

All about Girl Scouts



What is Girl Scouts?

Girl Scouts isn't just another afterschool activity, it's a Movement dedicated to building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Why do families love us?

Girl Scouts brings out the best in your child so that they can help to bring out the best in everyone around them. While they are learning about STEM, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and important life skills—they are also discovering new ways to make your family and community stronger, kinder, and better for everyone.

How does it work?

Every Girl Scout has their own curiosity, dreams, and talents—so when they 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 directing a music video, they're learning to take risks, trust their gut, and team up with others for good. But mostly? They're figuring out the things that will bring happiness to their lives for years to come.

What is the goal?

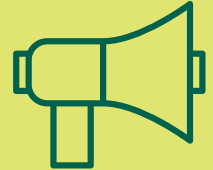
The goal of Girl Scouts is to assist girls in reaching their true potential apart from what is typically expected of them. At Girl Scouts, girls will learn how to create a more fair, equal, and compassionate world where every girl can have a seat at the table and make her dreams come true.

Program Pillars: The Foundation for Success



STEM

Computer science, engineering, robotics, and more.



Life Skills

Civic engagement, healthy living, global citizenship, and communication skills.



Outdoors

Adventure and skill building, including camping experiences for all age levels.



Entrepreneurship

Goal setting, decision making, money management, business ethics, and people skills.

Girls who participate in Girl Scouts are more likely to:

- Develop a strong sense of self.
- Display positive values.
- Seek challenges & learn from setbacks.
- Form & maintain healthy relationships.
- Exhibit community problem-solving skills.

Girl Scout Troop Experience

What is a Girl Scout troop?

Girl Scout troops are a youth-led, volunteer driven partnership between caregivers and adults who are committed to working together as volunteers to bring Girl Scouting to their children and community. These adults join the adventure to help ensure their troops experiences are top notch, inclusive, youth-led, and cooperative; and that their children are making new friends, have a variety of experiences, and developing the skills and confidence needed to succeed.

Where and how often does a troop meet?

That's up to your Troop Leadership Teams to decide! Most of the time troops meet in schools or community centers, like libraries, or places of worship that offer free meeting space. On average troops meet for about 90 minutes, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. Meetings can also take place virtually, in-person, or a combination of the two.

How do troops pick activities?

Girls and adult members should make decisions together as a troop, such as which Journey to complete, badges to earn, events to attend, and goals to set for the product programs. No matter what, Troop Leaders will always follow your Girl Scouts' lead.

Who pays for what?

When a troop earns funds through a product program or troop dues, those funds belong to the entire troop, not specific girls. These funds should pay for supplies, event registration, badges and awards, and renewal membership fees. Families are typically responsible for uniforms, books, and startup costs, like membership fees and troop dues.

Program Levels by Grade



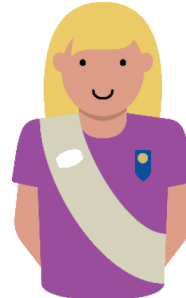
Daisy
K & 1st



Brownie
2nd & 3rd



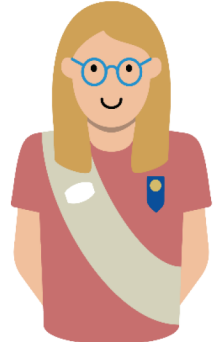
Junior
4th & 5th



Cadette
6th, 7th, & 8th



Senior
9th & 10th



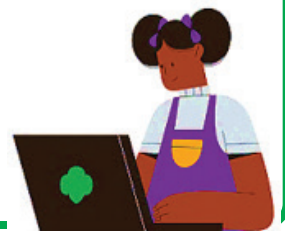
Ambassador
11th & 12th

The Juliette Experience

A Juliette, or individually registered Girl Scout, has the same Girl Scout experience as any other girl—outdoor adventures, life skill training, entrepreneurial programming, and hands-on STEM experiments—she simply does it all without being in a troop setting.

Explore the Activity Zone

Troop meetings are awesome, but why let the good times stop there? We've handpicked the most engaging and inspiring Girl Scout activities for your family to try out at home and brought them to life like never before. Visit girlscouts.org/activityzone to explore hundreds of activities online—see for yourself how much fun you'll have learning, doing, and growing as a Girl Scout.



FAQs

How much does it cost?

The annual girl membership fee is \$50 (\$25 National Membership fees & \$25 Council Service Fee) and \$25 for adults. Most Girl Scout troops also collect dues to defray the cost of their activities. Girl also can fund their activities with proceeds earned from their participation in our annual Fall Product & Cookie Programs. Girl Scout membership and council fees are non-transferable and non-refundable.

What do we need to get started?

Girl Scouts are encouraged to purchase a My Girl Scout Kit; which includes choice of uniform (tunic, vest or sash), official insignia (patches & pins), and girl choice of age level handbook/ badge requirements. My Girl Scout Kits start at \$55 and are available at our shop in Waltham or online at girlscoutshop.com.

When does Girl Scouts start?

Members can start their journey as soon as they register! On average troops meet for about 90 minutes, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly either virtually, in-person, or a combination of the two. If you're joining troop that already exists, their meeting schedule and location are likely already set! If there aren't any local troops that fit into your schedule, consider starting a new troop!

How can adults get involved?

Our adult troop members join the adventure by taking on a specific troop volunteer role or joining the troops Friends and Family Network. Any adult 18+ active adult member regardless of gender who completes a background check and the appropriate training can volunteer.

How much time is needed to lead a troop?

Plan on spending approximately one hour preparing for each 90 minutes of meeting time, as well as an additional one hour for any meeting follow-up. If your troop meets twice a month for 1.5 hours each meeting, and you will facilitate both meetings—you should plan on a roughly 4 hour commitment per month outside of meetings.

What support is provided if I volunteer?

We offer free new leader training virtually, which takes about an hour to complete. Optional in-person and virtual trainings are also available regularly. You'll also have access to free online resources like webinars and the Volunteer Toolkit, and our dedicated

Still have questions?

That's normal! There are loads of resources and a network of support to assist your family on your Girl Scout journey. Email our Customer Care team at customer care@gsema.org.



Girl Scout Uniforms: Placing Insignia

Your insignia—flag patch, council name patches, and troop numbers—go on the front of your tunic, sash, or vest, starting at the top. As you earn badges and Journey awards, put them on the front (or have your family help you!), starting at the bottom, to show all the skills you've learned. On a vest, insignia and badges go on the right-hand side, Journey awards on the left. On a sash, put badges below Journey awards. Fun patches from experiences and trips always go on the back.

Need more help? Check out girlscouts.org/placement.



Girl Scout responsibilities:

- Follow the Girl Scout Promise & Law.
- Be willing to take risks and be supportive towards troop peers.
- Attend and participate in meetings and events.
- Listen and show respect for what others are saying.
- Be prepared and conduct themselves in a safe manner.
- Respect adult troop members.

Girl Scout family responsibilities:

- One adult from each Girl Scout family, at a minimum, supports their troop by joining as an adult member.
- Consider volunteering into the troop Leadership Team. Each troop is required to have at least one adult who's completed leadership training and listed as Troop Leader.
- Actively participate and communicate efficiently with the Troop Leadership Team.
- Support your Girl Scout through all facets of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.
- Encourage your Girl Scout to take risks and try new things.
- Be a cheerleader and allow your child to take the lead.
- When possible, attend council events with your Girl Scout and encourage active participation in troop meetings. Ensure you arrive prepared and on time for meetings or outings.

How to register:

- Visit mygs.girlscouts.org and click on **FIND TROOPS**.
- Enter in your search criteria, and click **SEARCH**.
- Scroll through the list of troop opportunities and choose a troop with girl **Open Spot(s)** that's the right fit for your family. Not seeing the right troop for you? Scroll to the bottom of the troops displayed and click on either **Apply to start your own** or **Apply to participate without a troop** to continue.
- Under **JOIN THIS TROOP**, click the + under both the Girls & Adults headers to add your family to the troop.
- Click the **LOG IN** button &, in the pop-up window, log in to an existing MyGS account or click **Don't have an account? Sign up now** to create a new one.
- Add the membership details for each new member in your family. Click on **REVIEW CART** when complete.
- Check the box I agree to the Girl Scout Promise & Law (required), then click **ADD PAYMENT DETAILS***.
- Complete payment information, & then click on **SUBMIT PAYMENT**. Once complete you will see a confirmation screen & receive a confirmation email. **Membership & council fees are non-transferable & non-refundable.**

**We believe cost should not prevent any family from joining & participating in Girl Scouts. Financial Assistance is available.*

