

General Holiday Boutique Information

What is it?

Holiday Boutique is one of the most popular troop attended events in Davis. Usually 300-350 girls attend with their troops to buy and sell small hand-crafted holiday items that can be given as gifts to family, friends and pets!

When and where is it?

Boutique will be **December 9, 2018** at Holmes Junior High gymnasium.

What kinds of things can be made/sold? There are a few rules that troops should follow. **FIRST** and foremost-**ALL** items should be made by the girls! Adults are only permitted to assist for safety reasons-using a hot glue gun, removing jars from a water bath. Sewing, cooking, cutting, beading, knots etc, must be completed by the girls! **SECOND**- Jams and soup/cookie mixes are okay, but please **DO NOT** make food 'treats' for gift items –this includes Bark, Dipped pretzels, Fudge, oversized cookies, etc. No matter how well wrapped the item is, girls do open them and eat them in the gym. A host troop or other designated troop usually sells homemade cookies and juice at a snack table. **THIRD**-please do not use glitter or messy items! We need to clean up the area, and no matter how well glitter is secured, it gets everywhere. There is no eating inside the gym. We have had problems with girls opening up some of the candy gifts and eating them in the gym in the past. Please keep this in mind during planning and during selling.

How does the buying selling work?

Troops that are selling need to split their inventory equally into 2 groups. The first half of the inventory is put out for sale during the first shopping session. Half your troop will stay and sell while the other half goes and shops. Adults may not shop until the end of the second session. At the end of the first session, an announcer will come over the PA system and announce it is time to start the second session. At this time your girls should switch jobs and put out the remainder of their inventory for sale. At the end of the second shopping session troops may discount prices and adults may shop. Troops attending to **SHOP ONLY** will come for either the first or second session.

How much do things sell for?

Typically, items cost anywhere from \$0.25 up to \$3.00. The girls should set the price and make a sign to reflect what they are selling and for how much. Discounting items is allowed during the later part of the second selling session! Prices should cover the cost of the supplies only; the event is not intended as a fundraiser for troops. Traditionally, any extra money made from the event by a troop is used to cover 'community service' projects.

How many items should we make?

This is a really tough question to answer. First remember that all items need to be made by the girls. Some girls will work faster than others, some will be able to tie knots or sew faster

than others, etc. The cost of your supplies will also be a factor in how many items you can make, and what you set your prices at. Keep this in mind when talking to the girls about their ideas. There are usually 300-400 girls that attend the boutique. Some troops may make as few as 15- 20 items that might be priced at \$3.00 each, while another troop might make 60-80 items priced at \$.50 each. There is no right or wrong, it's really about what the girls can manage to make in the amount of time provided.

What does our troop need to provide?

Your troop will need to bring your own table to display items on. This is typically a card table or short 2' x 4' table. Please do not bring a table bigger than 4' wide. **SPACE IS VERY TIGHT ON THE FLOOR.** Please make sure the table feet are covered in rubber or tape so they don't scratch the gym floor. Some troops get creative and bring small cabinets, coat racks and small tree branches to help display items. If you have glass or fragile items you may also want to bring additional tissue to carefully wrap and protect the items you sell. Your troop will also need to provide your own cash box and change. **Please make sure to bring lots of small bills and quarters to make change!**

What is included in the event fee?

The event fee includes a participation patch for each girl attending, plus free gift wrap supplies. (We provide supplies; girls do their own wrapping.) Extra patches are available at cost. Please order the additional patches for those girls who may be unable to attend the event, but they helped contribute to making the product at troop meetings!

How do I sign up?

Sign-ups are done on-line. You will need to know how many girls are attending, if your troop is buying & selling or only coming to buy, and if you need additional patches. You may also fill in what your troop will be making, leader name, troop number & level, email and phone number. Troops should only bring enough adults to cover safety ratios. Go to the Service Unit website and follow the links. You will receive a confirmation via email that your troop is participating and the total amount that your troop will need to pay. Payment is by troop check made out to the Davis Service Unit. For new troops only, if you do not yet have a checking account you may pay with EXACT change. NO personal checks. Please plan on paying at check-in, not out of your troop proceeds from sales!

<http://groups.dcn.org/davisgirlscouts>

What should the girls bring?

- A small purse to hold their money (small bills and quarters). Please ask parents NOT to send girls with \$20 bills, it's tough to make lots of change in the beginning.
- A sturdy bag to hold their purchased items.
- A shopping list.
- Girl Scout Sash or Vest.
- An item to donate. Please see the flyer for specific details of what is being collected.

What if I still have questions?

Any questions: Jen Perkins, Troop 668, first2go@mac.com