

## WHAT IS A SMART ACTIVITY?

As you work with Girls Inc. staff to plan activities, it is important to be sure that you are reinforcing SMART principles and ideas.

## TWENTY-TWO QUESTIONS TO TELL WHETHER AN ACTIVITY IS SMART\*\*

### Does the Activity Involve Girls in the Physical World?

- 1 Are participants using specialized equipment and resources?
- 2 Is the activity messy, physically challenging, or “gross and interesting”?
- 3 Does the activity force participants to examine preconceptions or “think outside of the box”?
- 4 Do girls construct, create, break down, or analyze things as part of this activity?
- 5 Do girls use their hands, bodies, and senses for things other than writing?
- 6 Does the activity allow for anything unplanned or unexpected to happen?

### Are Girls Full Participants in the Activity?

- 7 Did girls choose this activity or make decisions about what to do in it?
- 8 Did girls help plan and set up the activity?
- 9 Do participants ask the questions *they* want to ask and explore the things *they* want to explore?
- 10 Are participants trying new things and taking risks?
- 11 Do participants control the pace, taking enough time to make mistakes and try again?

- 12 Do participants work together with each other and with adults?
- 13 Are participants talking about the activity as they work?
- 14 Do participants evaluate what they’ve done and reflect on what it means?
- 15 Do participants have fun?

### Does the Activity Help Girls Make Connections?

- 16 Does the activity show participants something about how the world works?
- 17 Do participants connect the activity to nontraditional careers, particularly careers in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics?
- 18 Does the activity give participants a wider view of the roles women can undertake?
- 19 Does it help participants understand what they are learning in school?
- 20 Does it deepen their sense of community?
- 21 Does it relate to their personal experiences?
- 22 Does it make them more confident and eager to try something new?

\*\*If you can answer YES to 10 or more of these questions, the activity is probably SMART.

## SEVEN QUESTIONS TO TELL WHETHER AN ACTIVITY IS NOT SMART\*\*

### Is the Activity a Traditional One for Girls?

- 1 Does it involve sewing or cooking as ends in themselves?
- 2 Is its main component cutting, pasting, or coloring?
- 3 Is its chief goal to produce an ornament or decoration?



### Will the Activity Remind Girls of a Class They Hate?

- 4 Does it demand performance under time pressure?
- 5 Does it involve more listening than participating?
- 6 Does it require girls to use pencil and paper more than their hands?
- 7 Does it require girls to search for one right answer?



\*\*If you answer **YES** to one or more of these questions, the activity may not be **SMART**.

SMART activities are intentional and compensatory—what does this mean to you?

Intentional:

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Compensatory:

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