-statements."
- **Right to Pass** - it is always OK to "pass," to say "I'd rather not do this activity" or "I don't think I want to answer that question."
- **Anonymity** - it is OK to ask a question, anonymously if necessary [have a question box], and all questions will be answered. There are no dumb questions.
- **Acceptance** - it is OK "to feel uncomfortable; even adults feel uncomfortable when they talk about sensitive topics like sexuality.

There may be other ground rules the troop/group will want to adopt. If possible, let the rules come from the troop/group, perhaps after you give an example of a "ground rule." You can always add those that aren't suggested by the girls themselves.

### **Possible/Additional Ground Rules:**