

# SWAPS - March 2026

Traditions are one of the best parts of Girl Scouts — they connect our girls to generations before them and to a worldwide sisterhood. One favorite tradition is trading SWAPS.

**SWAPS** stands for *Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere*. They are small, handmade tokens exchanged to remember events and new friendships.

## A Little History

- **1910s:** Juliette Gordon Low encouraged girls to share small tokens of friendship — the early spirit of SWAPS.
- **1950s–60s:** SWAPS were widely exchanged at national Girl Scout Senior Roundups.
- **1960s–70s:** Inspired by international Scouting traditions, handmade trades grew in popularity.
- **1980s–Today:** The term “SWAPS” became common and the tradition spread to councils, camps, and troop events nationwide.

## Why We SWAP

- Creativity – Handmade and unique.
- Connection – Sparks conversations and friendships.
- Memories – Keepsakes from special events.
- Cultural Pride – Often reflect a troop’s hometown.
- Sustainability – Frequently made from recycled materials.



## SWAPS Basics

- Keep them small and lightweight.
- Label with name, troop number, and location.
- Use safe materials (no glass, sharp edges, or food).
- Never refuse a swap or speak negatively about one.
- Most importantly - **have fun!**

At their heart, SWAPS aren’t about collecting the most - they’re about connection. A small handmade token that says, “I’m glad I met you.”

Your challenge is to create a SWAP. If you are doing this as a troop, they do not have all be the same! This SWAP is to showcase the personality of the Girl Scout making it. The only requirement - you can not buy anything for the SWAP except the pin, if needed. Everything else needs to be from leftovers, recycled materials, found in nature, etc. Take a photo of your SWAP for the monthly challenge report.

Deadline to submit your SWAP Report: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 @ 5:00 PM MDT

Submit report at: [https://bit.ly/SWAPS\\_Mar26](https://bit.ly/SWAPS_Mar26)

You will receive your patch in 3 - 4 weeks after the end of challenge.

If you have any questions, please email [info@gdsw.org](mailto:info@gdsw.org).

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