

## Girl Scout Troop Meets in Prison | [View Clip](#)

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**Fox 5 News at 10 PM - WTTG-TV**

JESSUP, Md. - Maryland Girl Scout Troop 7140 meets twice a month at a rather unusual location: the state Women's Correctional Institution in Jessup.

About 25 scouts normally attend. All of them are daughters of inmates.

Often, the mothers and daughters do projects together. This Saturday, an art therapist from Shepherd Pratt Hospital encouraged the moms and daughters to make posters about societal expectations of beauty. It was meant to spark conversations about eating disorders.

It's those conversations that the inmates cherish. The Girl Scout visits are two hours long, double the length of a normal family visit.

Inmate Tamara Mayo says the extended visits allow deeper conversations between the parent and her child. All topics, says Mayo, are on the table, sex, hygiene, health, exercise, what they're doing in school, what their favorite sports are. Weightier topics also come up: How they feel about their mom being incarcerated.

Only model inmates may participate in the mother-daughter Girl Scout program. Guards say this visitation time is so precious, that inmates with children in the program are rarely a problem.

Once a year, Troop 7140 is allowed to hold a sleepover in the prison's gym. The inmates say that is an unbelievable precious moment. Just being able to be with her, to sleep, just to hold her, exclaimed inmate Marissa Massey, who then corrected herself. When she's here, I don't sleep! I stare at her while she sleeps.

When her 15 year old daughter asks why Marissa does not close her eyes during sleepovers, Massey says she answers, I'm just staring at you. You know, I don't get to see her [and] I haven't held [her for] so long.

The next sleepover for Girl Scout Troop 7140 may happen on the weekend of Mother's Day.