



d	Girl Scout Daisy grades K - 1	b	Girl Scout Brownie grades 2 - 3
j	Girl Scout Junior grades 4 - 5	c	Girl Scout Cadette grades 6 - 8
s	Girl Scout Senior grades 9 - 10	a	Girl Scout Ambassador grades 11 - 12



**girl scouts**  
of the colonial coast

# FAMILY GUIDE

## The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

In Girl Scouts, leadership isn't just about building future leaders – it's about building girl leaders for today. No matter what a girl's age, she can learn that she can make a difference. From the youngest Girl Scout Daisy who helps collect food for a food bank to the Girl Scout Senior who creates and organizes a cancer awareness event, Girl Scouts are taking the lead to bettering their communities each and every day. Girl leaders have been at the heart of Girl Scouts since its founding in 1912, when founder Juliette Gordon Low recognized that developing girls' leadership abilities was critical for ensuring they would be the change-makers of the future.

Having leadership skills is important to a successful and happy life. It starts with becoming a leader of your own life - learning to make healthy decisions, recognizing the importance of being part of a team and the satisfaction that comes from completing a goal. All of these and more can be found in Girl Scouts. As a parent or guardian, you want the best for your daughter. You want her to have the skills she will need to navigate the ups and downs during her developmental years. Through Girl Scouts, she will gain skills while having fun, making friends and experiencing adventures in an all-girl, safe environment.

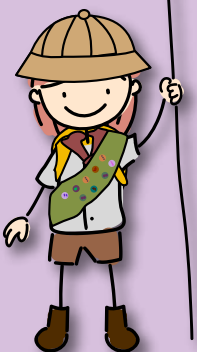
## When Your Daughter is a Girl Scout, She Will:

- be in a safe and nurturing environment with trained, adult volunteers
- make new friends, experience new things, learn new skills and help others
- earn awards and recognitions that encourage her to succeed and will improve her eligibility for college admission and scholarships
- be part of a team that makes decisions, solves problems and works together
- do better in school, make better moral choices, be more accepting of others and less likely to be involved in behaviors that will place her at risk
- build skills today that will help prepare her for the careers of tomorrow
- become self-reliant and competent

Girls surveyed said that Girl Scouting is preparing them to be "someone who can make her own choices and make a difference."

And, in another survey, more than half of the parents polled reported that Girl Scouting allows them to spend more quality time with their daughters, and nearly 50 percent find that their relationship with their daughters improved.

As one parent stated, "Girl Scouting gave my daughter self-confidence and enthusiasm. It gave her different ideas for getting ahead."



More choices. More reasons to join.

With Girl Scouts girls can... TRAVEL to new places,  
learn something new, make new friends,  
AND have LOTS of fun!





## How Girls Participate

You may think that joining a Girl Scout troop is the only way girls participate in Girl Scouting, but today's girls have more options. Girl Scout pathways allow girls and volunteers to choose from both short- and long-term experiences, including travel destinations, short-term program activities, special interest groups or to participate by attending day or resident camp. Examples of options include: *Girl Scouts by Mail*, and special program series, such as STEM for girls (science, technology, engineering and math) and *Say No to Bullying*. You can find out more about these and all the ways a girl can participate at [gscnc.org](http://gscnc.org).



## The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try  
 To serve God and my country,  
 To help people at all times,  
 And to live by  
 the Girl Scout Law.

## The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be  
 honest and fair,  
 friendly and helpful,  
 considerate and caring,  
 courageous and strong,  
 and responsible for  
 what I say and do,  
 and to  
 respect myself and others,  
 respect authority,  
 use resources wisely,  
 make the world a  
 better place,  
 and be a sister  
 to every Girl Scout.

## The Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of  
 courage, confidence and character,  
 who make the world a better place.

**The Girl Scout Leadership Experience focuses on three keys to leadership – Discover, Connect and Take Action – with girls being encouraged to take on increasing responsibility for designing and implementing activities. With national program outcomes, girls see how their actions in Girl Scouts can impact the lives of others.**

## Uniforms and Resources

Uniforms are NOT required for members to participate in Girl Scouts. However, many Girl Scouts choose to wear a uniform to show their pride in being a Girl Scout. There is a wide choice of uniform components available in the Council shops, online or in the Girl Scout catalog including the traditional uniform sash and vest.



The shops also carry Girl Scout handbooks and resources to enhance the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, such as the new *Girl Scout Guide to Girl Scouting* and *Journey* books. *Journeys* cover a wide range of topics. *It's Your Story. Tell It!* – The third *Journey* series focuses on helping girls develop a strong sense of self, learn about the benefits of a balanced diet and physical activity, develop healthy relationships, identify ways to express themselves and promote well-being and confidence in others. For example, stories in the *Brownie Journey* gives them clues about how they can create positive change in the world—change that affects girls.

## Awards and Recognitions

The purpose of awards in Girl Scouts is to give girls a fun way to learn skills and knowledge, while experiencing the pride that comes with accomplishment. It does not matter how many awards a girl earns, what matters is the journey! Girls earn awards issued by Girl Scouts of the USA that can be worn on their uniform sash or vest. The awards are different for each program grade level.

# The Girl Scout Leadership

## DISCOVER

- Girls develop a strong sense of self.
- Girls develop positive values.
- Girls gain practical life skills.
- Girls seek challenges in the world.
- Girls develop critical thinking.

## CONNECT

- Girls develop healthy relationships.
- Girls promote cooperation & teamwork.
- Girls resolve conflicts.
- Girls advance diversity in a meaningful way.
- Girls feel connected to their community locally & globally.

Girls can also earn national Journey recognitions and other official awards that can be worn on the uniform in a similar fashion. The highest award, the Girl Scout Gold Award, may be earned by a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout. The second highest, the Girl Scout Silver, is earned by the Cadette Girl Scout, and there is a Girl Scout Bronze award earned by Girl Scout Juniors. In addition to the official awards, girls may earn or receive patches that are worn on the back of the uniform. These are usually sponsored by the Council.

## Religious Recognitions

The Girl Scout Promise and Law reflect that we are a spiritually-based organization. Girl Scouts and the faith-based community share a common interest in making sure that youth are given opportunities to develop strong values. Girl Scouts are encouraged to earn religious awards through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. There are over 20 religious programs available by various religious groups that encourage girls to grow stronger in their faith. These programs are under the sponsorship of the Programs of Religious Activities for Youth (P.R.A.Y.) and information can be found on their website at [www.praypub.org](http://www.praypub.org). In working with Girl Scout religious awards in her faith group, a girl reinforces her commitment to her faith, her family and other youth in the community.

## Product Sales

Participation in Girl Scout fall product sales and the Girl Scout Cookie Program is not required, however both are ways girls can gain important skills: goal setting; decision-making; money management; business ethics and people skills.

## Council Publications and Communication

The Council publishes a print newsletter three times a year and sends a monthly E-newsletter to all registered members (we must have member emails for distribution). A catalog of all program activities, events and camp offerings is also produced and distributed by mail twice a year. All can be found online at [gscoc.org](http://gscoc.org).

## Camps

The Council owns and operates several camp properties that are used for special events, resident/day camp programs and troop camping. Property descriptions, including information on amenities found at each camp and camp fees, can be found at [gscoc.org](http://gscoc.org). Summer resident and day camp offerings are listed in the Council publication GO! Many girls select participating in camp as their Girl Scout pathway. Activities at camp help girls explore the outdoors and learn about the environment while gaining skills they can use throughout their lives.

## How to Support Your Daughter in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Your encouragement and support are invaluable! Here are a few ways you can show your support:

- See that she attends troop/group meetings or other scheduled activities regularly.
- Make sure she arrives and is picked up in a timely manner while at an activity or meeting.
- Provide permission forms and other needed materials.
- Join Girl Scouts and volunteer to help with transportation, provide additional adult supervision or with other special needs.



## How Much Does it Cost to be a Girl Scout?

The annual membership fee of \$12 is sent directly to Girl Scouts of the USA. GSUSA uses the membership fee to support program development and services at the national level. Beyond the membership dues paid each year, the troop may set a dues amount to be collected weekly, monthly, or periodically to help cover the costs of activities, awards, and supplies for the troop. Each troop sets its own budget based on the goals of the girls in the troop or group. Financial assistance is available for membership, Council-sponsored events or activities.

## Family Partnership

While the national membership fee for your daughter to join Girl Scouts is just \$12, the cost for Girl Scouts of Colonial Coast to provide programs for your daughter and each of our almost 16,000 girl members is \$292 annually. Donations to Family Partnership can bridge the gap between dues and actual costs. All donations here at Colonial Coast benefit the girls we serve. There are several ways for parents to give: complete the bottom of the membership form and return to the troop leader or group volunteer with your donation; give online at [gscoc.org](http://gscoc.org) or by mail. With your help, Girl Scouts can give every girl access to life-changing experiences that will inspire her to do something big.

# Experience

## TAKE ACTION

- Girls identify community needs.
- Girls are resourceful problem solvers.
- Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally & globally.
- Girls educate & inspire others to act.
- Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

## LONG TERM OUTCOME

**Girls lead with courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place.**

## Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast

Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast is one of 112 Councils nationwide and serves an average of 22,000 members annually in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. The Council is chartered by the Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization dedicated to serving girls.

## Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast Funding

On an average, it costs the Council over \$292 to provide one year of Girl Scouting for each girl member. Support for services comes from: seven United Ways; United Fund of Washington County; the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign; Combined Federal Campaign; gifts from families and donors and proceeds from product sales.

## Volunteers

Volunteers in Girl Scouts are vital. They are important to our sustainability. Our volunteers are well-paid in a currency that is far greater than dollars; they are paid through the smiles, hugs and successes of the girls, and the gratitude offered by parents. Please remember volunteers on Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day that takes place annually on April 22. A note of thanks or a helping hand is appreciated at anytime. Consider volunteering! We offer short-term, as well as year-long opportunities. Share your talents, skills and interests with girls and/or adults in Girl Scouts. Contact the Council's volunteer services department for an application.

## A Place For Girls

912 Cedar Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23322  
(757) 547-4405

## Peninsula Service Center

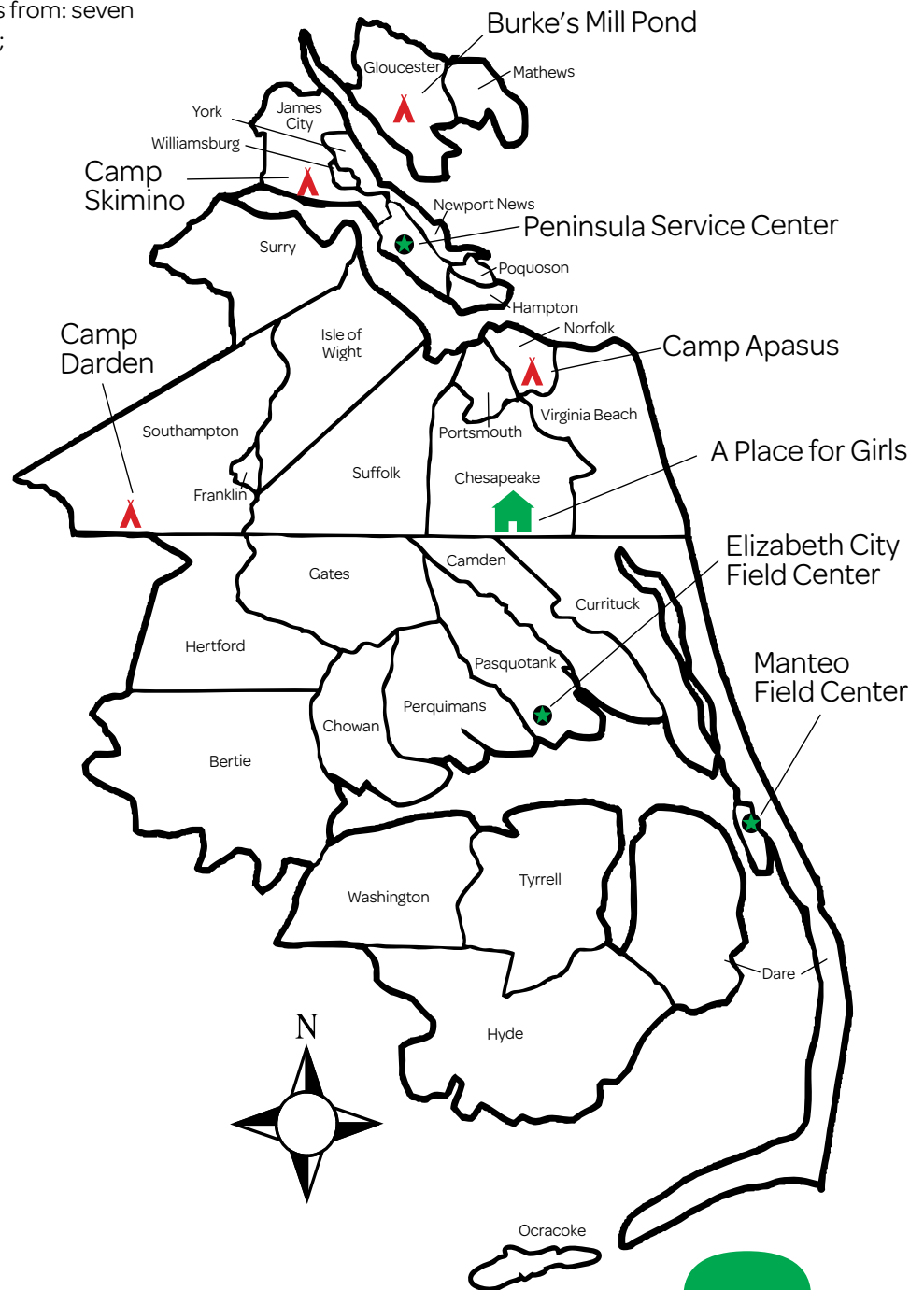
813 Forrest Dr., Ste. B  
Newport News, VA 23606  
(757) 547-4405

## Elizabeth City Field Center

214 N. Dyer St.  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909  
(252) 335-2291

## Manteo Field Center

211 Budleigh St., Ste. 104  
Manteo, NC 27954  
(252) 305-8113



girl scouts  
1912-2012

celebrating 100 years of girl scouting

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and to register online.

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