



girl scouts
diamonds of
arkansas, oklahoma
and texas

Daisy Troop Support Guide

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Welcome

Welcome and congratulations on becoming a member of the unique and wonderful world of Girl Scouts! Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls – all girls – where, in an accepting and nurturing environment girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adults, such as you, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives. These qualities include leadership, strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own worth.

The Girl Scout program is girl-driven reflecting the ever-changing needs and interests of today's girls. In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and the power of girls together. As a Girl Scout volunteer, you will help girls develop their full potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; develop values to guide their actions and provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others.

Your Role as a Troop Leader

As a Daisy troop leader, you'll be the role model that they'll always remember. You'll be their cheerleader, their mentor, their guide. You will watch them grow more confident, you'll witness their transformation from little girls to leaders in their world. And, you will find that you've grown just as much.

Leading Daisies means your role will be hands on and full of laughs. The girls are young and will need your help to plan meetings, figure out what programs they want to do, and plan trips. Working with girls can bring many joys, including developing a personal relationship with each girl in your troop, building new adult friendships through the sisterhood of Girl Scouts, receiving appreciation and thanks from parents and, most importantly, knowing that you are shaping the future by working with a girl today.

Leadership

Leadership is Building Relationships

Leadership comes through the relationship you will build with each girl. Leadership comes through communicating with parents and co-leaders. Leadership is understanding the needs and interests of the girls, and helping the girls design their own program opportunities based on those needs and interests.

Leadership is Knowing

Leadership is knowing that you cannot, and should not; know everything that the girls might want to learn. Leadership is knowing that you can explore and learn many things along with girls. Leadership is knowing where to go to find resources. Leadership is knowing that it is okay not to know and to seek assistance.

Leadership is Teaching

Leadership is teaching the girls that they can do and be anything – that they are decision makers. Leadership is teaching girls not only for the sake of knowing things, but for the sake of the development and growth of the girls. Leadership is teaching through being a good role model.

Leadership is Coaching

Your role is not to perform for the girls, or to be a teacher. Leadership is guiding and instructing. Leadership is advising and discussing. Leadership is working so that each girl can carry out responsibilities within the troop. Leadership is building the girls up and giving increasingly more responsibilities to the girls as they grow and develop.

Leadership is Belonging

Leadership is recognizing that you are a part of a troop/group and a team. Leadership is listening, providing suggestions, and contributing ideas. Leadership is sticking with the girls through good times and bad. Leadership is recognizing that you belong to a larger organization beyond the troop/group that will provide support and resources.

Volunteer Responsibilities

Additional responsibilities as a Girl Scout volunteer include:

- Accepting the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Understanding the Three Keys to Leadership that are the basis of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience: Discover, Connect, and Take Action
- Sharing your knowledge, experience, and skills with a positive and flexible approach
- Working in a partnership with girls so that their activities are girl-led, allow them to learn by doing, and allow for cooperative (group) learning; you'll also partner with other volunteers and council staff for support and guidance
- Organizing fun, interactive, girl-led activities that address relevant issues and match girls' interests and needs
- Providing guidance and information regarding Girl Scout group meetings with girls' parents or guardians on a regular and ongoing basis through a variety of tools, including email, phone calls, newsletters, blogs, other forms of social media, and any other method you choose

- Processing and completing registration forms and other paperwork, such as permission slips
- Communicating effectively and delivering clear, organized, and vibrant presentations or information to an individual or the group
- Overseeing with honesty, integrity, and careful record-keeping the funds that girls raise
- Maintaining a close connection to your volunteer support team
- Facilitating a safe experience for every girl

Working with Girl Scouts Daisies

Girl Scout Leadership Experience with K-1st Graders

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is what makes Girl Scouts unique compared to any other youth serving organization. There are three program processes. These program processes are the key to achieving the outcomes and the Girl Scout Promise and Law. The three program processes are:

- Girl-Led – By the Girls, For the Girls
- Learning by Doing – Experiential Learning
- Cooperative Learning

Girl-Led

Girls need to know that they can do anything – that being female does not limit their ability to achieve their dreams. Girl Scout Daises need to learn that they can lead, make decisions, and be helpful. The girls are the doers, the planners, and the implementers of their activities. Give girls choices and help them learn good communication and decision-making skills.

Girl/adult planning is the way to involve girls in making decisions. As a Girl Scout Brownie Troop Leader, your role in the planning process is important, and helps girls succeed. As the girls grow from Girl Scout Brownies through their Girl Scout experience, your role in planning and implementing will change. As the girls grow older, they will have more responsibility for the troop.

Learn by Doing

This happens when a person engages in an activity, looks back on the activity critically, identifies useful insight from the evaluation and puts the results to work through a change of behavior in the future. As a Girl Scout Daisy troop leader, you will take time to ask girls questions about their experiences. Evaluating through open-ended questions helps the girls make meaning from their experience. Take time to ask questions in the beginning, middle, and end of an experience. You will

be amazed at what you will learn, what the girls will learn, and how they will apply this learning in their Girl Scout troop and to their life outside of Girl Scouting.

Cooperative Learning

Cooperative learning is setting up the troop/group meeting so that girls work in small groups or teams to accomplish an activity. It is important to implement cooperative learning.

Understanding Daisies

Understanding the developmental characteristics of Girl Scout Brownies will help you in your role as their leader. You will be able to appreciate why girls do what they do. The chart below can give you guidance in the development of girls ages 6-8. Keep in mind that these are broad, general characteristics. Each girl will grow at her own pace.

Girl Scout Daisies	
At the Girl Scout Daisy level (kindergarten and first grade), girls . . .	This means . . .
Have loads of energy and need to run, walk, and play outside.	<i>They'll enjoy going on nature walks and outdoor scavenger hunts.</i>
Are great builders and budding artists, though they are still developing their fine motor skills.	<i>Encouraging them to express themselves and their creativity by making things with their hands. Girls may need assistance holding scissors, cutting in a straight line, and so on.</i>
Love to move and dance.	<i>They might especially enjoy marching like a penguin, dancing like a dolphin, or acting out how they might care for animals in the jungle.</i>
Are concrete thinkers and focused on the here and now.	<i>Showing instead of telling, for example, about how animals are cared for. Plan visits to animal shelters, farms, or zoos; meet care providers; or make a creative bird feeder.</i>
Are only beginning to learn about basic number concepts, time, and money.	<i>You'll want to take opportunities to count out supplies together—and, perhaps, the legs on a caterpillar!</i>
Are just beginning to write and spell, and they don't always have the words for what they're thinking or feeling.	<i>That having girls draw a picture of something they are trying to communicate is easier and more meaningful for them.</i>
Know how to follow simple directions and respond well to recognition for doing so.	<i>Being specific and offering only one direction at a time. Acknowledge when girls have followed directions well to increase their motivation to listen and follow again.</i>

Working with and mentoring younger girls

Girl Scout Daisies work with their Girl Scout sisters to discover more about themselves, connect with other Brownie Girl Scouts, family, and community members and take action

to make the world a better place. Daisies sing songs, do crafts, play games and explore new places and ideas throughout their meetings. Friendship, fun, and activities start at the Girl Scout Daisy meeting and move out to the community when they participate in camp, events, and community service.

Daisy girls might like to:

- Visit a zoo to feed – and learn how a veterinarian cared for – baby animals
- March in a community parade
- Work on Girl Guide to Girl Scouting, Journey badges and earn Daisy Petals
- Plan an overnight trip to celebrate their birthdays
- Decide how many cookies to sell to earn money for trips
- Go camping and making s'mores over a campfire

Badges: <http://www.girlscouts.org/content/gsusa/en/our-program/badges.html>

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com

Camping: <http://www.girlscouts.org/en/our-program/ways-to-participate/camp-and-outdoors.html>

Behavior Management

How do you effectively manage the behavior of the girls in your troop? Prevention is the key. By putting the proper procedures in action, you will prevent behavior problems. The following is a list of things to consider when working with Girl Scout Daisies.

- Be Prepared – Prepare in advance and talk with co-volunteers and helpers about the meeting's agenda ahead of time. If you are prepared and keep the meeting moving along, the girls will not have time to find other activities that may cause problems.
- Get There Early – Have everything ready before the girls arrive. This allows you to greet girls as they arrive and make them feel welcome.
- Provide Positive Praise – Focus on what the girls are doing right instead of what they are doing wrong. Praise must be specific and sincere
- Establish Ground Rules – To help meetings run smoothly, have girls establish ground rules for behavior and expectations. It is important for girls to have ownership of the ground rules, and to hold one another accountable if the rules are broken. You will need to guide the girls' discussion with examples of behaviors and ground rules. You will need to be concrete with them.
- Establish an Order for Your Meetings – By establishing an order, you are creating a routine, and you will see cooperation and initiative from the girls. After several meetings, the girls will understand the expectations and know what comes next.

- Use Five and One Minute Warnings – Daisies need to know when an activity is ending and another is about to begin. This helps them to learn to plan and not feel rushed.
- Provide a Snack – Snack time allows the girls to share, relax, and gives them responsibility. Snack time should be simple and planned appropriately based on when your troop meets. For example, if it is close to dinnertime, you may serve juice instead of cookies and juice.

Problem Solving

Occasionally, you may need to intervene when behavior becomes destructive, hurtful, or it hinders the progress of the rest of the group. Whether the behavior is an isolated incident or an ongoing problem, respond quickly and appropriately, so that the group's routine is maintained.

Problem-Solving with the Girl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there seems to be an underlying issue, use phrases like, “I have noticed that you _____. ” “Is something bothering you?” • These Questions are best asked away from the group. • NEVER PROMISE CONFIDENTIALITY
Problem-Solving with Co-Volunteer(s) or Other Volunteers or Council Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult the group for assistance and ideas on developing a positive environment • Maintain the identity of the girl(s) to the greatest degree possible. Focus the discussion on creative ways of redirection specific behaviors, and not the individual or group.
Parental Notification and Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with parents for assistance, ideas, and additional information that may help you to manage normal adjustment problems pertaining to their girl(s). • If the situation is more serious, contact the parents right away. Let them know you are concerned about their daughter, and that you would like to discuss the situation as soon as possible.
Problem-Solving and Notification of Girl Scout Council Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are uncertain about how to handle a situation, you can always contact your Volunteer Specialist for issues related to normal adjustment problems.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the procedures for notifying the Girl Scouts Diamonds Council any time the authorities are notified (See Council Policies and Procedures).
Problem-Solving with the Daughter of a Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to remember that it may be difficult for a girl to share their parent with so many other girls. Girls pick nicknames for troop volunteers, instead of a girl calling their parent Mom or Dad. Random Assignment for special tasks, to keep a volunteer from showing favoritism. Never use your daughter to practice troop activities prior to a troop meeting.

For more information and ideas on conflict resolution and behavior management check out these resources:

<http://www.rachelsimmons.com/advice/girltips/>

Evaluation Tools

Asking Daisies questions can be a challenge. Remember, they need things to be concrete. Give examples and listen to what the girls are saying. Build your questions based on what the girls are saying about their experience.

Sentence Starter

Have the girls sit in a circle either as a large group or, if you have enough adults, break the girls into smaller groups. Create some sentence starters and have the girls “fill in the blank” For example, “The best part about the field trip was...”, “The funniest thing about our activity was...” or “The part I liked best was...”

Draw a Picture

Give each girl a piece of paper and crayons or markers and ask her to draw a picture of what was the best part of the activity for her. Once complete, have the girls share what their pictures show.

Rate It!

Have the girls use facial expressions or different signals to rate how they feel about an activity or idea

Smile or Frown

Thumbs up or Thumbs down

Clap once or clap twice

Stand up or sit down

Creative Evaluation Techniques:

<https://www.woodcraft.org.uk/sites/default/files/Evaluation%20and%20reflection%20activities.pdf>

<http://www.newchildcare.co.uk/eval.html>

Reflective Thinking:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/intlrel/pols382/Reflective%20Thinking%20-%20UH/reflection.html>

Parental Engagement

One of your greatest resources as a troop leader will be the girls' parents. Beyond keeping them informed about what is happening with the troop, you will want/need their assistance—like providing snacks for meetings, helping with cookie booth sales or having enough adults on trips to meet the girl-adult ratios. Parent involvement will not only enrich the girls' experience, it will help you fulfill your role as a leader by allowing you to focus on your work with the girls. The suggestions below will give you a good start on how to involve parents in your troop.

Plan a Parent Meeting

Before you have your first meeting with the girls, invite the parents to a meeting. This allows them to meet you and your co-leaders, meet the other girls and begin a relationship with other parents. Have the parents meet in one room and the girls in another. The girls can work on an activity or project during this time. If two meeting spaces are not available, meet without the girls or plan the meeting to address both the girls and adults.

Parent meetings allow you to begin building a relationship with your greatest resource. You should ensure everyone has a time to meet each other and to learn about Girl Scouts as an organization, about you and your role, and about what role they will be expected to play. Below is a sample agenda to help you plan a parent meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

- Personally, welcome all parents and guardians.
- Be sure everyone has a nametag.
- Have an activity where the parents and guardians introduce themselves and learn something about each other.
- Introduce your co-leader(s) and any other adults working with the troop.

Provide Information

Explain the Girl Scout Mission, Promise and Law

In your own words, share the benefits of being a Girl Scout

Discuss the importance of girl/adult partnerships, teaching group decision making and how you will implement that with the Girl Scout Brownies.

Explain the role of the Troop Leader and Assistant Leader(s)

Describe the trainings you have taken that have prepared you to be a Girl Scout Leader

Briefly explain your responsibility as a troop leader.

Tell them about the support you will receive from the service unit and the council.

Share Your Expectation for the Parents' Roles and Responsibilities

Give specific examples of how parents can help support the troop.

Let the parents know how they can help you be a successful leader.

Be upfront and clear with parents about dues and provide them with a breakdown of costs, based on the plans you have.

Explain the benefits of being involved with their daughter's Girl Scout troop.

Invite family members to register with the troop. Please note: any parents attending a Girl Scout activity are highly recommended to register as Girl Scout members so that they are covered by Girl Scout insurance.

Ask parents to fill out an interest survey to find out what they are passionate about so you can consider ways to plug them into troop activities.

Communicating with Parents

Establish a method of communication. Will the girls receive fliers to take home that talk about Girl Scout activities? Will the parents receive phone calls or emails? Does the troop have a newsletter? Be sure to establish a method of communication with parents and use it continually throughout the year. You can use various methods of communication to do this: phone calls, troop newsletters, email, texts, Facebook group page, etc.

When it comes to meeting times and locations, make sure that you are notifying the parents as well as the girls. Girls can also help draft a message or email with the details that parents will need to know about an upcoming trip or project.

Greet the parents. As parents drop off or pick up their daughters from the meeting, be sure a leader or co-leader is assigned to greet them and communicate with them about the meeting and any upcoming activities. This also allows the parents to speak with you or your co-leader about their daughter. Also, be sure to relay any important information as parents pick up their daughters.

Keep in touch with parents. It may not be realistic to contact all your parents on a weekly basis however, make a point to connect with the parents. Tell them how their daughter is progressing. If you are proud of a girl's accomplishment, tell her parents. Communicate successes and concerns. A simple conversation can go a long way.

Have parents sign up to help. A great time to solicit assistance is at your parent meeting. Parents and extended family of the girls are your best resource. Ask if you need an extra set of hands at meetings, drivers for field trips or help with a project. Be sure you ask them directly. If you are vague or nondescript about what needs to happen, they will not volunteer. Remember every driver must be an approved adult volunteer and have a good driving record, a valid license, and a registered/insured vehicle.

Recognize parents. Send a note to thank parents for their help, mention their assistance in your troop's newsletter, and share with them how you have seen their daughter change and grow.

[Sample Parent Welcome Letter](#)

Additional resources for engaging parents:

<https://bostnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Engaging-Families-Checklist.pdf>

<https://bostnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/50-Nifty-Tips1.pdf>

<http://www.tolerance.org/supplement/family-engagement>

<https://www.ptotoday.com/parent-involvement>

Raising girls: <http://www.girlscouts.org/content/gsusa/en/raising-girls.html>

Getting Started Troop Government

Troop government or structure is usually most effective when chosen by the girls. This may be formal or very informal. Let the girls decide how structured they want this to be. If they start with NO kind of group government, they may eventually see the need for some kind of structure before long! This is part of their learning experience.

Girl Scout Daisy Circle:

Girl Scout Daisies can help make some of the decisions about their troop through the Girl Scout Daisy Circle. It is the business part of a Girl Scout Daisy meeting and at this age lasts only 5 to 10 minutes. This part of the meeting is led by the Troop Leader. It is best for the Leader to give girls two or three choices to pick from at this age. Decisions could include things such as where to go on a field trip or what kind of service project the girls would like to participate in. Simplicity is the key here.

[Types of Troop Government](#)

Girl Responsibilities Girl/Adult Planning and Partnership

In Girl Scouting, girls and adults work together to accomplish troop goals. Girl/adult planning or partnership and is unique, because the girls take the lead in deciding what activities they will do, making the plans for the activities and evaluating the activities.

Role of Girls in Partnership

- Assist you and other volunteers in safety planning
- Listen to and follow your instructions and suggestions
- Learn and practice safety skills
- Learn to “think safety” at all times and to be prepared
- Identify and evaluate an unsafe situation
- Know how, when and where to get help when needed

Role of Adults in Partnership

- Be fair and consistent
- Be a positive role model
- Include all girls equally
- Build leadership skills
- Protect girls’ privacy (don’t discuss a girl with others – including your daughter or other adults)
- Consider each girl’s needs and abilities
- Keep girls safe
- Communicate with girls and families

How do you know Girl/Adult partnership is working?

- Girls are enthusiastic about their meetings, attendance is high, and girls are eager to be involved in different activities.
- As the Girl Scout year progresses, the advisor is spending less time planning and setting up activities and more time facilitating the flow of activities and problem solving.
- Girls are familiar with the range of Girl Scout program resources available for their grade level and choose activities from more than one source.
- Girls work on activities in a variety of ways. They work individually, in pairs, in small groups as a whole group, or with other troops/groups, depending upon the activity and their own needs and interests.
- As the Girl Scout year progresses, girls are able to make decisions more smoothly and effectively. As they continue to practice active decision-making, they complete a larger number of activities or choose more sophisticated and complex ones to do.
- Girls show more respect for each other. Individual strengths and talents are more visible when girls are active, and girls learn to value these in one another.
- Girls show pride in being members of Girl Scouting. They tell girls outside of Girl Scouting about their experiences, and are eager to share their accomplishments with friends and family members.

Components of a Meeting

Creating a Quality Experience

Girl Scouting's promise to girls is stated in the mission: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girls engage in activities that help them Discover themselves and their values, Connect with others, and Take Action to make the world a better place.

A quality Girl Scout Leadership Experience includes going on a Leadership Journey, earning badges, taking field trips, selling Cookies and Fall Products, and enjoying Girl Scout traditions.

Girl Scout Meeting Tips

First-time Girl Scouts

If girls are meeting each other for the first time, leaders may need to plan and structure the first and possibly the second gathering. Most often, the first gathering will be focused on activities that are FUN to the girls and include team-building and getting to know one another activities.

Sample Meeting Structure

The following is a structure that the girls may use to create their gatherings:

- Starting Point (5-10 minutes) – Meetings should begin with reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Prior to this, they can work on a quiet activity set up for them (puzzles, drawing, work games, or just let them visit with each other.) while waiting for the meeting to officially start.
- Snack (5-10 minutes) – The time of the snack may vary depending on when the troop meets. Girls should be assigned jobs related to snack such as passing out, cleaning up, etc.
- Business/Discussion (5-10 minutes) – Take care of the troop business now. With the assistance of an adult, one of the girls take attendance. Collect any forms such as permission slips or other items that the girls may be bringing back. Welcome new girls, brainstorm ideas, make plans, and vote on decisions. Discuss the activity planned for the meeting; why you are doing it, what you want the girls to learn from it, and how it will be done.
- Activity (25-30 minutes)– This is the main part of the meeting for the girls. Try to plan activities that can be completed in one meeting. If a project cannot be completed in one meeting, divide it into two or three shorter steps that can be completed at individual meetings. This will give girls a sense of completion and accomplishment after each meeting.

- Cleanup (5-10 minutes) – Everyone should pitch in or use a kaper chart if your group is large enough. Think of ways to make clean-up time fun (play some familiar music and try to clean-up before the music ends).
- Closing/Reflection (5 minutes)– A time to wind down and wrap up the meeting. You need to have some way to wrap up and review, and to indicate the meeting is over and it is time to leave.

[Supplemental Meeting Activities](#)

[Meeting Components and Sample Meeting](#)

Please visit the Volunteer Tool Kit to Plan your Girl Scout year!

Kaper Charts

A kaper chart is a girl-planning tool that can help the leader teach responsibility and leadership skills. Troops often use a kaper chart to divide the different duties and tasks of a troop meeting amongst the girls. The girls, with guidance from the leader, can decide what specific jobs need to be done each meeting.

[Kaper Charts](#)

[Pinterest Kaper Chart Ideas](#)

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting

Girls at every grade level have a *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, which correlate with the Leadership Journeys. Through fun activities, girls can earn a variety of badges to build the skills and gain the confidence they will use to change the world. They can even develop and complete activities to make their own badge – a great way to explore a topic of personal interest. (In addition, girls who make their own badge will learn *how* to learn, an important skill to have in school, on the job, and in life!)

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting is designed to complement the Leadership Journeys at each grade level. This means that each Skill-Building Badge Set (there are currently three and each is sold separately from *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*) is tied to one of the three Journeys. You will find that doing a Journey and the related badge set at the same time will make it easy to offer the entire National Program Portfolio—Journeys and badges—in a seamless way.

Inside *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* binder, you will discover three tabs: Handbook, Badges, and My Girl Scouts.

The Handbook section consists of the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Journey Map, Girl Scout history and traditions, Girls of the World, Girl Scout Special Days, insignia and awards, bridging requirements, and Silver and Gold Award Guidelines.

Under the Badges section you will discover the Awards Log, which lists all of the awards that can be earned by a Girl Scout along with the requirement booklets for the Legacy Badges.

My Girl Scouts section contains a journal, community service log and a place where the girls can write a letter to themselves to be read in the future.

[The Girls Guide to Girl Scouting can be bought from the Girl Scout office or online.](#)

Ceremonies

Ceremonies play a very important role in Girl Scouting. They not only mark the progression of the Girl Scout year, but of the girls' individual journeys through Girl Scouting. There are many opportunities to conduct ceremonies. A ceremony may welcome new girls into Girl Scouting (an investiture), observe a special Girl Scout day (a World Thinking Day ceremony), recognize accomplishments (a Court of Awards), or may open or close a meeting (flag ceremony).

[Types of Ceremonies](#)

[Ceremonies Tip Sheet](#)

Travel

To ensure that any travel you do with the girls infuses the Girl Scout Leadership Experience at every opportunity, limit your role to facilitating the girls' brainstorming and planning – but never doing the work for them. Allow the girls to lead, learn collaboratively, and learn by doing (and by making mistakes). All the while, however, provide ideas and insight, ask tough questions when you must, and support all their decisions with enthusiasm and encouragement!

Suggested Travel Destinations:

- Festivals
- Restaurant Dinners
- Sporting events
- Ice Skating/Roller Skating
- Musicals and plays
- Pottery Studio
- Challenge Courses
- Radio/TV Stations
- Spa days
- Camping
- Council-sponsored events
- Caving
- Lighthouse explorations
- State and National Parks
- Bike riding
- World Centers
- Horseback Riding
- Water activities
- Theme Parks
- Canoeing
- Geocaching
- Skiing
- Archery
- Leadership Conferences
- Girl Scout National Conventions
- GSUSA Destinations

Troop Travel Guidelines

Before most trips, troops will need to obtain council permission. Visit the Girl Scouts Diamonds website for more information about troop travel and to complete a troop travel application. Please complete this application at least two weeks prior to your trip.

[Travel Information](#)
[Troop Travel Application](#)

More information about troop travel and troop finances can be found in [Volunteer Essentials](#)

Special Girl Scout Days and Activities

Throughout the year, there are some special days that Girl Scouts observe. The chart below lists these days. Troops and Service Units often observe these days with special activities or ceremonies.

Juliette Low's Birthday (Founder's Day)	October 31
MLK Day of Service	January
World Thinking Day	February 22
Girl Scout Birthday	March 12
Girl Scout Week	Week with March 12
Girl Scout Sunday	Sunday at beginning of Girl Scout Week
Girl Scout Sabbath	Saturday at end of Girl Scout Week

[Online Calendar](#)

Glossary of common GS terms

CAT/Delegate Seniors and Ambassadors may have the opportunity to serve as a service unit representative on the Council Advisory Team (CAT). They might also have the opportunity to serve on the council delegation to the Girl Scout National Conference (held every three years).

Destinations Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate adventure for individual girls ages 11 and older! With different trips every year, there's something amazing for everyone to experience. Make friends from all over the country as you travel with Girl Scouts from different states, see and learn new things, and pack your bags full of inspiring, life-changing experiences and memories.

Diamonds Graduating Senior Scholarship Program This is a council program committed to advancing leadership opportunities for its girl members after high school. The education scholarships are available for graduating senior Girl Scouts who epitomize the Girl Scout Mission. The number of scholarships available is based on current funding for the scholarship program. Scholarship recipients will be honored at the Diamonds

graduating seniors and Gold and Silver Award luncheon. Information can be found here
<http://www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org/?s=scholarships>

Gamma Sigma Gamma Sigma Gamma is a division of Girl Scouts Diamonds that is offered to a girl 9th-12th grade. GSG brings girls together through the bond of sisterhood to learn about leadership, service opportunities, and how to take next steps after high school. If you are interested in joining or starting a new chapter of Gamma Sigma Gamma in your area please email gammasmagamma@girlscoutsdiamonds.org

Girl Guides The original name for Girl Scouts, a term still used in many countries. The name originated in England.

Girl Scouts Always Leave a Place Better than They Found It Unwritten Girl Scout rule.

Girl Scout handshake A formal greeting between Girl Scouts. The handshake is done by shaking left hands while giving the Girl Scout sign with the right.

Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) The Girl Scout program model that engages girls by developing the skills, knowledge, and values needed to be leaders.

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

Girl Scout sign The official Girl Scout sign to be used as the Girl Scout Promise is being recited and may be used as the Girl Scout Law is recited (optional). It is also used during the Girl Scout handshake. 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 slogan "Do a good turn daily."

Motto "Be Prepared."

My Promise My Faith Girls in grades K-12 can earn this pin each year by exploring the Girl Scout Law and teachings from their faith. Requirements are found in the handbook section of the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting!*

National Program Portfolio This is the combined activity materials for the Girl Scout Leadership Experience including Journeys and the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting!*

Safety activity checkpoints GSUSA's safety program standards found at www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org

