

Welcome to Girl Scouts!

A guide for new volunteers



girl scouts 
of gulfcoast florida

Welcome to Girl Scouts!

Are you ready for the ride of a lifetime? That's what you'll get as a Girl Scout leader! In this role, you'll guide your own troop (a group of Girl Scouts from your local area) and help members build confidence, leadership skills, and friendships. In the process, you'll create lifelong memories for your troop and yourself.

We're here to support you every step of the way. Let's get started, and remember—your Girl Scout adventure starts today, but the best is yet to come.

Meet Our Council

Our council is Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida. We're your local connection to the larger Girl Scout organization. We support local troops, organize events, and provide resources and training for leaders like you, ensuring you have everything you need to help youth members have an unforgettable Girl Scout experience.

Our location:

4780 Cattlemen Road
Sarasota, FL 34233
941-921-5358 • 800-232-4475

Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida serves girls in:
Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Sarasota, DeSoto, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Collier counties.

Key contacts:

Customer Care: customercare@gsgcf.org

Membership: membership@gsgcf.org

Cookie and Fall Product Programs: productprogram@gsgcf.org

PR and Communications: marketing@gsgcf.org

www.gsgcf.org



Other pertinent information:

Financial assistance is available for uniforms through the GSGCF Promise Fund.

Visit gsgcf.org > Members > For Volunteers > Forms and Documents > Troop Management > Promise Fund Application for Girl Scout Essentials

Notes

The Girl Scout Program

As Girl Scouts, youth members discover the fun, friendship, and power of working together. They grow courageous and strong through a wide variety of enriching experiences, such as field trips, skill-building sports clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardship.

Badges are a key part of the Girl Scout program. Girl Scouts earn badges by learning new skills and doing activities that demonstrate their accomplishments and understanding.

In earning badges, Girl Scouts...

- **Build skills.** As they earn badges, Girl Scouts develop new skills and explore their interests.
- **Show their accomplishments.** When worn, badges show the world what a Girl Scout can do.
- **Make a difference.** Badge work helps Girl Scouts discover ways to make a difference in their community.

Girl Scouts Explore in a Fun and Safe Environment

Girl Scouts typically complete activities as part of a troop. A troop is a group of Girl Scouts and volunteers who meet regularly to have fun, learn new skills, and improve their community. Troop involvement allows Girl Scout members to grow their confidence, explore new interests, and find their voice. Troops can either be single-level or multi-level.

- A **single-level troop** is made up of Girl Scouts from a single program level, such as Daisies. This structure allows activities and experiences to be tailored to the group's age and developmental stage.
- A **multi-level troop** includes Girl Scouts from more than one program level—such as Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors—together in the same troop. This setup lets older Girl Scouts mentor younger ones, supports diverse learning, and balances shared activities with age-specific needs.

Both troop types offer unique benefits! The choice depends on leader preferences, community needs, and available resources.

Badge Levels

Badge Line for Cookie Business I



Daisy
(Grades K-1)



Brownie
(Grades 2-3)



Junior
(Grades 4-5)



Cadette
(Grades 6-8)



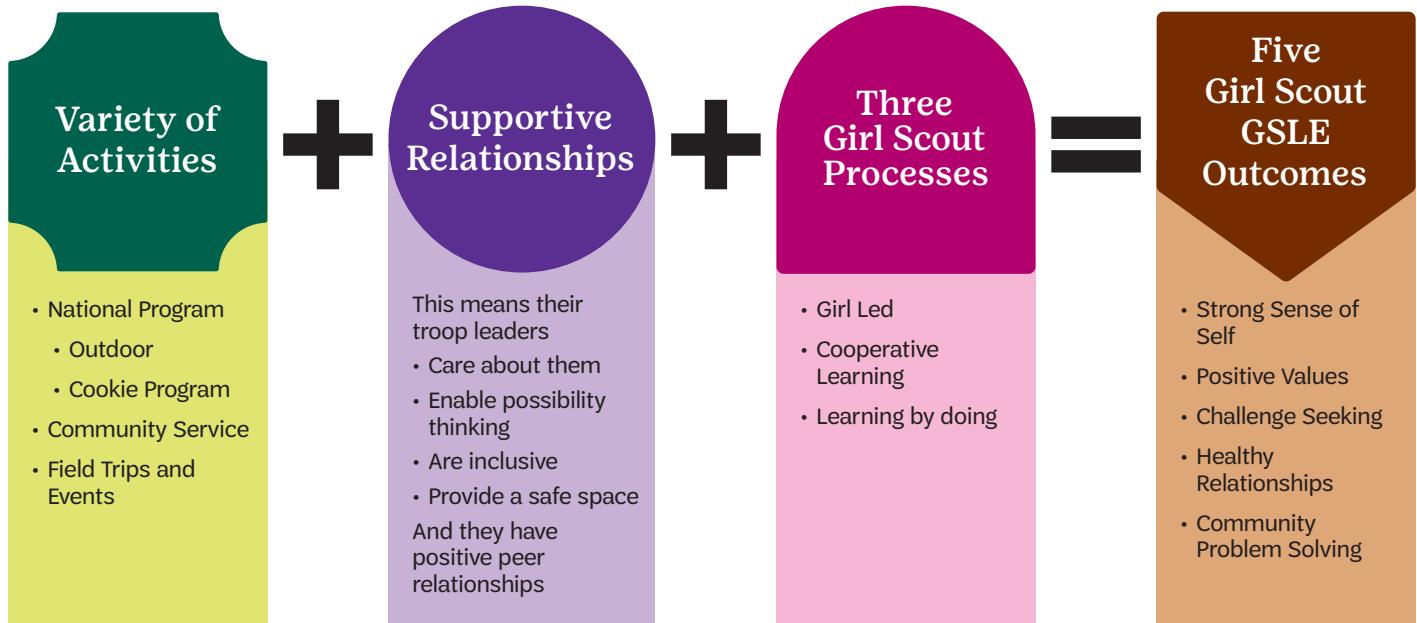
Senior
(Grades 9-10)



Ambassador
(Grades 11-12)

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Girl Scouts look at the world and take action to change it for the better. They make friends, challenge themselves with new experiences, write their own stories, and develop the skills and confidence to say, “I know I can do this!” As a troop leader, you support this process—and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) is the tool that helps you to do it.



Putting the GSLE into Practice

It's time to put the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (our secret sauce) to work! Implementing it is simple. Just remember these three steps, and you're good to go:

1. Plan a variety of activities, both in and out of the meeting space. Explore Girl Scout badges in STEM, life skills, the outdoors, and entrepreneurship. Get out and experience the world through field trips, council-run events, community service, cookie sales, and more. Check out the Volunteer Toolkit (girlscouts.org/forvolunteers) for all sorts of ideas.

Tip: Encourage them to explore a variety of activities in the Outdoors, STEM, Life Skills, Entrepreneurship, and even field trips, allowing them to discover new interests and passions.

2. Create a supportive environment. Support your Girl Scouts' physical, mental, and emotional well-being, and make sure other adult helpers provide positive support as well. Inspire and guide your Girl Scouts to value, respect, and encourage each other, too! As the troop leader, you'll want to make sure ALL Girl Scouts feel they are welcome, included, and all-around supported within the troop. Take the lead in creating safer spaces where Girl Scouts can thrive! Check out the Safety Activity Checkpoints resource (see page 8) for more on this topic.

Tip: The main ways you can support girls in your troop are to make them feel welcomed and included, acknowledging their ideas and feelings, keeping them safe, and encouraging respect and teamwork among them.

1. Let Girl Scouts shine by empowering them in three key ways.

- **Girl-Led:** Encourage Girl Scouts to take the lead, whatever their age. When you let your troop choose things like snacks, badge activities, or how to use cookie sale proceeds, you give them the confidence to grow their skills and follow their dreams.
- **Cooperative Learning:** Plan activities that have Girl Scouts working together and learning that principles of collaboration and mutual respect can help them conquer any challenge. Cooperative learning can be as simple as sharing supplies (for younger Girl Scouts) or playing games and completing activities that require teamwork (for older Girl Scouts).
- **Learning by Doing:** Hands-on activities aren't just fun, they're also empowering. Girl Scouts unlock their "I got this!" attitude as they work through details to get things done. At the end of each troop meeting, gather members for a discussion about what they experienced, what it means, and what they'll do together with what they learned.

Multi-level tip: “Girl-led” looks different at each age. Be sure to include program level-appropriate ways for each Girl Scout in your troop to keep it girl-led. For example, Brownies may pick which badges they’d like to earn, while Juniors may start leading specific activities with their peers or younger Girl Scouts. For more information, check out our Leading a Multi-Level Troop course available on gsLearn (girlscouts.org/gslearn).

Proven Results

Why follow these steps? Because they work! Studies show that Girl Scouts are more likely to develop a strong sense of self, positive values, healthy relationships, challenge-seeking traits, and community problem-solving skills when they experience all the elements of the GSLE—and as a troop leader, you’re a key part of making the magic happen!

Notes

Girl Scout Basics

With you as their troop leader, the members in your troop will learn to be true to themselves, make strides towards their dreams, and share in fun-filled activities they'll remember. Our program centers around the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to achieve essential outcomes for girls:



A Strong Sense of Self

Confidence in herself & her abilities



Positive Values

She acts responsibly & honestly



Confidence to Seek Challenges

She tries new things and learns from mistakes



Healthy Relationships

She maintains healthy relationships



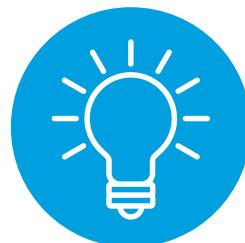
Community Problem Solver

She works to make the world a better place

All programs are designed with a research-backed curriculum that centers around fun and friendship. To create engaging experiences, we focus on four core program areas to spark girls' interests.



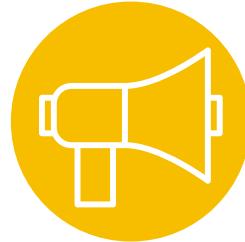
Outdoors



Entrepreneurship



STEM



Life Skills

As girls participate in STEM, the outdoors, life skills, and entrepreneurship, they will...

- ✓ Discover who they are, what they care about, and how they can use their talents.
- ✓ Connect with other people locally and globally, to make a difference in the world.
- ✓ Take Action to do something to make the world a better place – our mission!

An Experience for the Whole Family

Participation in Girl Scouts isn't just for youth members. Everyone in the family can have fun and benefit—Girl Scouts, their adults, and troop leaders, too! There are lots of ways for families to get involved, both big and small.

As a troop leader, you can engage families by:

- Communicating with them about what their Girl Scouts are doing
- Including them in Girl Scout celebrations
- Encouraging their participation in Girl Scout activities
- Enlisting their help with specific group support roles (outlined below)

Multi-level tip: Facilitating a multi-level troop is a great way to include the whole family in the Girl Scout experience, since siblings of different program levels can attend the same troop meetings

When families feel engaged, they're more likely to help out. And their involvement results in the best possible experience for troop members. Family support also helps your troop members stay connected over time.

Building Your Troop Leadership and Support System

Although managing the Girl Scout experience for your troop is rewarding, it can be time-consuming. Luckily, there are many ways that parents/caregivers and other family members can engage to support your efforts. No matter how much or little time someone has, there's always a way for them to volunteer.

Troop leadership and support roles

- **Troop leader:** As troop leader, you guide and mentor Girl Scouts in your troop. You support their personal growth, leadership skill development, and community involvement through engaging activities and learning experiences.
- **Co-leader:** A co-leader provides general backup and support. They help plan and run meetings and activities, bringing the Girl Scout experience to life for your troop.
- **Treasurer:** This volunteer manages the troop's finances. They oversee budgeting, track expenses, and clearly communicate financial information to support the troop's activities and goals.
- **Cookie manager:** When cookie season comes, you'll want one volunteer who will commit to supporting your troop's efforts throughout the process. This person manages cookie sale logistics, including troop orders, cookie delivery, and other key functions.
- **Outdoor helper:** It's great to have one volunteer dedicated to supporting your troop's outdoor experiences and learning. This person can help your troop explore the outdoors, serve as the camp-certified volunteer for the troop, and take on other outdoor-related responsibilities.
- **Troop helper:** Every troop leader needs a little extra help. Ask family members to serve as troop helpers, providing support during meetings to make sure everything runs smoothly.
- **Field trip chaperone:** This volunteer ensures the safety and well-being of Girl Scouts during outings. They supervise activities while promoting teamwork and making sure guidelines are followed.

Multi-level tip: Parents/caregivers with multiple Girl Scouts in a troop may especially enjoy volunteering. Getting involved lets them embrace the Girl Scout experience together as a family.

Family/Caregiver Meeting Checklist

Communication with families is key and it all starts at your Family/Caregiver Meeting. Here's a meeting checklist you can follow to make sure to cover the most important points with your families/caregivers.

1. Welcome and introductions

- Leader introductions
- Family/caregiver introductions
- Troop meeting logistics

2. Discover the Girl Scout difference

- Mission; Promise and Law
- What Girl Scouts do
- How Girl Scouts do it (GSLE)
- Troop Year Plan

3. Family as part of the formula

- Why family engagement?
- Communication methods

4. Getting families involved

- Troop leadership opportunities
- Other ways to help

5. Money matters and more

- Uniforms, supplies, and other costs
- How troops pay for things
- Paperwork

6. Wrap it up

- Close with intention
- Q&A

For more family/caregiver meeting content, check out the Family Engagement training on [gsLearn](https://girlscouts.org/gslearn) (girlscouts.org/gslearn).

Note: If Girl Scouts will be attending this meeting, consider starting out by having the families/caregivers and Girl Scouts introduce themselves and discuss their hopes for their Girl Scout experience. Then provide a short craft activity for Girl Scouts to do while the parents/caregivers attend their part of the meeting.

Multi-level tip: Encourage older Girl Scouts to lead a simple activity for younger Girl Scouts while the family/caregiver meeting takes place.

Notes

Troop Committee Requirements and Time Commitments

Encourage the parents/caregivers of the girls in your troop to take ownership of one the leadership or outdoor activity facilitator roles. When everyone participates, leading a troop becomes easier and more enjoyable for everyone. Most of the jobs listed below require more than one person, so let parents/caregivers know it's okay to sign up for multiple roles.

TROOP MAGS & MUNCHIES

PROGRAM MANAGER

Assist girls and adults through the fall product program including nut, candy, and magazine sales.

Requirements: Mags & Munchies training, become a registered Girl Scout member, complete volunteer application & background screening.

Time Commitment: August–November (1 hour per week)

TROOP COOKIE PROGRAM MANAGER

Assist girls and adults through the Cookie Program.

Requirements: Cookie Program training, become a registered Girl Scout member, complete volunteer application & background screening.

Time Commitment: December–March (4 hours per week)

TREASURER & SIGNER ON BANK ACCOUNT

Help girls manage troop funds, open troop bank account, maintain records, submit financial reports.

Requirements: Become a registered Girl Scout member, complete volunteer application & background screening.

Time Commitment: Year-Round (1 hour per month)

SERVICE UNIT LEADERS' MEETING REPRESENTATIVE

Substitute for leader at local monthly Girl Scout informational meetings.

Requirements: None.

Time Commitment: Year-Round (1 hour per month)

TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL COORDINATOR

Determine transportation needs; schedule and recruit drivers; make campsite reservations and arrangements for field trips.

Requirements: None. Girl Scout membership highly recommended.

Time Commitment: Year-Round (1 weekend per year or as needed)

COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR

Provide ideas and assist with community service projects.

Requirements: None.

Time Commitment: Year-Round (1 weekend per year or as needed)

SNACKS COORDINATOR

Coordinate snack for each meeting or purchase snacks using the troop funds.

Requirements: None.

Time Commitment: Year Round (1 hour per year or as needed)

TROOP MEETING HELPER

Support troop by working with the girls on their activities and projects.

Requirements: Become a registered Girl Scout member, complete volunteer application & background screening.

Time Commitment: Year-Round (1 meeting per year)

COMMUNICATIONS/NEWSLETTER

Write and deliver troop newsletter via mail or email.

Requirements: None.

Time Commitment: Year-Round (1 hour per month)

FIRST AIDER

Provide first aid and CPR for troop activities as identified in Girl Scout guidelines.

Requirements: Become a registered Girl Scout member, complete volunteer application and background screening, and have a current (or become certified) First Aid, CPR & AED Certification. Could also be an LPN, RN, or similar certified adult.

Time Commitment: Year-Round (3 to 4 hours per month or as needed)

TROOP CAMP CERTIFIED FACILITATOR

Help girls prepare for camping as well as participate in overnight camps.

Requirements: Become a registered Girl Scout member, complete volunteer application & background screening, and complete Girl Scout Outdoor Camp Skills Training.

Time Commitment: Year-Round (1 weekend per year or as needed)

ARCHERY FACILITATOR

Provide Archery facilitation for troop activities as identified in Girl Scout guidelines.

Requirements: Become a registered Girl Scout member, complete volunteer application and background screening, and complete USA Archery Level 1 Certification or equivalent safety checkpoint training.

Time Commitment: Year-Round (1 weekend per year or as needed)

CANOE AND KAYAK FACILITATOR

Provide Canoe and Kayak facilitation for troop activities as identified in Girl Scout guidelines.

Requirements: Become a registered Girl Scout member, complete volunteer application & background screening, and complete Girl Scout Small Watercraft Safety Training or equivalent safety checkpoint training;

Time Commitment: Year-Round (1 weekend per year or as needed)

LOW ROPES CHALLENGE COURSE FACILITATOR:

Provide Low Ropes Challenge Course facilitation activities at GSGCF camp properties.

Requirements: Become a registered Girl Scout member, complete volunteer application & background screening, and complete GSGCF Low Ropes Challenge Course training.

Time Commitment: Year-Round (1 weekend per year or as needed)

Notes

Resources to Simplify Your Experience

Girl Scouts provides a selection of useful tools—both in print and online—to support you in preparing for your volunteer role and getting started with troop meetings.

Volunteer Resources

myGS (mygs.girlscouts.org/my-account)

The Girl Scout member account management system, **myGS**, is your go-to portal for managing your troop's Girl Scout experience. Here you'll find membership information and additional troop management tools, including gsEvents, the Volunteer Toolkit, and gsLearn. Families also have access to myGS to manage memberships in their household.

Volunteer Toolkit (mygs.girlscouts.org/my-account)

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) is a digital planning tool that helps troop leaders run a Girl Scout troop or experience. The VTK provides Girl Scout programming at your fingertips, offering fully scripted meeting plans, badge requirements, and Troop Year Plans to help you deliver an engaging and exciting Girl Scout year. This tool is available on any device and can be found at girlscouts.org/vtk or you can also access it on your myGS navigation bar under My Account.

gsLearn (girlscouts.org/gslearn)

gsLearn is packed with indispensable volunteer trainings and courses, including new leader onboarding material, program training, and advice for guiding Girl Scouts at every grade level. You can access both national and council-specific courses through gsLearn, which is found on your myGS navigation bar.

Girl Scout Shop (girlscoutshop.com)

Girl Scout uniforms are a great way for Girl Scouts to show their pride and display their achievements! Find uniforms, badges, leader resources, apparel, outdoor gear, gifts, and more—all in one place. Plus, every purchase at GirlScouts.org supports Girl Scouts everywhere and helps power our mission. Shop online or visit a local council store today!

gsEvents ([gsgcf.org > activities > event calendar](https://gsgcf.org/activities/event-calendar))

gsEvents is a tool that lets you search for Girl Scout-affiliated events by title, date, location, topic, age range, and other criteria. Instructions to access gsEvents can be found at girlscouts.org/gsevents or by clicking My Events on your myGS navigation bar.

Volunteer Essentials ([gsgcf.org > members > for volunteers > forms and documents > volunteer management](https://gsgcf.org/members/for-volunteers/forms-and-documents/volunteer-management))

This detailed guide to volunteer policies and procedures is designed to support busy troop volunteers. Inside you'll find everything you need to dive into your newest adventure—being an awesome Girl Scout leader.

Safety Activity Checkpoints ([gsgcf.org > members > for volunteers > forms and documents > volunteer management](https://gsgcf.org/members/for-volunteers/forms-and-documents/volunteer-management))

Safety Activity Checkpoints (SAC) is a comprehensive collection of safety guidelines for GSUSA- and council-approved activities. The resource lays out standards that ensure the physical and emotional safety of youth. It also guides leaders in considering equity, diversity, and inclusivity when planning activities, making sure that all Girl Scouts who want to participate are included. Whether you're looking for field trip guidelines or tips for creating an inclusive meeting space, you'll find key information here.



**Access Key
Volunteer
Resources
here**

Multi-level tip: Be sure to check out Leading a Multi-Level Troop and other training courses designed for multi-level troops.

Girl Scout Handbooks (girlscoutshop.com/handbooks)

Handbooks are available for Girl Scouts at each program level, Daisy through Ambassador. These serve as guides for the Girl Scout experience, meeting Girl Scouts where they are and introducing them to the programming and other foundational aspects of being a Girl Scout. Handbooks are not required, but they're a helpful resource. You can ask that each Girl Scout get one, or you can choose to obtain one copy for your troop to share.

Family Connection (girlscouts.org/familyconnection)

A guide for families as they begin their Girl Scout adventure! Packed with background info, family activities, and places for Girl Scouts to write down their favorite memories from the year, Girl Scout Family Connection is a go-to guide to the year ahead for families.

Multi-level tip: Consider getting a handbook for each program level represented in your troop.

Notes

Get Ready!

Follow this checklist to kick off a great Girl Scout year.

To get started...

- Register as a volunteer with the council, if you haven't already.
- Complete a background check. [COUNCIL CUSTOMIZATION]
- Invite potential members to join the troop. (Talk to a council representative for recruitment support, if needed.)
- Visit [myGS](#) to understand where badges and other program resources are hosted in the Volunteer Toolkit and available training courses in gsLearn (girlscouts.org/gslearn).
- If you haven't already, reach out to your network to find a potential co-leader for your new troop.
- Meet with your co-leader(s), once established, to plan an initial family/caregiver meeting.

In your first month...

- Hold your family/caregiver meeting.
- Check out [GSUSA's Troop Year Plans](#) as you start planning for your first troop meeting.
- Confirm your troop roster by logging into myGS (girlscouts.org/forvolunteers).
- Connect with your service unit for peer-to-peer advice, local event info and coordination, and general support.
- Determine where you'll hold your meetings and host your first troop meeting. (If you're having trouble finding a location, reach out to a council representative for help.)
- Open your troop bank account. (Connect with a council representative for specific policies.)
- Access gsLearn (girlscouts.org/gslearn) and make sure you take the following courses:
 - What Girl Scouts Do
 - The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)
 - Your First Troop Meeting
 - Family Engagement
 - Building Blocks of Cultural Competency

Family/Caregiver Meeting: Holding a family/caregiver meeting is a key part of starting your troop year. It helps set expectations for families and shows them how they can support the troop. You can use the Family/Caregiver Meeting Checklist on page 7 to plan your troop's meeting.

Multi-level tip: Troop Year Plans are available for both single-level and multi-level troops. The multi-level Troop Year Plans are designed with badges that are easy to facilitate simultaneously across levels.

Service Units: Your service unit is an organized network of Girl Scout youth, family members, and volunteers (including all current troop leaders) in your area. It is a source of peer-to-peer advice and support. Service units typically hold regular troop leader meetings to share details on upcoming events, product/cookie sales, and other timely topics.

In your first three months...

- Complete first aid/CPR/AED training. (Connect with a council representative to sign up for a course.)
- Follow up with the council if you have any additional questions. [COUNCIL CUSTOMIZATION]
- Host your first one or two troop meetings.

Plan Your Girl Scout Year

It's go time! Get started with the ready-to-use Troop Year Plans on myGS. Then use the calendar below to build out a Girl Scout year packed with fun, friendship, learning, and so much more.

The Girl Scout Membership Year

The Girl Scout membership year runs from October 1 through September 30. Current Girl Scouts can renew their membership for the next year starting on April 1. New Girl Scouts can start at any time.

Fall milestones:

- New membership year starts October 1
- Fall product program

Winter milestones:

- Prepare for cookie season
- Attend cookie rallies
- Cookie program begins

September

- Attend a service unit meeting.
- Meet with girls and set goals.
- Sign up for Outdoor Skills Training, Canoe/Kayak Training, or an Archery Certification.

December

Happy holidays!

- Walk in parades; hold a troop holiday party.
- Have your Troop Product Program Manager attend Cookie Program Manager training.

October

10/11 – International Day of the Girl
10/31 – Juliette Gordon Low's birthday/Founder's Day

- Continue to attend service unit meetings.
- Visit our council website Event Calendar to see which council programs fit your schedule.

January

Happy New Year!

- Participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program – Cookie Booth Lottery and Service Unit Cookie Rally
- Continue to attend service unit meetings

November

- Participate in local Girl Scout events.
- Continue to attend service unit meetings.

February

Cookie Booth Sales begin!

2/22 - World Thinking Day

Spring milestones:

- Consider planning a trip or service project
- Early Girl Scout registration begins for next membership year
- Celebrate Girl Scout Week

Summer milestones:

- Hold closing/bridging ceremonies
- Provide optional activities for families to complete together over the summer (such as [Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors](#))

March

Celebrate Girl Scout Week!

3/12 – Girl Scouts' birthday

- Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith Events - Girl Scout Sunday, Girl Scout Jummah, and Girl Scout Sabbath/Shabbat.
- Work on your Take Action project, work on badges and/or petals.
- Continue to attend service unit meetings.

April

Happy Volunteer Appreciation Month!

4/22 - Earth Day

4/22 – Leader Appreciation Day!

- Nominate a deserving volunteer for an Adult Recognition or Award.
- Register returning girls for next membership year during early renewal.
- Don't forget to check your First Aid, CPR and AED certifications are current.

May

- Attend our Young Women of Distinction (mid-May).
- Hold a troop end-of-the-year ceremony.
- Submit a Travel Request Form for your troop's summer trips.

June

- Submit your Troop Finance Report and Year-end Review.
- Attend the council Adult Award ceremony (Typically the end of June).

July

Enjoy your summer!

August

- Make sure all of your girls are registered.
- Set up your Troop Plan in VTK.
- Communicate your Troop Meeting/ Calendar of Events to families.
- Attend a service unit meeting.
- Have your Troop Product Program Manager attend Mags & Munchies Manager training.

You're on a Roll

Now that you have all the tools you need for a strong start, below is easy access to the useful information that will help you soar together with your Girl Scout Troop.



Girl Scout Promise and Law



Make New Friends



What Do Girl Scouts Do?



Uniform Insignia Placement



Troop Year Plans



Tips for Troop Leaders



It's time to be inspired and have fun with your troop! When leaders and Girl Scouts work together, the sky's the limit—so get ready to soar!

TM ® & © 2025 Girl Scouts of the United States of America. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical methods, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, now known or hereinafter invented, without the prior written permission of Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA), except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permissions requests, write to GSUSA at the address below or visit the www.girlscouts.org website to access permission request forms.

First published in 2025 by Girl Scouts of the United States of America, 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798, www.girlscouts.org

Your First Troop Meeting

Most troop meetings are 60 or 90 minutes in length. Troops usually meet in schools, community rooms in places like libraries, businesses, or churches. What's most important is to make sure the space is free to use, and is welcoming and accessible to all members. If you aren't sure where to start, ask families of troop members if they have ideas or connections.

When you are at the meeting space, make sure you know where the nearest bathrooms are, the location of a First Aid kit (or bring your own), and closest exit in the event of an emergency. Find out if the space has an AED on site, and its location.

If you use the Volunteer Toolkit, your meetings will start with a pre-planned outline to earn a badge or patch, usually in 1-2 meetings. While not every meeting has to be a badge-earning meeting, most troops follow a loose agenda that looks something like this:

As girls arrive (10 Minutes)

Have a simple activity that Girl Scouts can do as other participants are still arriving in the theme of the badge or patch they are working on.

Opening (10-20 Minutes)

Most troops do something to mark the start of every meeting—that could be simple like saying the Promise & Law. (Girl Scouts can repeat line by line, if they don't know it yet!) Create a consistent tradition that works for your troop. This is also a good time to introduce the activities they are working on and begin brainstorming!

2-3 Activities (20-45 Minutes)

This is the bulk of your meeting time. Depending on the length of your meeting and the specific badge requirements this may be more or less. Try to make a mix of different types of activities to make sure Girl Scouts stay engaged. Even moving to different parts of the meeting space can help with this!

Closing Ceremony (5-10 Minutes)

Do a recap of what Girl Scouts learned or accomplished, and do a closing ceremony. Many troops do a Friendship Circle and sing Make New Friends, but you can adapt this to your troop's preferences.



In Case of an Accident

Procedures to be followed by the person in charge at the scene:

1. Remain calm and think clearly.
2. Give priority attention to secure the appropriate care for the injured person or persons.
3. Secure a doctor, ambulance, clergy, and/or police as appropriate.
4. Retain another responsible adult at the scene of the accident. Do not disturb the victim or surroundings until the police have assumed authority. In the event of a fatality, ALWAYS notify the police.
5. Contact council headquarters to report the situation and to secure additional assistance.
 - Council headquarters: 941-921-5358 or 1-800-232-4475
6. Contact the parent/caregiver/spouse.
 - Ask this person to meet you at the medical facility.
 - Let medical personnel and/or police share the condition of the injured person with family members.
7. Use the Incident Report Form and obtain all the facts about the accident.
 - What happened
 - When did it happen
 - How did it happen
 - Why did it happen
 - What is being done
8. Refer all media to the GSGCF Chief Communications and Resource Officer. Make NO comments orally or in writing, which could be interpreted incorrectly. Follow ALL instructions given by council headquarters EXPLICITLY. Diffuse all rumors.
9. In any situation, remove all remaining troop members that are not involved away from the scene of the accident. Girls are to be reassured and kept calm by adults.

Complete the Incident Report Form within 48 hours.

This form is available at gsgcf.org > Members > For Volunteers > Forms and Documents > Troop Management > Incident Report Form



Safety Checklist

1	Collect the Parent/Caregiver Consent Form for each girl in your troop. Keep that information with you during all activities—and be sure to keep it securely stored, to protect the safety and confidentiality of each family. Also collect Adult Consent Form for any adult participating in troop activities.
2	Keep your troop information updated and correct with the council. Update your regular meeting day, time, and place on the Troop Catalog or send an email to your MES for assistance.
3	Keep caregivers informed. Communicate regularly about troop meetings and activities. Use permission slips anytime the troop is doing anything out of the ordinary.
4	Girls are never alone! Girls should always use the buddy system and be accompanied by two approved adults at all times.
5	Know your surroundings! This goes for both the regular meeting place and when venturing out with the troop and applies to both people and places. Assess any risks that might be present and take appropriate action. This includes checking the weather and being prepared
6	Report abuse! <ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida's guidelines in Volunteer Essentials for reporting concerns about abuse or neglect that may be occurring inside or outside of Girl Scouting.
7	Create an emotionally safe space. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adults are responsible for making Girl Scouting a place where girls are as safe emotionally as they are physically. Protect the emotional safety of girls by creating a team agreement and coaching girls to honor it.Agreements typically encourage behaviors like respecting feelings and opinions; resolving conflicts constructively; and avoiding physical and verbal bullying, clique behavior, and discrimination.
8	Role-model the right behavior. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Never use illegal drugs.Don't consume alcohol, smoke, or use foul language in the presence of girls.
9	Promote online safety. Instruct girls never to put their full names or contact information online, engage in virtual conversation with strangers, or arrange in-person meetings with online contacts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">On group websites, publish girls' first names only and never divulge their contact information.Teach girls the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge located on GSUSA's website and have them commit to it.
10	Keep girls safe during money-earning activities. During Girl Scout product programs, you are responsible for the safety of girls, money, and products. <ul style="list-style-type: none">When representing Girl Scouts, girls cannot participate in money-earning activities that represent partisan politics or that are not Girl Scout-approved product programs and efforts.

Program Level Progression

PROGRAM LEVEL / GRADES	WHAT ARE THEY UP TO IN GIRL SCOUTS?	WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?
K-1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn the Girl Scout Promise and Law Earn petals, badges, and Journey awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of energy! Beginning to understand basic number concepts Just learning how to write and spell
2-3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn badges and Journey awards Can attend overnight camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are social and enjoy working in groups Want to help and can handle individual responsibilities of a task Love to act in plays, create music, and dance
4-5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn badges and Journey awards Can earn the Bronze Award Start to be viewed as role models for younger Girl Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Want to make decisions and express opinions Are aware of expectations and sensitive to the judgments of others Are social and enjoy doing things in groups
6-8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn badges and Journey awards Can earn the Silver Award Can be a Program Aide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are spending more time with peer groups than family and concerned about relationships and friends their own age Can be very self-conscious Are navigating their increased independence
9-10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn badges and Journey awards Can earn the Gold Award Can be a Program Aide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are beginning to clarify their own values and considering other viewpoints Strong problem-solving and critical thinking skills Feel they have lots of responsibilities and pressures
11-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn badges and Journey awards Can earn the Gold Award Can be a Program Aide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can see complexity of situations and controversial issues Enjoy expressing their individuality Feel that there are more responsibilities and pressures

Uniforms

Girl Scouts wear uniforms in ceremonies, when officially representing Girl Scouts, and when they want to show their Girl Scout pride. We know girls LOVE acquiring patches, badges, and insignia for their uniforms, and this is definitely one of the most memorable pieces of Girl Scouts. Here are some basic tips:

Sashes are worn from the right shoulder to the left hip. The insignia tab is worn on the left chest, over the heart. All unofficial awards go on the back of the uniform, including cookie, camp, and fun patches.

Girl Scouts from each grade level have one official uniform item (a sash, vest, or tunic) to display badges, pins, awards, and other insignia. This item is required when you participate in ceremonies or officially represent Girl Scouts. You can wear your sash, vest, or tunic over official Girl Scout gear or over a white shirt and khaki pants or skirt. Depending on grade level, official uniform items may be blue, brown, green, or khaki.

If you run out of space on the front of your uniform, you may place badges and awards on the back.

Financial assistance is available for uniforms through the GSGCF Promise Fund.

Visit: [gsgcf.org > Members > For Volunteers > Forms and Documents > Troop Management > Promise Fund Application for Girl Scout Essentials](https://gsgcf.org/members/for-volunteers/forms-and-documents/troop-management/promise-fund-application-for-girl-scout-essentials)

Managing Conflict

It is not uncommon for girls or troops to have disagreements or a behavior issue from time to time. The best way to address these topics is to be proactive right from the start! When you take a little bit of time at the beginning of the year to set the tone and expectations for all leaders, girls, and families in your troop, your year will run that much more smoothly.

Create a Troop Agreement

A Troop Agreement is a great opportunity to utilize the Girl-Led process. With guidance from the troop leaders, let the girls establish their own list of rules for the troop. Remember to include how the troop will handle disciplinary actions when the need arises. Once the rules have been established, have the girls complete their Girl Code of Conduct agreeing to follow the Girl Scout Promise and Law and the Troop Agreement.

1. Brainstorm with girls some different guidelines that could be included in their troop agreement. Create guidelines around treating each other based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law; preventing inappropriate behavior, such as fighting (verbal & physical), bullying, etc.; following directions; listening to leadership and fellow Girl Scouts when speaking; and resolving conflict peacefully.
2. Brainstorm with parents/caregivers how to best handle behavior problems with girls, including steps to correct inappropriate behavior. Utilize our 3 Strike System. If you do have continual problems, seek help from experienced volunteers or staff. Do not wait until things become frustrating and unbearable.
3. Once all parts of the agreement have been discussed and agreed upon, compile all rules into a document for each girl and adult to sign.
4. Using a poster, post a copy of guidelines girls will follow at each troop/group meeting to reinforce the troop/group agreement.

Three Strike Rule Behavior Plan

When dealing with Girl behavior parents need to be told upfront about our Three Strike Rule Behavior Plan. Discuss how it will be implemented and how we can use their support.

Strike 1 :

Warning/ set girl aside at the meeting to explain behavior (praise in public/correct in private). If behavior continues, schedule a meeting with parent(s) and girl to talk about the situation and discuss how we can help improve the behavior (schedule the meeting in private and not during troop meeting time).

Strike 2 :

If the behavior continues, set girl aside to explain their agreement to improve behavior and notify parent(s) about the on-going behavior. Determine or act on agreed consequences (lost privilege to participate in a meeting/Troop Activity). A parent will either chaperone their girl during the meeting or pick them up early.

Strike 3 :

The troop Leadership team will contact Council to share steps taken to address the situation at the troop level and discuss possible take action steps (possibility of not being able to return to that troop or Girl Scouts).

****Remember to always abide by the Girl Scouts Promise and Law.****

Things to consider when mediating a conflict within your troop:

- Maintain respectful, open communication with all parties throughout problem-solving
- Put it in writing! All parties should agree to the solution and the time frame as well as what next steps will be taken if the solution proves ineffective
- GSGCF encourages the problem-solving of concerns to occur with the parties most directly involved in the situation, but there are times when council staff assistance is necessary. This may include:
 - The safety and well-being of the girls are at risk
 - The safety and well-being of adult volunteers, parents/caregivers, or community members are at risk
 - Problem-solving attempts with parties directly involved were unsuccessful
 - The initial issue or concern has escalated in seriousness or urgency



Adding New Girl Scout Members

Many girls sign-up for Girl Scouts during the back-to-school season, but did you know girls can register at any time?

What is the Troop Catalog?

The Troop Catalog is GSGCF's list of troops across the council. If troops have spots open for additional girls, those listings are visible for parents as they're signing up new girls, based on their zip code. Troop listings include troop number, grade levels, approximate location, meeting day and time, and the number of openings remaining for girls and volunteers.

Additionally, your Troop Catalog listing may help you find additional troop volunteers! Parents can view how many volunteers are currently supporting a troop, and what opportunities are available for them to get involved.

Troops will confirm with council of their regular meeting time and place at the start of each year. The council maintains records of troop details, in case of emergencies. Only troops with spots available will be displayed on the catalog for new girls to join.

Is my troop required to take more girls?

We have girls across the council interested in joining troops, so we are always hoping girls (and leaders) can open their hearts to a few more members! However, we understand the need to set a maximum number of available spots due to meeting space and leader capacity! Troops need a minimum of 5 girls to start. We ask leaders to remain open until they have at least 12 girls in their troop. We'll work with you to set your troop maximum, and once your troop is full it will not display for additional girls on the Troop Catalog.

What happens when a new girl joins an existing troop?

Parent communication: As a leader, you will receive an instant email notification when a new member joins your troop—including the family's contact information. When you get a new member, be sure to reach out to the new family as soon as possible! Let them know when the next meeting is, and what they should bring with them. They'll want to know about things like uniforms, books, and troop dues—all those things you went through at your first family meeting!

Welcoming the girl: Of course, it can be challenging to introduce a new member to the group, but it doesn't have to be! Adding new girls to your troop—even midyear—can help energize your group and showcase the Girl Scout spirit of sisterhood and inclusion! Here's a few ideas for welcoming a new troop member:

- Have the girls introduce themselves! They might make welcome cards for the new member or tell stories at the first meeting. Maybe each girl can pick three things about herself she'd like her new Girl Scout sisters to know—such as about their families, pets, or interests.
- Host an Investiture Ceremony, to welcome the new girl in the world of Girl Scouting. (See page 24 for more on ceremonies!)

Troop Camping Readiness Quiz

Read each statement below and circle the answer that is most like the girls and adults in your troop.
If you are new to your troop, ask the leader to assist you in completing this quiz.

	1	2	3
The girls have expressed excitement and enthusiasm to go camping.	All / Most of the Girls	Some of the Girls	Few/None of the Girls
The girls have had experience sleeping over at a friend's house or slumber parties.	All / Most of the Girls	Some of the Girls	Few/None of the Girls
The girls have attended resident camp.	All / Most of the Girls	Some of the Girls	Few/None of the Girls
The girls have gone on field trips, day camping, or overnight family camping.	All / Most of the Girls	Some of the Girls	Few/None of the Girls
The girls can cope with darkness, night noises, insects, mice etc.	All / Most of the Girls	Some of the Girls	Few/None of the Girls
The adult volunteers can cope with darkness, night noises, insects, mice etc.	Sure! We're Brave!	Probably	No Way!
The girls and adults can manage with little to no privacy or quiet time alone.	All / Most of Us	Some of Us	Few/None of Us
The girls get along well with each other, no one feels left out or picked on.	All / Most of the Time	Some/ Part of the Time	Rarely/Hardly Ever
The girls rarely argue and can settle disagreements peacefully among themselves.	All / Most of the Time	Some/ Part of the Time	Rarely/Hardly Ever
The girls listen at troop meetings and follow verbal instructions well.	All / Most of the Time	Some/ Part of the Time	Rarely/Hardly Ever
The girls have used Kaper Charts, dividing meeting jobs without being reminded to do their job.	All / Most of the Time	Some/ Part of the Time	Rarely/Hardly Ever
Girls have taken responsibility to plan and follow through on troop activities.	All / Most of the Time	Some/ Part of the Time	Rarely/Hardly Ever
Girls remember to bring items for troop meetings: handbooks, permission forms, treats etc.	All / Most of the Time	Some/ Part of the Time	Rarely/Hardly Ever
Girls take responsibility for their personal belongings and clean up at the end of meetings.	All / Most of the Time	Some/ Part of the Time	Rarely/Hardly Ever
Do you sense the girls make their own beds at home and can roll and tie their own sleeping bags?	Probably All / Most Could	Maybe Some Could	Probably Not
Have girls had experience at troop meetings or home in preparing food and snacks?	All / Most of the Girls	Some of the Girls	Few/None of the Girls
Would the girls be able to wash dishes, clean up the cooking area and store or handle food properly?	All / Most of the Girls	Some of the Girls	Few/None of the Girls
Could the girls read and follow recipes. Measure ingredients, use sharps knives or other cooking tools?	All / Most of the Girls	Some of the Girls	Few/None of the Girls
Would the girls be able to lift pots or pans, stir food that is cooking, carry bowls and pans safely?	All / Most of the Girls	Some of the Girls	Few/None of the Girls
Are the parents ready to let the girls go camping?	All / Most of the Parents	Some of the Parents	Few/None of the Parents
TOTAL in EACH COLUMN			

If 6 or more items are circled in column 3 ~ there's work to be done before the girls are ready for an overnight experience.

When more items are circled in column 2 and column 1, you are on your way to a more enjoyable overnight.

Ceremonies & Recognitions

Ceremonies are a great way to celebrate different aspects of the Girl Scout year, from first joining the Girl Scout family and honoring themes that are important to girls, to bridging into a new program level and everything in between. Who doesn't love to celebrate?

Investitures are a way to welcome new members into the Girl Scout family. During an investiture ceremony, new girls are presented with the Girl Scout Pin in front of friends and families. Your troop can host this ceremony at the beginning of the year (usually in September or October), and there are many ways you can conduct the ceremony!

Rededication Generally, investitures are tied to a rededication ceremony. Rededication is a time for current members to reconnect with the Girl Scout mission and their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Consider a rededication ceremony for your second year.

Girl Scouts' Own Ceremony is completely girl-led and planned. The ceremony centers around a theme, such as nature, service, or sisterhood. These ceremonies can include, but are not limited to, spoken word, songs, poetry, or dance. It is important that it encompasses the girls' expression of their feelings on the topic picked out by the troop.

Court of Awards This ceremony recognizes girls' accomplishments throughout the year. It can be held at any time during the year and wherever the troop or service unit wishes it to be. The Court of Awards includes both girls and volunteers.

Flag Ceremonies are used to honor the American flag and occur at the beginning and end of an event and/or meeting. While not a required part of troop meetings, it is recommended for girls to have some familiarity with the process of the flag ceremony.

Flag Retirement Ceremonies One of the most meaningful ways to show respect for the American flag is by participating in a flag retirement ceremony. According to the U.S. Flag Code when a flag is "in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way.



Bridging Ceremonies signify a girl's move from one level of Girl Scouting to another (for example, Girl Scout Daisies to Girl Scout Brownies). It is a ceremony that provides girls an opportunity to reflect on their achievements and look forward to new adventures and responsibilities to come. Traditionally, girls cross over a bridge (this can be a real bridge or something your girls make), sharing what they have learned at their level.

"Fly Up" Ceremony A special bridging ceremony for Girl Scout Brownies is called a "Fly Up," when a girl receives her Girl Scout pin along with her Brownie wings as she bridges from a Brownie to a Junior. The tradition stems from a time when Girl Scouts started at age 10 and Brownies were recognized as Junior Scouts or "Brownies" between the ages of 6-10. The Brownies Junior Scout Troop Leader was known as a Brown Owl. At age 10, the Brownies moved up to a Girl Scout troop and their Brown Owl would give them one of her feathers so they could "fly" up. Brownie Wings were first used as a symbol of bridging in 1927 and they are still a sign of bridging to this day.

Patches and Leadership Awards

BADGES

When a girl earns a badge, it represents that she's learned a new skill. Topics of badges range from outdoor skills to civic engagement- you name it, there's a badge for it! Badges are worn on the front of the girl's uniform. Daisy Girl Scouts (grades K-1) earn special "Petals" to wear on their uniforms.



THREE KEYS TO LEADERSHIP - Through community exploration and the Girl Scout Journeys, girls:

Discover: their interests and values

Connect: with others in their community and identify needs

Take Action: to improve their communities and beyond

Badges vs. patches...What's the difference?

Official Girl Scouts of the USA badges and Awards are earned by completing the requirements in the Foundational Girl Scout Program. These are worn on the front of the vest or sash.

Patches (a.k.a. Fun patches) are given to girls for attending events, activities or to signify something that isn't an event or activity (i.e. My mom is a GS leader). These are placed on the BACK of the uniform. Patches earned during the product program are also placed on the back of the uniform.



TROOP CRESTS

Some families have crests to show what they stand for. Well, Girl Scouts is like a family too! You and your troop can choose a crest to wear on your uniform. Be sure to talk about the symbol on each crest and choose the one you want your troop to stand for. Tip: Have your girls vote to make it a girl-led decision!

Our Girl Scout Membership Team is awesome, and they understand how confusing all the parts of the uniform can be. If you have a uniform question, contact our council staff at customercare@gsgcf.org. You can also find specifics on each grade level's uniform on our website. gsgcf.org > Members > For Girl Scouts > Badges and Journeys



Don't forget you can shop the GSUSA online store 24/7. Visit girlscoutshop.com

BROWNIE WINGS

Brownie Girl Scout Wings show that a girl has completed her years as a Brownie. This is a tradition that goes back to when Brownie Girl Scout leaders were called Brown Owls. When Brownie Girl Scouts moved up to the next level, their Brown Owl would give them one of her feathers so they could "fly" up. The wings are worn on the Junior sash or vest, and every vest or sash thereafter, centered horizontally directly under the Bridge to Junior Award. The Brownie Girl Scout Wings are often given at year-end award ceremonies.



LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Girl Scout Leadership Awards celebrate all the ways girls lead— for themselves, their troop and their community. Divided into 4 categories: personal leadership, peer leadership, teaching leadership and community advocacy – these awards give Girl Scouts the chance to grow as leaders in ways that feel authentic and meaningful while they develop practical skills like confidence, critical thinking, teamwork, communication, project planning, and advocacy. These Leadership Award Pins are worn on the front of the vest and carry over to new grade-level vests as they progress through the program.



Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)

MY TROOP	EXPLORE	YEAR PLAN	MEETING PLAN	RESOURCES	FINANCES
You will see your girls' contact information in this tab.	Wondering where to get started? You can see all the exciting options in the Explore tab. You'll be able to:	From this tab you can:	Make every meeting a success! Here you'll find:	Where do badges belong on her uniform? Which awards can she earn at the next grade level? If you have questions, you'll find the answers you need on here	Use this Tab to track your troops Finances
From here you can send emails to the entire troop	Browse prebuilt tracks of badge and Leadership Award activities	Set meeting dates and locations	Suggested badge outlines	Access GSUSA and GSGCF specific resources.	Submit your annual finance report to council
Download Excel spreadsheet with girls' information and lists of all marked achievements	See an overview of all preselected tracks at the bottom of the page. It's even printable, so you can easily review your options!	Add badges, Leadership Awards, and activities to your plan	Material lists - supplies you will need	Use the Badge Explorer to find all the available badges for your girls grade level and the steps she needs to do to complete them	Parents/Caregivers can view a financial summary of the troop's income and expenses
	Preview tracks and badge requirements before you add them to your year plan	Preview badge and Leadership Award requirements	Printable meeting aids and customizable agendas		
	Create your own activity track with your girls		Send email reminders to your troop about upcoming meetings		
	Don't worry! You can always add, remove, or change your plan as you go, one meeting at a time		Track attendance and badge achievements		

Use the VTK in a way that makes sense for your troop. Nothing about Girl Scouts is one-size-fits-all, including the VTK. Use all the VTK has to offer or choose features that best fit your troop needs. Multi-level troops may find different benefits from single level troops.

Reminder: You must be a currently registered member of Girl Scouts and have chosen a leader role in your troop to set up your troop's VTK. Each co-leader logs in with their credentials but sees the same information for your troop. Make sure all leaders know when you have made changes to the account!

THINGS TO KNOW:

- The Volunteer Toolkit "resets" on June 30 of each year and the prior year plan is archived for viewing but will no longer be editable. You can begin planning for the next program year after July 1. You must be registered for the next membership year to use the Volunteer Toolkit for the next year.

- The Volunteer Toolkit contains most of the badges and awards available for girls.
- You can't change the past! Once a meeting has occurred, it cannot be deleted or moved to another date, but you can make a few updates (like who attended). If a meeting didn't happen as scheduled, but you didn't delete it in time, just add a new, duplicate meeting on a new date.
- The VTK is a resource maintained by Girl Scouts of the USA, and it is regularly updated and enhanced based on feedback from leaders like you!

Questions? Please feel free to contact Customer Care at 800-232-4475 or customercare@gsgcf.org.

Girl Scout Traditions

Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts, understood how special words and signs helped girls feel like they are members of a group. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world share special signs like a handshake, a squeeze, a motto, and a slogan. These special signs overcome barriers of language and culture as they remind us of the values we live by.

MOTTO AND SLOGAN

The Girl Scout motto is “Be prepared”. In the 1947 Girl Scout Handbook, the motto was explained this way: “A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed. Willingness to serve is not enough; you must know how to do the job well, even in an emergency.” The same holds true today.

The Girl Scout slogan, which has been used since 1912, is “Do a good turn daily”. Take time to teach girls the slogan—it is a reminder of the many ways girls can contribute positively to the lives of others.



THE GIRL SCOUT SIGN

The Girl Scout Sign is made when reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law. The sign is formed with the right hand, by using the thumb to hold down the pinky, leaving the three middle fingers extended to represent the three parts of the Promise.

THE GIRL SCOUT HANDSHAKE

Another form of greeting between Girl Scouts is the Girl Scout handshake. Girls raise their right hand in the Girl Scout sign and shake using their left hand, denoting friendliness and loyalty.



MAKE NEW FRIENDS

At the end of each Girl Scout Meeting, often finish by singing “Make New Friends.” Do this with the Friendship Circle and finish up with the Friendship Squeeze and a twirl out by raising their hands above their heads and slowly twirling around out until they are all facing outwards.

“Make new friends, but keep the old.

One is silver, the other is gold.



A circle is round, it has no end.

That's how long, I will be your friend.

A circle's round It has no end.

That's how long I want to be your friend.”



THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The Friendship Circle involves Girl Scouts standing in a circle, crossing their right arms over their left, and clasping hands with their friends on both sides.

THE FRIENDSHIP SQUEEZE

To end meetings and activities with the Friendship Squeeze, everyone gathers in the Friendship Circle. Once everyone is silent and each girl crosses her right arm over her left and holds hands with the person on each side. Once everyone is silent, the leader or a girl starts the Friendship Squeeze by squeezing the hand of the person next to her. One by one, each girl passes on the squeeze until it travels around the full circle.

QUIET SIGN

The Quiet Sign is a way to silence a crowd without shouting at anyone. The sign is made by holding up the right hand with all five fingers extended. It refers to the original Fifth Law of Girl Scouting: A Girl Scout is courteous.



KAPER CHARTS

A Kaper Chart is a Girl Scout tradition for dividing up troop responsibilities among the girls. Each job or chore is called a Kaper. A Kaper Chart is a list of assignments, similar to a chore list. Examples of Kapers are cleaning up or taking out trash. Kapers can also be fun tasks like the Girl Scout Promise leader, activity helper, snack helper, and Friendship Squeeze leader. Using a Kaper system right from the start helps build leadership and ownership in troop activities to assist with group behavior management.

SWAPS

SWAPS (Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere), the tradition of Girl Scouts exchanging keepsakes, started long ago when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides first gathered for fun, song, and making new friends. They are small tokens of friendship that Girl Scouts exchange with one another, and each SWAP uniquely reflects a fellow Girl Scout, their troop, or a memory of a special event. SWAPS are the perfect way for Girl Scouts to meet each other and promote friendship. Each one is a memory of a special event or Girl Scout Sister.

Kaper Chart	
Kaper/Task	Name/Patrol
Attendance/Dues	
Opening (Pledge, Promise, Law)	
Hand Out Activity Supplies	
Snack	
Clean-up	
Closing (Friendship Squeeze)	

SIT UPONS

Sit-Upons are a long-time Girl Scout tradition. What is a Sit-Upon? It is something you sit-upon to keep dry and warm. Sit-upons are usually home-made and are a great craft for your girls to make in preparation for a hike or camping trip. Girls use sit-upons to protect themselves against the cold and wet when sitting on the ground, a log, or any other cold/wet area. There are many types of sit-upons that girls can make. Some are more permanent and can be used over and over again, and some are so simple and cheap to make, that they are quick and easy fixes when you're in a bind.



S'MORES

The ooey, gooey combination of marshmallows and chocolate stacked between two graham crackers cooked to perfection over an open campfire with friends is more than just a tasty treat, it's a Girl Scout time-honored tradition that has been around since 1927.

Deriving their name from the term “some more” because as we all know, once you have one, you’ll want s’more, the delicious treat is so beloved, there’s even a National S’mores Day, celebrated every year on August 10.



Honor Troop Program

Honor Troops make Girl Scouting an exceptional experience, setting themselves apart as role models by participating in a wide variety of engaging activities. Becoming an Honor Troop is easier than you think. These simple things are the mark of a successful troop.

Utilize the Volunteer Toolkit

Create a troop year plan, track meetings and achievements, track finances in the VTK.

Participate in Girl Scout Traditions

Recite and practice the Promise and Law. Sing Girl Scout songs, participate in ceremonies and proudly wear pins and uniforms.

Take Part in an Outdoor Adventure

Get outside, go out to a community park, take a hike or go camping.

Participate in Girl Scout Product Programs

Fall Product Programs and the cookie Program are essential to join and raise funds for your troop and our movement.

Be Active in Your Local Girl Scout Community

Invite a new girl to the troop. Attend your local Service Unit meetings.

Choose a Few Badges or Awards From the Girl Scout Leadership Experience Curriculum to Work on as a Troop

Complete at least one STEM badge or activity. Participate in an activity that focuses on diversity, equity, and/or inclusion.

Complete a Service Project

Identify a need in your community and take action! Girl Scouts in grades 4-12 can earn High Awards for their service.

Most Importantly . . . Have Fun!

Find new ways to ensure your troop is girl-led and make memories.

For more information on the Honor Troop Program requirements and survey form visit
gsgcf.org >Members > For Volunteers > Forms and Documents > Honor Programs

Honor Troop survey is due mid June.

Appendix

Glossary of Girl Scout Terms

A

ALUM: Short for Alumni. A former Girl Scout member

AMBASSADOR: A Girl Scout in grades 11 or 12.

APPRECIATION PIN: The Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual volunteer's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This service, which has had a measurable impact on at least one service unit, contributes to expanding the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals for that area.

B

BADGES: Official embroidered insignia earned by completing a certain number of requirements in the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. These earned awards are sewn on the front of the uniform and are distinguished from "fun patches" which are obtained by participating in various events.

BRIDGING: When girls move from one program grade level to the next; may include an award for the girls completing the bridging award requirements, and likely will include a ceremony. When girls complete the steps outlined in The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, they earn a rainbow bridging award.

BRONZE AWARD: Bronze Award: The highest award Girl Scout Juniors (4th and 5th grade) can earn. It requires completion of a Leadership Award, a minimum of 20 hours building a team, exploring the community, choosing a Take Action project, planning it, putting the plan in motion, and spreading the word about the project.

BROWNIE: A Girl Scout in grades 2 or 3.

BROWNIE RING: One of three common forms of governance used for troops. As a progression from the Daisy Circle, girls take on more decision-making responsibilities. Brownies learn how decisions are made and follow a set of rules for discussion time.

BROWNIE WINGS: A patch worn on the front of a Junior uniform (and every uniform thereafter) earned by a girl that has completed her years as a Brownie and bridged up to a Junior.

BUDDY SYSTEM: Safety practice that groups two or three girls together to keep watch over each other in an activity (for example, swimming or hiking). The system places girls of equal ability in the same group.

C

CADETTE: A Girl Scout in grades 6 through 8.

CHEEDAR UP: A credit card processing app available for all troops and girls. This means troops and girls can accept credit cards as a contact-free form of payment when delivering cookies to customers.

COMMUNITY SERVICE BAR: A program award that recognizes Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts who have made a difference in their community by practicing the values of the Girl Scout Law. Girls choose an organization in their community they are passionate about, and complete at least 20 hours of service with that one organization. The color of each service bar corresponds to their grade level – Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador.

COOKIE BOOTH LOTTERY: A system in which troops can select cookie booths at retail partner locations.

COOKIE CREDITS: Digital currency that Girl Scouts and troops earn throughout the year, including during the Girl Scout Cookie Program. It can be redeemed at Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida to be put toward membership or program / camp registration.

COOKIE ENTREPRENEUR FAMILY PIN: A cookie program recognition program that engages the support of family members—whether immediate or extended—as they help Girl Scouts at every grade level, to focus on their individual goals and skills in every year of selling cookies. The color of each pin corresponds to their grade level – Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, Ambassador and makes Girl Scout Cookie season a family affair.

COOKIE PROGRAM: The Cookie Program is the world's largest girl-led business, teaching girls skills in finance, management, and decision-making through a structured, ands-on entrepreneurial experience. Girls participate in the program by selling packages of Girl Scout Cookies to earn funds for their troop and earn personal rewards. This program is scheduled for January – March.

C

COUNCIL: A corporation, chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA, organized for the purpose of developing, managing, and maintaining Girl Scouting within a defined geographic region. Our council is Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Inc which covers 10 counties, and 10,000 square miles serving girls from the Skyway Bridge to the Everglades, and east to Lake Okeechobee.

COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CIT): A program award that recognizes Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors who mentor young girls in a camp setting as they build skills toward becoming a camp counselor. To earn this award Girl Scouts complete a leadership course designed by the council on outdoor experiences and work with younger girls over the course of a camp session.

CSA: Abbreviation of Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador.

COURT OF AWARDS: A ceremony to present badges and earned recognitions typically held at the end of the school year.

D

DAISY: A Girl Scout in grades K or 1. Also the nickname of Juliette Gordon Low.

DAY CAMP: A camp program within a 12-hour period that lasts for a minimum of three days.

DAISY CIRCLE: One of three common forms of governance used for troops. In the circle, girls learn communication and decision-making skills by participating in a large group discussion.

DESTINATIONS A trip or event beyond girls' own troops and councils. Destinations fall into one of five different categories: international, outdoor, science, people, or getaways. All destinations events provide an opportunity for individual members to broaden their perspectives and give Girl Scouting enhanced visibility.

DIGITAL COOKIE: The Digital Cookie platform allows girls and volunteers to customize the way they learn and earn during the Girl Scout Cookie Program.

E

EARLY BIRD: Early renewal campaign that takes place between April and June (specific dates change each year) with added incentives like increased cookie earnings and patches for girls who renew their membership before a certain date.

eBUDDE: The digital platform used by Troop Cookie Managers during the Girl Scout Cookie Program.

F

FALL PRODUCT PROGRAM: The Fall Product Program, known as Mags and Munchies, is a Council-led fundraiser. Girls participate by selling nuts, chocolates, magazines, and more to earn funds for their troop and earn personal rewards. This program is scheduled for September-October.

FLAG CEREMONY: Honors the American flag as the symbol of our country and all the hopes, dreams, and people it represents.

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY: Honors the American flag by retiring a flag that is no longer a fitting emblem for display to by destroying it in a dignified manner in accordance with the US Flag Code.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE: Girl Scouts, both girls and adults, stand in a circle holding hands, right arm over left arm, which stands for the unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world.

FRIENDSHIP SQUEEZE: Within a friendship circle, one person gently squeezes the hand of the next person and the squeeze is silently passed around the circle.

FLY UP: When Brownies bridge to Juniors, this is how they earn their Brownie wings. Girls who fly up from Brownies can wear their wings on their vest/sash at every future program grade level.

FOUNDER'S DAY: Celebrated each year on October 31, in honor of Juliette Gordon Low's birthday.

G

GIRL GUIDE: The original name for Girl Scouts. See WAGGS for more information.

G.I.R.L.: When she's a Girl Scout, she's also a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) TM. These traits define girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. This is the Girl Scout DNA.

GIRL-LED: An idea that girls of every grade-level take an active role in determining what, where, when, why, and how they'll structure activities. Adults provide guidance, ensuring that planning, organization, and set-up are age-appropriate. Evaluation of all activities is done jointly with girls and is integral to a high-quality Girl Scout experience.

GIRL SCOUT HANDSHAKE: Formal way of greeting other Girl Scouts by shaking with the left hand, while giving the Girl Scout sign with the right hand.

G**GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (GSLE):**

The engine for everything girls do in Girl Scouting. The experience identifies all the elements that need to be in place for Girl Scouting to achieve its mission; Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. When Discover, Connect, and Take Action activities are combined with the Girl Scout Processes of Girl-Led, Learning by Doing, and Cooperative Learning, girls achieve the desired and expected short-term leadership outcomes, ultimately resulting in Girl Scouting achieving its mission.

GIRL SCOUT SIGN: Traditional Girl Scout greeting. The right hand is raised shoulder high with the three middle fingers extended and the thumb crossing over the palm to hold down the little finger.

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY: The beginning of Girl Scout Week each year (the week of March 12). Some troops and service units bring in Girl Scout inserts for their church bulletins.

GIRL SCOUT WEEK: Annual celebration during the week of March 12 (the Girl Scout Birthday) to celebrate the beginning of Girl Scouts.

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA (GSUSA): National organization of Girl Scouts headquartered in New York, NY that promotes the Girl Scout movement in the U.S.A., which includes the United States, its territories, and possessions. Membership dues are paid to GSUSA. Their website is girlscouts.org.

GIRL SCOUT'S OWN CEREMONY: A completely girl-led ceremony, often centered on a theme such as nature, service, or sisterhood.

THE GIRL'S GUIDE TO GIRL SCOUTING: A guidebook for each program level full of information about being a Girl Scout and how to earn legacy badges.

GOLD AWARD: The highest award in Girl Scouts. Open to Girl Scouts in high school, Gold Award projects find a sustainable way to solve community problems.

GOLD TORCH AWARD: A peer leadership award that recognizes a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador who acts as a leader in her community. The award is earned by serving in a leadership position at a school, place of worship, library, or similar organization.

GORP: An acronym with two possible meanings, depending on who you ask! Good Old Raisins & Peanuts, or Granola, Oats, Raisins, & Peanuts. A camp snack favorite!

GREEN ANGEL AWARD: This adult award is unique to Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida. This individual is the “MVP” (most Valuable Volunteer) of the Service Unit who has been the backbone of the Service Unit during the membership year.

H

HIGHEST AWARDS (BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD): The highest awards that a Junior (Bronze), Cadette (Silver), and Senior/Ambassador (Gold) can earn. All three awards give girls the chance to do big things while supporting an issue they care about.

HONOR PIN: The Honor Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This service, which has had a measurable impact on two or more service units, contributes to expanding the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals for that area.

HONOR TROOP: A troop that sets itself apart as role models by participating in a wide variety of engaging activities.

I

INSIGNIA: Girl Scout official emblem, buttons, badges, pins, and other official forms of recognition which may be worn on the uniform by registered members.

INVESTITURE: A special ceremony in which a new member accepts the Girl Scout Promise and Law and receives the membership pin.

J

JULIETTE: Term used to refer to registered Girl Scouts who are not part of the traditional troop program. These girls still work toward the same badges and activities; they simply do not belong to a troop. They can join other girls at council-wide events and can participate in all Girl Scouts has to offer. They are also known as individually registered members (IRMs). First name of Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low.

JUNIOR: A Girl Scout in grades 4 or 5.

JUNIOR COUNSELOR: A Girl Scout who has already completed both Counselor in Training (CIT) I and II programs and would like to further enhance her leadership skills by learning what it's like to be a camp counselor

K

KAPER CHART: A chart that divides the jobs within the troop/group. The chart typically rotates or can easily be changed so that everyone experiences each job and has the opportunity for leadership.

L

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: A one-time fee that enables you to become a Girl Scout for life. This is available to any person 18 years of age or a high school graduate.

LITTLE BROWNIE BAKER: Little Brownie Baker (LBB) is the vendor for the Cookie Program. During the program, troop leaders use the LBB provided software, eBudde, to organize their sales.

M

M2: M2 is the vendor for the Fall Product Program (Mags & Munchies). During the program, troop leaders use the M2 system to organize their sale.

MAGS AND MUNCHIES: Mags and Munchies is the Council name for the Fall Product Program.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST: The troop leader and member volunteer's main point of contact and support for travel, banking, financial assistance, VTK, GSLE, troop conflict, and volunteer management at GSGCF council headquarters.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: A fee paid annually to Girl Scouts of the USA for registration which goes directly to National Headquarters. One of the requirements for becoming a member of GSUSA.

MEMBERSHIP NUMERAL PIN: The Membership Numeral Pin recognizes the individual member for combined years of membership both as a girl and adult member. These pins are available in five-year intervals.

MEMBERSHIP PIN: Either of two pins; the trefoil (contemporary style) or trefoil with eagle (traditional style) pin. These pins signify the acceptance of the membership requirements.

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: October 1 through September 30.

MOTTO: The Girl Scout motto is “Be prepared.”

MYGS: A membership and volunteer resource tool built into one login, which allows you to access your member profile (for registration) and the Volunteer Toolkit.

MY PROMISE, MY FAITH PIN: A recognition pin that is earned by girls who want to find out what their faith and Girl Scouting have in common, using the Girl Scout Law as a guide. Girls can earn this pin once a year at each grade level, with a different pin awarded for each year a Girl Scout earns the recognition. The color of the pin corresponds to Girl Scout grade level color.

N

NATIONAL GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS: An honor given to 10 Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors each year whose Gold Award projects demonstrated extraordinary leadership, had a measurable and sustainable impact, and addressed a local challenge related to a national and/or global issue.

O

ON TIME RENEWAL: The membership renewal period running from the end of Early Bird until the end of the membership year, September 30.

ONLINE MEMBER COMMUNITY: Where troop leaders and members login to renew their Girl Scout membership (MY GS).

P

PATCHES/FUN PATCH: Unofficial recognitions for participation in a troop/group or council-wide event that are worn on the back of the sash or vest.

PATCH PROGRAM: Patches earned by completing programs unique to individual councils or organizations. The required activities to complete the patch programs are generally found on the council or organization's website.

PATROL: One of three common forms of governance used for older Girl Scout troops. In the Patrol System, girls learn communication and decision-making skills by participating in smaller group discussions and then selecting a lead to represent their group.

PETALS: Earned awards by Girl Scout Daisies. Girls earn the Promise Center by showing they understand the Girl Scout Promise. Girls earn Petals by showing they understand the 10 parts of the Girl Scout Law.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD: The President's Award recognizes the efforts of a service-delivery team, committee, or volunteer team whose exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience surpassed team goals and resulted in significant, measurable impact toward reaching the council's overall goals.

PRODUCT PROGRAMS: The Product Programs are Council-led fundraisers that help your troop earn funds. They include the Cookie Program and the Fall Product Program (Mags & Munchies).

PROGRAM AIDE AWARD: A teaching leadership award that recognizes Cadettes who have chosen to take a position of leadership and want to share their Girl Scout knowledge with others. This award is earned by working directly with younger girls.

PROGRAM AIDE: This training is available for older girls (Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors) and focuses on deepening leadership skills and building up older girls to be mentors of younger girls.

PROGRAM LEVEL: Girl Scouting is divided into six different program levels: Daisy (K-1) • Brownie (2-3) • Junior (4-5) • Cadette (6-8) • Senior (9-10) • Ambassador (11-12).

Q

QUIET SIGN: Girl Scout signal for silence in a group situation. The person in charge raises their right hand and Girl Scouts fall silent as they raise their right hand also.

R

REDEDICATION CEREMONY: A time for current members to reconnect with the Girl Scout mission and their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

RESIDENT CAMP: Overnight camp. Sessions are generally for at least five days and four nights. The program is operated and staffed by the camp, and the supervision of campers is a camp responsibility. Campers stay overnight, and camp is responsible for campers 24 hours a day.

S

SAFETY ACTIVITY CHECKPOINTS: Safety documents that complement Volunteer Essentials: Safety-Wise, which outline policies and guidelines for specific Girl Scouting activities. Examples include swimming, hiking, horseback riding, hayrides, and theme parks.

SAFETY AWARD: A program recognition that is earned by following a five-step process (three for Daisies) for staying safe, tailored to each Girl Scout grade level. The color of the pin corresponds to their grade level.

SASH: A type of uniform available to Brownies through Ambassadors. The sash sits on the right shoulder and crosses the body, resting on the left hip.

SENIOR: A Girl Scout in grades 9 or 10.

SERVICE BAR: Awarded to Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts who make a difference in their community or the Girl Scout organization by practicing the values of the Girl Scout Law through service.

SERVICE PROJECT: A project that is done for the community and addresses an immediate, short-term need in the community.

SERVICE TO GIRL SCOUTING BAR: A program award that recognizes Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts who have volunteered with the Girl Scout organization—with their local council office, their local service unit, or other local troops. Girls are required to fulfill 20 hours of service to earn this bar. The color of the right-hand corner of each service bar corresponds to their grade level – Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador.

SERVICE UNIT: Geographic unit of troops/ groups within a region led by experienced volunteers who support leaders and troops.

SERVICE UNIT KICK-OFF: A regional event that Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida hosts for service team

volunteers that typically occurs at the beginning of the membership year. Service units may also hold local kick-off events for troop leaders or other volunteers in the service unit.

SERVICE UNIT MANAGER (SUM): An experienced volunteer who manages the local service unit and works with local troop leaders.

SERVICE UNIT TEAM VOLUNTEER: Volunteers who support and mentor troop volunteers in their service unit.

SILVER AWARD: The highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can receive. Earned by completing a Leadership Award and the suggested minimum of 50 hours building a team, exploring the community, picking a Take Action project, developing the project, and spreading the word.

SILVER TORCH AWARD: A peer leadership award that recognizes a Girl Scout Cadette who acts as a leader in her community. The award is earned by serving in a leadership position at a school, place of worship, library, or similar organization.

SIT-UPON: Lightweight pad or mat the girls make to “sit-upon” when the ground is dirty or damp.

SLOGAN: The Girl Scout slogan is “Do a good turn daily.”

S'MORES: A sandwich made with graham crackers, chocolate, and a roasted marshmallow, invented by Girl Scouts.

T

TAKE ACTION PROJECT: A project that is done WITH the community, addresses the root cause of a community issue, and has long-term impact.

THANKS BADGE I & II: The Thanks Badges honor an individual volunteer whose ongoing commitment, leadership and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission delivery goals and priorities of the entire council and the entire Girl Scout Movement. The outstanding service performed by the nominee resulted in outcomes that benefited the total council or the entire Girl Scout organization and is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate.

T

TREFOIL: International symbol of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. The trefoil represents the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

TROOP: This group of girls and adults who meet on a regular basis to engage in Girl Scout Program activities. Troops are organized according to grade level, which places girls together with others in the same social/ developmental stage.

TROOP CATALOG: Online list of troops across the council, which displays information about troop openings so more girls can find a troop to join.

TROOP CREST: A Girl Scout tradition that helps leaders easily identify Girl Scouts belonging to different troops while on a hike or other activity. There are currently 16 official troop crests available, and they are displayed on uniforms between the Girl Scout Council Identification Set and the troop numerals.

TROOP DUES: A small amount of money girls bring to each meeting or to kick off the year to help cover the cost of basic troop supplies. Each troop decides whether or not to charge dues and sets the amount.

TROPHY NUT: Trophy Nut is the vendor that provides nuts and chocolates products for the Fall Product Program (Mags & Munchies).

TUNIC: A type of uniform available to Daisies. It is worn over the shoulders and ties at the waist.

V

VEST: A type of uniform available to all grade levels.

VOLUNTEER ESSENTIALS: A comprehensive resource for volunteers that covers topics on safety, responsibilities, traditions, the Girl Scout program, troop finances, and more.

VOLUNTEER IN TRAINING (VIT): A teaching leadership award that recognizes a Girls Scout Senior or Ambassador who mentors a Girl Scout Daisy, Brownie, Junior or Cadette group outside of the camp experience. Girls who have completed ninth grade are eligible to earn this award. To earn this award a Girl Scout completes a leadership course designed by the council and intern with a current adult volunteer mentor with their group of girls over a 3-6 month period.

VOLUNTEER LED DAY CAMP (VDC): Special day camps run exclusively by our incredible volunteers and vary from a few hours to a few days long. Girls enjoy a variety of outdoor activities where they connect with other girls and take action to make a difference in the community.

VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD: The Volunteer of Excellence Award recognizes adult troop leaders who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through the use of the National Program Portfolio and who have contributed outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to girl and adult members in one of the following areas: Membership Development/Community Cultivation, Volunteer Relations and Support, Program, Leadership

and Governance, Fund Development and Council Support Service.

VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT (VTK): A digital resource that lets you update your troop's information, plan your entire year, and communicate with families.

W

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL

SCOUTS (W.A.G.G.G.S): Worldwide organization of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts with over 146 member countries to which GSUSA belongs. WAGGGS headquarters are in London, England.

WORLD THINKING DAY (FEBRUARY 22): Celebrated since 1926, World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship, speaking out on issues that affect girls and young women, and fundraising for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world. Girls traditionally learn about the cultures and traditions of WAGGGS member countries. This day also commemorates the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the founders of the Scouting Movement worldwide.

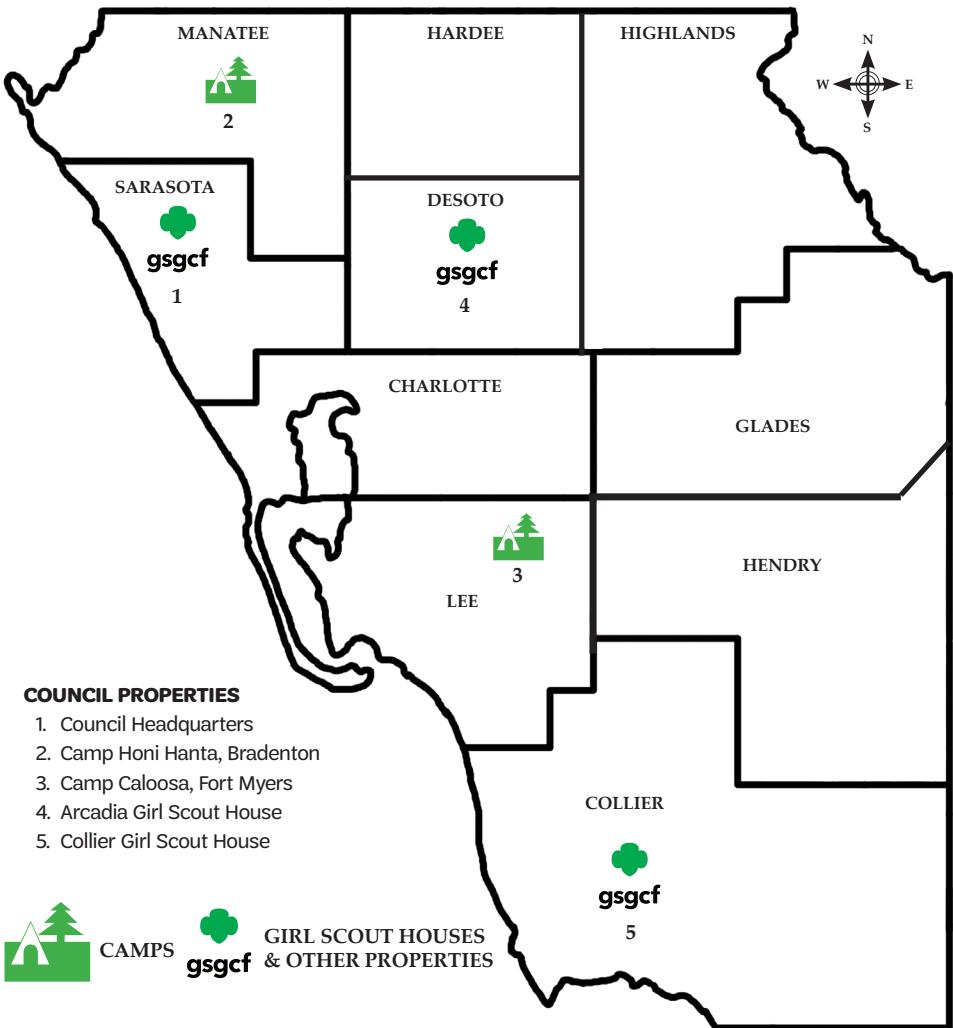
Y

YEARS OF SERVICE PIN: The Years of Service Pin recognizes years of volunteer service given as a registered adult member only. These pins are available in five-year intervals. For those who receive a 20-year or higher pin, GSGCF will award these pins at the council's annual Adult Award meeting.

YOUNG WOMEN OF DISTINCTION: The most celebrated event of the year when GSGCF recognizes girls who received the Girl Scout Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards, Religious Recognitions, and 10-Year Pins, along with graduating Girl Scouts, Girl Scout College Scholarship recipients, Fall product and Cookie Entrepreneurs.

Council Map By County

Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, Inc. is chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA and serves girls in Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Sarasota, DeSoto, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Collier Counties.



Girl Scout Structure / Service Units

Service Units are troops within a specific geographic area. Service Unit team members and troop representatives meet several times throughout the year to share ideas, plan events, and receive training. By now, you've likely heard from your service unit. If not, let us know and we'll get you connected!

Our council is comprised of 20 Service Units across 10 Counties.

Service Units By County

MANATEE M1 - M4 - M5	SARASOTA S11 - S12 - S14 - S15	HARDEE
HIGHLANDS	DESOTO	CHARLOTTE CH11 - CH12
LEE L11 - L12 - L13 - L14	HENDRY / GLADES	COLLIER C11 - C12 - C13