



Your Go-to Guide for Getting to Know  
Girl Scouts!

**girlscouts**   
of the colonial coast

# What Girl Scouts Value

Being “good” at everything isn’t the goal. It’s the willingness to put yourself out there and really make an effort that will give you your fullest, funnest, and most successful life. That’s why both the Girl Scout Promise and Law—which members of all ages recite—start with the idea of trying to do your best.



## 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.

## 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

\*Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their spiritual beliefs.



## Girl Scout Family Promise

On my honor, I will try:  
To support my Girl Scout and her troop,  
To help girls lead at all times,  
And to always keep it fun!





# How Do Girl Scouts Do It?

## The Girl Scout Leadership Experience, that's how!

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience includes a combination of Girl-Led, Learning by Doing, and Cooperative Learning processes in conjunction with participation in fun activities to Discover, Connect, and Take Action.

### Girl-Led

Girl Scouts follow their own lead, no matter their age. From selecting the badges they will pursue to how they'll organize an activity, Girl Scouts have the chance to follow their dreams and grow their skills—and the confidence that comes with that.

### Learning by Doing

Hands-on activities are fun for Girl Scouts of any age, but they also help them feel empowered to shape their own experience. Girl Scouts unlock their “I got this” attitude as they discover they can always dust themselves off and try again when things don't go according to plan.

### Cooperative Learning

There's power in having a tight-knit group of friends who will learn with you, grow with you, and always cheer you on. Girl Scouts see first hand that teamwork, respect, and collaboration can fuel them through any challenge that comes their way.

### Discover

They'll find out who they are, what they care about, and how to best use their unique talents.

### Connect

They'll collaborate with others, both locally and globally, to learn and expand their horizons.

### Take Action

They'll do what Girl Scouts always do: make the world a better place.

## A Focus on Four Program Pillars



STEM



OUTDOORS



LIFE SKILLS



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience helps girls thrive and benefits them in ways that last a lifetime! As girls work to earn badges and awards, participate in programs, and take action, they will:

- Become better problem-solvers and critical thinkers and learn to think scientifically to solve problems;
- Gain the skills and the inspiration to accept challenges and overcome obstacles;
- Discover how to set and achieve realistic goals in their lives and future careers;
- Develop a valuable work ethic and sense of empathy for others; and
- Develop leadership skills, build social bonds, and be happier overall.

# What Girl Scouts Do

We know every girl has their own curiosity, dreams, and talents—so when they come together to decide which of the thousands of Girl Scout activities to try, the sky's the limit. Whether visiting an animal shelter, camping, hosting a dance-off, or filming a movie—they're learning to take risks, trust their gut, and team up with others for good.

## Make Forever Friends



## Have Fun



It's easy to make new friends as a Girl Scout. It's a place to call your own, test your limits, and have a blast—with a squad to cheer you on!

## Find Adventure



## Give Back



From discovering new museums to camping at a state park all weekend, there are as many ways to discover adventure as there are Girl Scouts. No adventure is too big! Beautify your school's playground or advocate for change at a city council meeting. Making the world a better place is all in a day's work.

## Lead the Way



## Earn Badges and Awards



How do we Glow Up? Girl Scouts learn new skills by earning badges and awards—offering endless opportunities to try new things, lead the way, give back, and make a big impact on their community! Girls can build on those skills with Leadership Awards or show they know how to take action to solve a problem permanently with a Girl Scout Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.





# The Benefits of Girl Scouts

Discover new possibilities, make friends,  
and build lifelong skills.

## Girl Scouts Get Access To:



### Fun Activities

Research-backed programs to develop her skills



### Memorable Experiences

Girl-centered adventures and service initiatives



### Prestigious Awards

Leadership awards and scholarship opportunities



### Travel Opportunities

Exclusive chances to explore the world



### Lifelong Sisterhood

Friendships and a strong community, locally and beyond

## Along the way, your girl will develop:

- ◆ Skills to thrive today and tomorrow
- ◆ Confidence and self-esteem
- ◆ Outdoor, STEM, entrepreneurship and life skills
- ◆ Friendships, connections, and belonging
- ◆ Physical and mental well-being

*"Girl Scouts makes me feel like I can do anything."*

~ Girl Scout Brownie Alyssa



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Learn more at a free event  
near you! [gsccc.org/discover](https://gsccc.org/discover)

## When and Where do troops meet?

Troop meeting schedules are based around the volunteers' family and work schedules. The majority of troop co-leaders work full-time or have full-time family commitments.

Troops meet in public places such as a local school, library, church, community center, business or council-owned properties. Most troops meet weekly or bi-weekly.

## What are the costs?

- Girl Scout membership dues are paid annually to GSUSA. Financial Assistance is available for new members and can be requested by contacting [customercare@gscsc.org](mailto:customercare@gscsc.org).

## Are there other costs?

- Troop dues are usually determined by the needs of the troop and can average between \$8-10 a month. Troop dues may not be needed after troop participation in Girl Scouts' product program fundraisers such as the cookie or fall product programs. Troop dues go directly to the troop and are not included in annual Girl Scout membership registration.
- Uniforms are not required. However, Girl Scouts is a uniform organization and we recommend purchasing a tunic, vest, or sash for the girls to display earned awards and pins.
- Badges & Awards: Most troop dues and/or funds earned through council-sponsored product programs cover the cost of the earned awards and troop meeting supplies.
- Programs, Events, Travel & Camping: There may be additional costs for program, events, camping, and travel activities. Council-sponsored product programs offer girls the opportunity to offset these costs by earning and learning!



**Daisies**  
Grades K-1



**Brownies**  
Grades 2-3



**Juniors**  
Grades 4-5



**Cadettes**  
Grades 6-8



**Seniors**  
Grades 9-10



**Ambassadors**  
Grades 11-12

## You're in the right place.

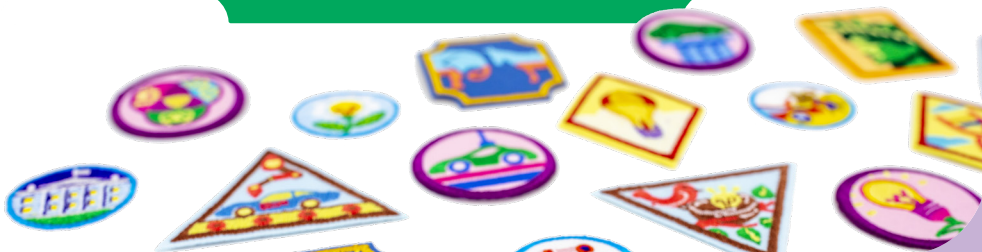
From kindergarten to high school, Girl Scouts offers a wide range of participation options. There are lots of ways to have fun, make friends, and do things that have a positive impact on your life, your school, and your world.

## Wear it Where?

Girls earn badges, patches, and awards—but where do they belong? Here's the rundown on what goes where on your tunic, sash, or vest.

- Flag patch, council name patches, and troop numbers go on the front right, in that order, starting at the top.
- Badges always go on the front, starting at the bottom.
- Fun patches from trips and experiences always go on the back.

**Need more help?**  
**Go to**  
**[girlscouts.org/placement](https://girlscouts.org/placement)**



# Troop Roles

Adults guide Girl Scouts together, sharing the responsibilities and the fun! All training is provided for each role.



Sign up to attend a virtual information meeting to learn more!

## Troop Co-leader

- Two co-leaders are required to form a troop.
- The co-leaders work together to schedule and plan troop meetings and activities.
- Girl Scout membership with an approved background check is required.
- Access to an online Volunteer Toolkit, complete with pre-planned meetings and program content.
- Time commitment: 10 to 15 hours a month.

## Troop Treasurer

- Manage troop finances, secure a troop checking account and track income and expenses.
- Girl Scout membership with an approved background check is required.
- Time commitment: three hours a month.

## Fall Product Sale Coordinator

- Oversee the troop's fall fundraiser of candy, nuts and magazines.
- Place orders, manage inventory, handle money and distribute product.
- Should be well organized and comfortable with spreadsheets and technology.
- Girl Scout membership with an approved background check is required.
- Time commitment: two hours a week during seven weeks in September/October/November.

## Troop Cookie Coordinator

- Oversee the troop's cookie program.
- Place orders, manage inventory, schedule cookie booths, handle money and distribute cookies.
- Should be well organized and comfortable with spreadsheets and technology.
- Girl Scout membership with an approved background check is required.
- Time commitment: five hours a week during the cookie sale in January/February/March.

## Troop Helper

- Support the troop at meetings regularly, as well as chaperoning, and/or driving girls to and from activities and events.
- Girl Scout membership with an approved background check is required.
- There can be an unlimited number of troop helpers per troop!
- Time commitment for this position varies by necessity.





# Starting New Troops

## How many volunteers and girls are needed to start a troop?

It takes two unrelated adults and five girls to start a troop. However, Girl Scout research has shown for troops to be successful, the ideal troop size is at least 12 girls.

As a troop forms, Girl Scouts encourages the participation of one or more caregivers from every family in every troop. As more girls join, additional troop leadership is required to maintain GSUSA safety ratios. A caregiver can be another adult family relative or legal guardian.

Troops must have at least two trained troop co-leaders, one of whom is female. There is no limit to the number of co-leaders a troop can have. One adult never leads alone or is left alone with a group of girls or an individual girl.

Each caregiver who is helping with the troop, or just staying at the meetings on the sidelines, must register as a member and have a background check.

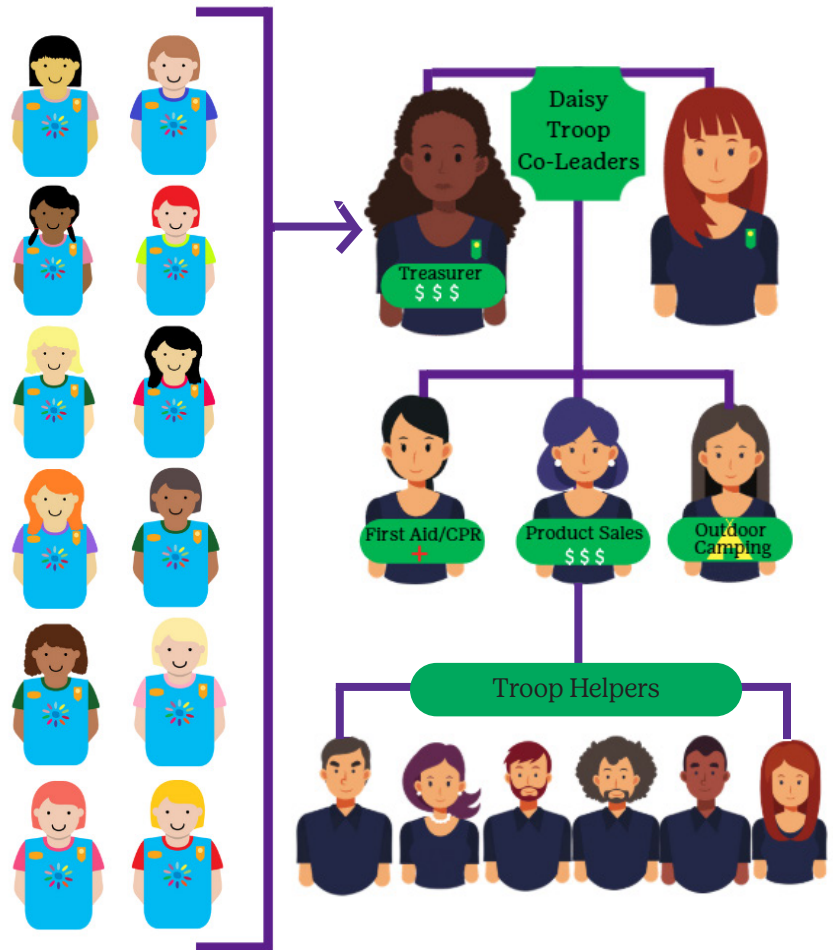
## How do I start a troop?

1. To get started, go to [mygs.girlscouts.org](https://mygs.girlscouts.org), create your account and register as a member.
2. Contact the council at [customercare@gsccc.org](mailto:customercare@gsccc.org) and let us know you would like to start a troop.
3. When you become a member, we will mark you as "Troop Helper" temporarily to trigger the background check.
4. Once the background check is complete we will let the New Troop Support Specialist know you are ready to be set up with your online training.
5. Complete your training and you are ready to lead!

# What Families Do

## Single Grade Girl Scout Troop Model

As a volunteer organization, troop availability depends on caring adults (parents/caregivers) volunteering to lead troops.



## Personal Benefits of Leading a Troop:

- Creating precious memories with your daughter and all of her new friends.
- Being a role model and mentoring girls in your community.
- Creating new adult friendships and forming long-lasting connections.
- Gaining confidence and personal fulfillment.
- Experiencing a powerful sense of purpose.
- Experiencing opportunities for growth, enhancing communication and people skills.
- Expanding job skills by building a resume with valuable experiences and proof of character; may even discover a new career path!
- Enjoying opportunities to be outdoors, which benefits your mental and physical health.
- Enjoying opportunities to be creative!
- Experiencing exciting outings and adventures!

