Best New Troop Year Ever

Troops who try a wide variety of activities have a more enjoyable and successful year in Girl Scouts! GSNETX has put together this list to help you build the best experience for your troop's first year in Girl Scouts.

Here's how it works: This patch opportunity runs August 7, 2023 – July 31, 2024. When your troop completes at least 16 of the experiences below, each girl in the troop will earn the Best New Troop Year Ever patch and all registered troop leaders will get their second year of membership free! **Troops must complete the first 5 items labeled with an asterisk (*)**. Once you are ready to share your successes submit your info here: https://gsnetx.formstack.com/forms/bestnewtroop. We'll mail you patches for all registered Girl Scouts and troop leaders within 30 days of submission beginning in October.

- ☐ *Complete the 2 required training courses: **TR100 New Leader** and **TR402 Protecting Our Girls** in gsLearn. (gsLearn is found in your **MY GS** account)
- ☐ *Join the **New Leader Academy Facebook group**, a support community for first year leaders.
- ☐ *Set-up a Troop Year Plan using the **Volunteer Toolkit** within your **MY GS** account.
- ☐ *Contact your **Troop Support Coordinator** and ensure all your troop meeting information is up to date or complete and submit the **Troop Update Form**.
- ☐ *Hold a **parent/family meeting** at the start of your troop year, before the Cookie Program begins and during the Early Bird Spring Membership Renewal season (April - May). *Find help under the Getting Started tab on the New Leader Rallyhood site*
- ☐ Renew the memberships of at least 50% of your troop by April 30 during **Early Bird Spring Renewal.** *Available during the month of April*
- ☐ Complete the **Volunteer Toolkit Challenge** in **gsLearn**.
- ☐ Attend at least **3 New Leader Virtual Meetings** and/or Leader meetings in your Service Unit. *See the calendar in the New Leader Rallyhood for dates and the zoom link*
- ☐ Attend at least one **New Leader In-Person Event** (there are 4 during the year).
- ☐ **Share the fun** of Girl Scouting! Keep your troop open to new girls all year long & plan for at least 12 girls!
- ☐ Start your troop meetings off with a **mindful moment**.
- ☐ Plan and complete a **service project** in your community.
- ☐ Attend at least one **GSNETX program/event**, in person or virtually.
- ☐ Complete at least one **GSNETX free patch program**.
- ☐ **Take your troop outside!** Go hiking, go on a scavenger hunt, or attend a day at a camp.
- ☐ Complete at least one badge that is focused on **Science, Technology, Engineering or Math**.
- ☐ Participate in the **Cookie Program** and have a per girl average of at least 50 packages of cookies.
- ☐ Take your troop for a fun **field trip** outside of their regular meeting.
- ☐ Complete all the petals/badges in your **My First Year Handbook** with your troop.
- ☐ Have one troop adult complete **TR301 Troop Camp Training** and plan a camp-out for your troop.

For ideas and more information check out the **New Leader Rallyhood** or email **newtroop@gsnetx.org**.