

My First Year
Daisy

A complete guide for your first year of leading a Girl Scout troop

girl scouts of northeast texas

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On average, troop co-leaders spend 6-11 hours per month (+ 8 during cookie season) volunteering. We want to help you enjoy as much of that time as possible! This guide takes the guesswork out of leading a troop.

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Checklist for New Troop Leaders

Starting a New Girl Scout Troop

Week 1

- [ ] Register as a Girl Scout troop leader
- [ ] Complete a **background check**. You will receive an email invite from **theadvocates@sterlingvolunteers**
- [ ] Meet your placement specialist and **set-up your troop meeting details**
- [ ] Join the New Leader Academy Facebook Group & the New Leader Rallyhood
- [ ] Find a co-leader and invite girls to join your troop – printble invite
- [ ] Complete required training: TR100: New Leader Training; TR402: Protecting Our Girs; & GSUSA Grade Level Essentials in gsLearn
- [ ] Meet your Troop Support Coordinator your main point of contact for support

Week 2

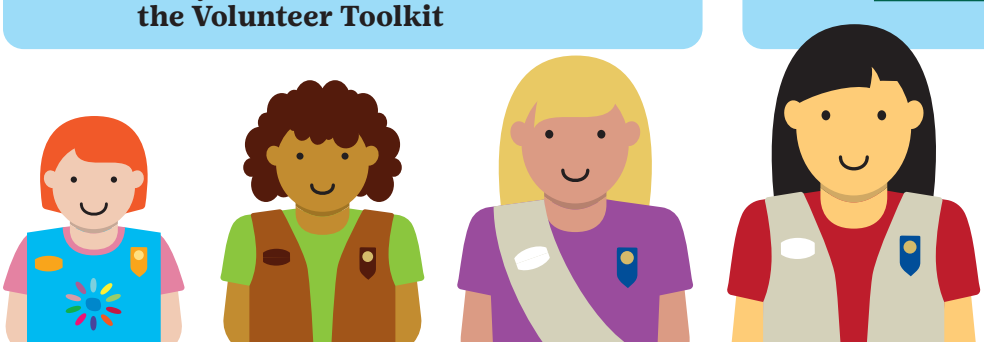
- [ ] Complete new leader training (complete within first 60 days)
- [ ] Discover the ins and outs of the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)
- [ ] Find a bank for your troop account and submit the opening a bank account form – GSNETX Bank Account Process Request to Open a Bank Account
- [ ] Meet with your co-leader and plan a parent meeting using the **Sample Family Meeting Agenda from your New Leader Kit**
- [ ] Find your troop roster in the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK). Email, text, or call troop parents to introduce yourself
- [ ] Hold the parent meeting (remember to use your parent meeting agenda)

Week 3

- [ ] Complete your bank account set-up and make your first deposit
- [ ] Request a free Rallyhood rally site for your troop. The Rallyhood platform combines the functionality of tools like Evenbrite, SignUp Genius, Facebook, Google, and Calendar/Forms in one place. Troops can customize their sites with photos and information, creating a space for volunteers and parents to communicate
- [ ] Plan and hold your first troop meeting - **Use your New Leader Handbook & the Volunteer Toolkit**

Week 4

- [ ] Attend a leader meeting (in your service unit or council-led).
- [ ] Reach out to get help planning your year in Girl Scouts! Email NewTroop@gsnetx.org
- [ ] Take the **Volunteer Toolkit Challenge** in gsLearn
- [ ] Paricipate in our Best New Troop Year Ever Patch Program
- [ ] Find out about the GSNETX Cookie Program



girl scouts

Welcome to Girl Scouts!

Our Mission

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

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.

"Welcome to Girl Scouts and a great new adventure! Thanks to volunteers like you, a new generation of girls will get the courage, confidence and character they need to lead their lives and our world in the future. The Girl Scout team is here to support you, but YOU are enough – we couldn't do this without YOU!"

Jennifer Bartkowski, CEO GSNETX

Thank you!

Troop Co-Leaders

Help girls reach their potential as creative, courageous leaders
Create a space where girls try new things without worrying about failing
Teach lessons girls will use for decades to come
Try new things along with their girls
Develop leaders' own organizational and leadership skills
Join a global community of sisterhood

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

Getting Started

New leaders often spend the first few weeks getting started and setting up their troop. Be sure to use your **CHECKLIST** on page 3 of this handbook!



Setting up your Troop

Your placement specialist will reach out to you to set up this information in the membership system.

The number of girls to expect in your troop

As a new troop, you can expect to have 10-12 girls. Research has found this is the 'sweet spot' – small enough to encourage individual development and large enough to provide an interactive and cooperative learning environment. If your troop doesn't have enough girls assigned or you would like a larger group, GSNETX is here to help you!

Looking to grow your troop more?

As a troop leader, you can make sure your troop is available in the opportunity catalog for new members to register at will, and you can also share a direct link for new families to register directly in your troop through your MY GS account. Adults and girls alike can join your troop this way. If you would like help growing your troop, contact your placement specialist at any time throughout the year.

Meeting Location and Times

Remember, set meeting times that work with your schedule! You will need to choose a location for regular meetings – a local park, library, school, private homes – the troop can meet anywhere that follows the GS safety guidelines. You will also need to decide what day of the week and how often the troop will meet. Most of our troops meet twice a month. So, think about what day, which weeks of the month and the time-frame (1, 1 1/2 or 2 hours) – right after school, weekday evening, or weekend.

Troop Interests/Goals/Personality

Also, think about what your troop will want to accomplish this year. What are some goals? Will the troop focus on one theme for the year? We want to know what type of activities you will plan to do throughout your first year. Every troop has a unique 'personality.' Let us know anything that is special about your troop! Will the girls speak a different language? Include girls with disabilities or learning differences? Do all the girls enjoy a specific sport or activity?

Building an Inclusive Troop

Establishing an inclusive environment that welcomes every girl, fosters a sense of belonging and provides a safe space for everyone should be a top priority. Girls have a better experience when they are warmly welcomed into a troop.
www.gsnetx.org/newleader

New Leader Training

Required Training is Virtual, Free & in **gsLearn**!
(Located in your MY GS account) Plan to complete all three within 3 months.

1. **TR100 - New Leader Training** (required)
2. **TR402 - Protecting Our Girls** (required)
3. **GSUSA Daisy/Brownie/Junior Grade Level Essentials** (strongly encouraged)

Additional Training you need to know about:

Take the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) Challenge in gsLearn and get the exclusive GSNETX VTK Challenge patch! The VTK Challenge is designed to give troop leaders a self-paced hands-on keyboard learning experience to better understand, navigate, and use this online tool for your troop.

These courses include a fee and registration is in **gsEvents**

- When your troop is ready to go on outings/field trips outside the regular meeting place, at least one registered/background checked adult will need to take a qualifying **CPR/First Aid Training**. (Required for field trips & camping)

- Once your troop is ready for an outdoor overnight or camping trip, you will need to have a registered/background checked adult take **TR301 - GSNETX Camping**
(Required for camping OR activities involving fire)

- TR101: Meetings 101 Make & Take features tried, tested, and true best practices and techniques to help you build confidence in your ability to run successful troop meetings.



Check these out at **www.gsnetx.org/volunteertraining**.

A New Leader's Support System

New Leader Rallyhood The New Leader Rallyhood has all the resources you need to get your troop up and running. This one stop resource hub contains resources designed to help new leaders implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. You will find resources to help you plan your troop year, gain parent support, ideas for troop activities, field trips, community service projects and more!

Getting Connected, Socially

Also on **Facebook**, you will find:

GSNETX Learning Channel – facebook.com/learningchannelgsnetx

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas – facebook.com/gsnetx

New Leader Academy – facebook.com/groups/GSNETXNewLeaderAcademy
A group of volunteer mentors and GSNETX staff moderate the New Leader Academy Facebook making it a great place to reach out and ask questions at any time.

Your Support System
Girl Scouts is all about sisterhood. As a leader, you are not alone! Your troop co-leader(s) and parents are your primary team. Get to know them and allow them to help!

Check out page 10, the 4Her resources for more ideas!

Your Service Unit
What is a service unit? It is a geographically defined area that consists of Girl Scout troops that are in the same community or school district. These troops are supported by a service unit team.

Service unit teams consist of experienced Girl Scout volunteers who are there to support one another through the Girl Scout year. The team includes a manager, treasurer, product coordinator, and more.

These volunteers work together to support you by providing activities and event opportunities in your area throughout the year. And, they hold monthly meetings for leaders.

Service Unit Meetings
These meetings are usually held monthly and can be in person or virtual.

- Meet and network with fellow volunteers
- Learn about upcoming events and trainings, etc
- Share resources and materials

Your Troop Support Coordinator can get you connected to the volunteers in your service unit.

Your GSNETX Council Staff
We are here for you! Your Troop Support Coordinator will be here reaching out to you throughout your first year as a troop leader. You will receive a 10-part email series to help guide you through your first two months. If you have a private matter, a conflict to discuss, issues with registration or any other needs, GSNETX can help! Contact your Troop Support Coordinator, Customer Care at 972-349-2403, or email newtroop@gnsetx.org.

Co-Leaders – Leading Together

Each troop needs two unrelated adults who are Girl Scout members and have completed a background check to be able to meet. A friend, neighbor, co-worker, another parent are all great people to lead a troop with. If you need assistance recruiting a co-leader, talk to your placement specialist or troop support coordinator.



Before meeting with parents or the girls, you will want to get together and make some decisions about your troop. Once you have your parent/caregiver meeting you will include them in these decisions.

- Meeting logistics: When, where, how frequently and how long will the troop meet?
- Will the troop consists of girls in the same grade, different grades in the same program grade level, or different grades and mutltiple program grade levels?
- What kind of help will the troop need from parents?
- How will you handle your own daughter during troop activities?
- What type of communication will you use with the troop families?
- Troop finances: Will you have regular troop dues, a troop start-up fee? Who will be on the troop bank account?
- What would you like the troop uniform components to include? Will the leaders purchase for everyone with troop funds or will parents need to get this on their own?
- Plan out the parent/caregiver meeting.

For more information, check for the Co-leader Discussion Questions in the Getting Started Section of the New Leader Rallyhood - **rallyhood.com/160989**.

Working with Parents/Caregivers

Unlike many other activities, a Girl Scout troop needs parent and caregiver support to thrive!

Parent/Caregiver Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and introductions to one another and to the Girl Scouts. Ask about each girl and get to know her a little.
- Share how important each family will be to the troop.
- Discuss meeting location, day and times, uniforms and troop dues (you may want to collect at the meeting).
- Set expectations for communication and response times and how parents can get involved to help the troop (4Her program).
- Have parents complete health history forms, annual permission forms. Share contact info for all troop members.
- Discuss the types of activities the troop will participate this year (regular meetings, field trips, events, camping trips).
- Answer any questions the parents may have.

Helpful Tips!

- Don't try to do this alone! Ask parents directly to help with the troop – list out specific needs (4HER program).
- Invite a member of your service unit team to attend if you need help with this meeting.
- Have a Get to Know my Girl info sheet so that parents can share helpful info for working with their daughter.
- If girls will attend this meeting, have a craft or simple activity to keep them engaged.
- You can find a list of troop duties for parent participation and a girl info sheet in the New Leader Rallyhood - **rallyhood.com/160989**



Parents and other family members can take an active role in supporting their Girl Scout's experience. Use this chart to engage parents at your parent meeting.

The list below explains a number of roles your troop can use throughout the year. 4Her – make a commitment to volunteer 4 hours 4 her this year!

Help Needed	Description
Co-Leader	Partner with leader to provide regular support for all troop activities. Must be a member, background check and training required. Select "Troop Leader" when registering.
Meeting Helper/ Drivers	Assist leaders at meetings with activities. Drivers help drive girls to meetings and activities. Membership and background check required. Select "Troop Volunteer" when registering.
Troop Treasurer	Help leaders with all money matters, budgets, deposits, etc. Membership and background check required. Select "Troop Treasurer or Troop Volunteer".
Camp Trained Volunteer	Coordinate and attend troop campouts. Membership, background check and training required. Select "Troop Volunteer".
CPR/First Aider	Attend outings outside regular meeting place. Membership, background check and certified training required. Select "Troop Volunteer".
Troop Cookie Manager	Promote and run the cookie program for troop members. Membership, background check and training required. Select "Troop Volunteer".
Supplies or Snack Coordinator	Provide assistance by providing or selecting snacks for troop meetings as needed. Collect/purchase troop supplies to be paid for by the troop for activities.
Communications Support	Create a Troop Rallyhood and be the go to person for troop communication. gsnetx.formstack.com/forms/trooprally

The help and engagement of every parent is important to the growth of the troop! Invite your parents to share their talents and skills beyond what's included in the chart above. Their is a place for every parent to volunteer in the troop.

How Many Volunteers Do You Need?

Troop co-leaders are responsible for arranging and maintaining proper adult supervision for meetings and activities. Each troop meeting or Girl Scout group must have at least two unrelated adult members and a background check on file present at all times, plus additional adult volunteers as necessary. Adult volunteers must be at least 18 years old and one adult in every group must be female.

Use the table to identify how many adults you need based on the number of girls participating:

	TROOP MEETING		FIELD TRIP	
	The adult-to-girl ratio is **two unrelated** volunteers, including one female, for up to this number of girls:	There should be one extra adult for every additional:	The adult-to-girl ratio is **two unrelated** volunteers, including one female, for up to this number of girls:	There should be one extra adult for every additional:
Daisies K-grade 1	**12 Girl Scouts**	**1–6 Girl Scouts**	**6 Girl Scouts**	**1–4 Girl Scouts**
Brownies grades 2-3	**20 Girl Scouts**	**1–8 Girl Scouts**	**12 Girl Scouts**	**1–6 Girl Scouts**
Juniors grades 4-5	**25 Girl Scouts**	**1–10 Girl Scouts**	**16 Girl Scouts**	**1–8 Girl Scouts**
Cadettes grades 6-8	**25 Girl Scouts**	**1–12 Girl Scouts**	**20 Girl Scouts**	**1–10 Girl Scouts**
Seniors grades 9-10	**30 Girl Scouts**	**1–15 Girl Scouts**	**24 Girl Scouts**	**1–12 Girl Scouts**
Ambassadors grades 11-12	**30 Girl Scouts**	**1–15 Girl Scouts**	**24 Girl Scouts**	**1–12 Girl Scouts**

Safety Responsibilities for Girls

Girls who learn about and practice safe and healthy behaviors are likely to establish lifelong habits of safety consciousness. For that reason, each Girl Scout is expected to:

- Assist you and other volunteers in safety planning.
- Listen to and follow your safety 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.
- Practice the buddy method when participating in troop activities.

Girl Scout Troop Finances

Bank Accounts

- Two volunteers must be on the bank account.
- Find a bank with free accounts for GS Troops.
- Complete and submit the Request to Open a Bank Account form.
- Get approval and go to the bank together to complete the process.
- Register the account with GSNETX.

Suggested Banks that welcome Girl Scouts

Origin	Landmark
Capitol One Bank	Local Credit Unions
Prosperity	American National Bank
Point Bank	Veritex Community Bank

Troop Budgets – Keeping good financial records is a must! Keep receipts and track troop activity costs. Troops should share financial information with parents 2-3 times a year. When planning make sure to keep the troop budget in mind and to save money to help fund next year's activities, too.

Troop Dues – Most troops have troop dues and/or troop start-up fees. Make sure to be flexible with families when collecting troop monies. Troop dues/fees should be just enough to cover the cost of supplies, activity fees and badges/patches. Dues average $3-5/meeting. Start-up fees range between $5 and $30 depending on the troop needs.



Tax Exempt Status – Girl Scout purchases are exempt from taxation in Texas. Always take an exemption form with you when making Girl Scout purchases. The form can be found at **www.gsnetx.org/forms**

Fund Raising – A troop's primary money earning should come from the GSNETX fall product sale and Cookie Program. Once a troop has participated in the annual cookie program, they are able to participate in other troop money earning activities such as garage sales or car washes.

Financial Assistance

Financial Assistance is made available to all members and is intended to ensure the cost of membership never keeps a girl from experiencing Girl Scouts. For more information: **www.gsnetx.org/en/members/for-parents-and-families/financial-assistance.html**

For more information about finances check out Volunteer Essentials **www.gsnetx.org/volunteeressentials**.

Girl Scout Traditions

Hand Sign – Raise three fingers of the right hand with the thumb holding down the pinky. The 3 fingers represent the three parts of the Promise.

Handshake – Shaking hands with the left hand and make the GS sign with the right hand. The left hand is nearest to the heart and signifies friendship.

Friendship circle – The unbroken chain of friendship. Girl Scouts stand in a circle crossing their right arms over their left, and clasping hands with their friends on both sides Girl Scout Out – fun way to end a meeting, girls are in the friendship circle, each girl spells a letter until one gets to O, the O is the out. That girl in turn raises her arms still clasping hands, turning to the right and out of the circle. The next girl begins again with the G until the last girl is left as the winner.

SWAPS – Small tokens of friendship that girls often make and take to events or while traveling to swap with other Girl Scouts – "Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere".

Kaper Charts – A chart dividing up troop responsibilities. Indicates all the jobs available and who is responsible during a meeting or a camp-out.

Keeping Girls Safe and First Aid Kits

Make sure a general first-aid kit is available at your group meeting place and accompanies girls on any activity (including transportation to and from the activity). Please be aware that you may need to provide this kit if one is not available at your meeting place. Purchase a Girl Scout first-aid kit, you can buy a commercial kit, or you and the girls can assemble a kit.



Girl Scout activity insurance forms, parent consent forms, and health histories may be included as well. Check the kit regularly. Make sure the flashlight batteries work. Check expiration dates and replace any used or out-of-date contents.

Items to include:

- Adhesive bandages
- Sterile gauze pads
- Antibiotic ointment packets
- Hydrocortisone ointment packets
- Antiseptic wipe packets
- Non latex gloves
- Instant cold compress

Always keep your kit and your emergency card with the troop at all times.

Troop Communication

Good communication is essential to a well-run troop. A good idea is to always provide a deadline for communication responses. It's also important to keep a honest and open line of communication in place with parents regarding updates to troop activites, behavior, and/or special needs of the girls in the troop.



Commonly Used Forms

gsnetx.org/forms

As a troop leader, you will find that forms are a necessity! Some useful forms you will need include:

Girl Health History Forms – To be completed by care givers each year

Permission Forms – To be completed by care givers each year

Activity Approval Forms – This form is required for Girl Scout events or activities that may require extra levels of safety, care or permission. It is also required for any money-earning activity beyond the Girl Scout cookie program or fall product sales.

Opening or changing a Girl Scout bank account and ACH registration – See finances section on page 12.

Tax Exemption Form – Whenever purchasing troop supplies, etc.

Troop Changes Form – Making changes to volunteer roles and transferring girls in/out of the troop

Troop Info Update Form – Updating meeting information and troop description

Your Year in Girl Scouts

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
 National S'more Day  Recruit New Girls to Your Troop Back to Girl Scouts Plan Your Year GSNETX Leader Kick-Off	Hispanic History Month Back to Girl Scouts Investiture Ceremonies Fall Product Begins Recruit New Girls to Your Troop	Girl Scout Membership Year Begins  Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday	Thanksgiving
DECEMBER	**JANUARY**	**FEBRUARY**	**MARCH**
	Happy New Year!  Cookie Sale	Black History Month  World Thinking Day Engineering Week	Women's History Month  Girl Scout Week Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith
APRIL	**MAY**	**JUNE**	**JULY**
Earth Day National Volunteer Month  Girl Scout Leader Day	Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month  National Bridging Week Mental Health Awareness Month Early Bird Renewal/ Extended Year Membership Begins	National Get Outdoors Day Day/Twilight Camps Resident Camps	Independence Day Resident Camps

Visit **gsnetx.org/events** to learn more about our events and find the most up-to-date information. All events are subject to change without notice.

Product Sales Program
5 Skills + Financial Literacy

Each year, troops have two opportunities to participate in council sponsored money earning activities: the Fall Product Program and the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Each of these programs offer girls and troops the opportunity to earn funds to power their Girl Scout adventures, as well as rewards to keep girls engaged and motivated.

Through their participation in product sales programs, girls are able to launch their very own businesses while learning important life skills along the way:

Goal Setting

Decision Making

Money Management

People Skills

Business Ethics

There are also Cookie Business Badges and curriculum that help troop volunteers guide girls on this journey to developing their confidence in having a voice to set their goals, decide what they want to do with the money earned and understanding how to successfully run their Cookie Program.

- With the support of a volunteer in your Service Unit and the council Product Sales team, you will be connected to resources and support to ensure that you and your troop have everything that you need to have a successful experience.
- It's important to remember that any funds earned through money earning activities become property of the troop as a whole to further the Girl Scout experience.
- It must also be a girl-led decision on how these funds should be spent. Troop funds can be used towards meeting supplies, badges, field trips and activities, camping, experiences and more.

Fall Product Program | September – October
This is a great way to get girls and families comfortable with participating in council sponsored money earning activities.

- **What:** Girls sell nuts, candy and magazines online to family and friends.
- **How:** Customers can select to have their order delivered by the Girl Scout or shipped directly to them. Products to be delivered by girls will be shipped directly to the troop in November for distribution to girls and families.
- **Why:** Troops earn 20% of total sales that will be deposited into troop bank accounts in December.

Cookie Program | December – February
The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world! The bulk of the troop's funds are earned through girls' participation in the Cookie Program and it's where they truly get to put the 5 Skills they have learned into action.

- **What:** Girls sell cookies to customers near and far online, in-person, and at booth sales.
- **How:** Family and friends support their favorite Girl Scout by purchasing cookies to help her reach her goal. With the support of parents/caregivers and troop volunteers, girls can also participate in booth sales at local grocery stores, restaurants and more.
- **Why:** Troops earn proceeds on each package of cookies sold and girls earn rewards based on the number of packages they sell.

Ready, Set, Take Action

Community Service and Take Action Projects

Make the world a better place. For over 100 years, Girl Scouts have been encouraged to do anything they set their sights on and as a result, Girl Scouts continue to make an impact locally and globally.

Community Service Projects

Community service projects address an immediate need in the community and are appropriate for every Girl Scout – Daisy through Ambassador! A great definition of community service is, "Community service makes the world a better place for some people right now."

Take Action Projects

Take Action projects transform a community service project into a long-term, lasting impact for the community. With Take Action projects, girls are challenged and encouraged to research, plan, and lead projects that tackle the root of a local, national, or global problem. Girls think bigger and are encouraged to solve and address the problem in a way that will prohibit the problem from reoccurring. Take Action projects aim for long-term benefits that change the world in a meaningful, measurable, and sustainable way!

What is Take Action?

Girls will create and carry out a Take Action project with every Journey they complete. The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards all require the completion of a Take Action project.

Overview of Take Action

A Take Action project is a chance for girls to partner with others in their community to solve a problem. They learn about getting to the root causes of issues, mobilizing and engaging community members and volunteers, and striving toward creating a lasting change in their world. An important component is to understand and address the cause of a problem.

Girls must also make sure each project is sustainable and that the impact is measurable.

- **Sustainable:** Girls must make arrangements to ensure that the project creates lasting change and is not a one-time event. (Collaborate with community leaders and/or organization; creating relationships with mentors)
- **Measurable:** The success of the project can be determined based on the number of people the project helped, the number of people who were involved, any reduction in the community's need, and other concrete numbers.

Steps of a Good Take Action Project

1. Girls identify assets and needs in a community.
2. Girls reach out beyond their circle to meet others. Try to meet people affected by your issue and people who are trying to solve it.
3. Girls make a decision about what they will take action on.
4. Girls learn the steps needed to carry out an action plan.
5. Girls assist with project logistics.
6. Girls take action alongside community members.
7. Girls reflect on their action and assess what they gained from it. Girls celebrate their community accomplishments.

Girl Scout Camping

When Girl Scouts get outside and connect with nature in a girl-led setting, they grown in self-confidence, develop their leadership skills, and foster a passion for environmental stewardship. Many Girl Scouts will tell you that camping trips and summer camp are some of the best things about their Girl Scout experience.

Our Camp and Outdoor Program

With a troop camp-trained adult along, girls can go troop camping at one of our five beautiful camps throughout the school year. Summer brings day/twilight camps, sleep away camping, and fun summer day camps for our girls to enjoy. Summer opportunities are announced in February /March each year. For more information about out camps check our website: **gsnetx.org/camp**

Camp Properties

STEM Center of Excellence Located in South Dallas, this camp is the perfect mix of hands-on STEM exploration and traditional camp activities. Workshops, trail hiking, and swimming is just some of the fun to be found here. Don't forget the s'mores!

Camp Bette Perot in Palestine is home to our Equestrian Leadership Center. Camp in a platform tent, cabin, or lodge. Swim in a sparkling pool, go for a horseback ride, go finishing, challenge yourself on the ropes course and so much more!

Camp Gambill is a tranquil camp retreat outside of Paris, Texas. This beautiful property features air conditioned cabins, a calming lake, Goosey Golf and a mascot, Kippy the Goose. Activities include swimming, hiking, kayaking, laser tag and paddle boating.

Camp K (Kadohadocho) is 150 rustic acres outside Pottsboro on Lake Texoma. This property is for our most adventurous, primitive campers.

Highest Awards

Once your troop becomes a Junior Girl Scout troop, they are able to complete the first level of our higher awards – **The Bronze Award**.

Girl Scout Juniors team up to make a difference in their community. They learn important leadership skills, discover new passions, and watch how seemingly small actions make a big difference. Girls may earn individually or as a troop. Earning the Bronze award includes the completing of a GS Journey and a suggested 20+ hours of project planning, implementation and promotion.

Cadette Girl Scouts may earn the **Silver Award**, our second-highest award and Seniors and Ambassadors may earn the highest award, **The Gold Award**. For more information about these awards, visit our website **gsnetx.org**.

The Volunteer Toolkit:
Your Digital Troop Assistant

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)

This web-based program allows you more time to focus on your girls. It makes managing your troop and planning your meetings smooth and easy all year long. Inside, you'll find meeting overviews, activity plans, badge and journey outlines, meeting aids, Girl Scout resources and more!

Plan and Customize Your Year

At Girl Scouts, we know that when girls take part in shaping their Girl Scouts experience and adventures, they will be more engaged and will have more fun! The VTK makes it easy for troop co-leaders and girls explore meeting topics and ideas available for their grade level together and select what they want to include in their year. Co-leaders can take this information to plan and customize the troop's year using the VTK's pre-populated meeting plans, agendas, supply lists, and activity instructions.

Manage Troop Rosters, Attendance, and Accomplishments

With the VTK you will be able to view your troop roster, update contact information, record attendance at meetings, track girls' badge and Journey achievements, and renew memberships.

One-Click Communication

The VTK is not just for co-leaders, it's for parents, too! With its unique parent-view, parents can keep up with troop activities, meeting information, and what badges and Journeys their girls are working on. You can also email upcoming meeting agendas and troop plan to them with just one click.

Learn more about the VTK

For more information about the Volunteer Toolkit, including how to set-up a troop year plan, take the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) Challenge in gsLearn

Easy Navigation at your Fingertips!

Here are just a few of the many features you'll find inside the VTK. We strongly encourage troop co-leaders to utilize the VTK to streamline their troop management and planning. GSUSA continues to update and enhance the VTK with additional resources, features and functions.

MY TROOP

- View, edit, download and print rosters.
- Edit contact info.
- View achievements and attendance.
- Email families.
- Renew memberships.

YEAR PLANS

- Specify meeting dates and locations.
- Preview and choose pre-populated year plans.
- Add and/or combine meeting plans to customize your year.
- Add custom troop activities like celebrations, field trips, camping trips, etc.

MEETING PLANS

- View, download, or print individual meeting summaries, activity plans and supply lists.
- Track attendance and achievements.
- Search and print meeting aids such as name tags, handouts, and more.

RESOURCES

- Access award logs, badge charts, meeting plans, and more.
- Access council specific resources on troop leadership, safety, training, GS traditions and awards, trips and travel, GS product sale, and camp and outdoor programs.

FINANCES

- Submit the annual troop finance report.

Pin and Badge Placement for Daisy Uniforms

Girl Scout Daisy Tunic



Place your first Journey awards at the bottom of your vest. As you earn additional awards, work your way up.

If your awards and badges don't fit on the front of your vest or tunic, you can wear them on the back.

Girl Scout Days Vest



Working with Daisies

As the leader of a Daisy troop, your goal should be to act as facilitator, enabling girls to experience planning, decision-making, leadership, and yes, even failure!

Girl Scouts is girl-led!

Daisies (K-1st-Grade Girls)	This means
Can make simple choices and enjoy sharing their opinion.	When making troop decisions, offer the girls limited choices, such as choosing between two field trips. Allow girls to share their thoughts and take a vote to choose.
Have loads of energy and need to run, walk, and play outside.	They'll enjoy going on nature walks and outdoor scavenger hunts.
Are great builders and budding artists.	Encourage 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.
Love to move and dance.	They might especially enjoy marching like a penguin, dancing like a dolphin, or acting out how they might care for animals in the jungle.
Are concrete thinkers and are focused on the here and now.	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.
Are only beginning to learn about basic number concepts, time and money.	You'll want to take opportunities to count out supplies together–and perhaps, the legs of a caterpillar! The Product Sales Program reinforces counting and math skills!
Know how to follow simple directions and respond well to recognition for doing so	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 through.
Are just beginning to write and spell and they don't always have the words for what they're thinking or feeling.	Having girls draw a picture of something they are trying to communicate is easier and more meaningful for them.

Helpful Tips!

- Build on the strengths of each girl.
- Praise desirable behavior.
- Use simple words.
- Use quiet, pleasant tones.
- Be flexible. Attention spans can be short.
- Utilize the Girl Scout Promise & Law.
- Try to be at the girl's eye level.
- Encourage girls to solve problems.
- Develop a friendly relationship with each girl.
- Keep activities short and varied.

Meeting as a Troop

Your Troop Year at a Glance

We have found that troops who meet twice a month have the best experience! Make sure you mix it up and that meetings and outings capture the interests of the girls in your troop! In the rest of your handbook we have provided a simple set of meeting plans for you to use. More information on leading these badges can be found in your **Volunteer Toolkit**.

This is a great starting place for a troop to get started, but a troop isn't just about earning badges or Journeys, it really about making sure that the girls are making age appropriate decisions and having fun. To that end, you will want to weave a variety of activities into your Girl Scout year. Girls will enjoy getting outdoors, performing community service, going on field trips and just hanging out together having fun and having new experiences. Two pieces of advice: keep it girl-led and keep it fun!

To help you create a well-rounded year in Girl Scouting, set up your troop calendar in the Volunteer Toolkit. Take the Volunteer Toolkit Challenge in gsLearn and see how easy it is to create a year plan based on the badges your Girl Scouts want to earn!

Resources For Planning Meetings

Virtual Meetings

In today's world many troops are finding the need to offer virtual meetings. Troops can meet virtually, -in-person, or a hybrid of the two. It's a great idea to discuss this with your co-leader(s) and your troop families. You can find tips, tools, and ideas for virtual troop meetings at **www.girlscouts.org/en/members/for-volunteers/virtual-meeting-planning.html**.

For Volunteers – Find resources, guides, and more that are essential to volunteers. The resources on this webpage will help you along the way in your volunteer journey. Whether you're looking for guidance on managing troop finances or need help planning your first year of meetings, you'll find everything you need. **https://www.gsnetx.org/en/members/for-volunteers.html**.

Jumpstart – Unsure how to lead STEM badges? This is your easy to use, on-the-go digital assistant helping leaders deliver empowering, enjoyable, STEM programming to girls! Just create an account on our website at **gsnetx.org/jumpstart**.

Here's to a great year in Girl Scouting!

The rest of this handbook includes 8-10 meeting plans that have been simplified to help you get your year started! These meeting plans are meant to be used in conjunction with the Volunteer Toolkit. We hope this helps you gain confidence as you embark on your own Girl Scout journey.

girl scouts of northeast texas

Let's Go! Your First Troop Meeting

Your first troop meeting is a great chance to get to know the girls and brainstorm all the exciting things they want to do in the year to come. If you're feeling a little nervous about leading troop meetings and experiences with your girls, that's OK! Just remember that:

It doesn't need to be perfect. Did an activity run over time? Or, maybe a field trip didn't go according to plan? Take a deep breath, roll with the changes, and have fun! The girls aren't expecting perfection from you: your time, attention, and guidance are the best part of your leadership.

Learn with your girls. Keeping activities girl-led also means that at some point, the girls will want to earn a badge or complete a project in a subject unfamiliar to you. Don't let that hold you back. Be open with the girls and when you don't know something and that you will be learning together. You'll show them that learning is a lifelong process and that with an open mind, they can overcome any challenge that comes their way.

Six Elements of a Great Troop Meeting

The only requirement for your troop meetings is that your girls are engaged and having fun! Many leaders use this basic structure for troop meetings:

1. **Ramp Up** – plan an opening activity for girls upon arrival at the meeting so that have something to do before the meeting begins. Plan about five minutes for this, it could be snack, or creating a thank you card, coloring a page to donate, etc.
2. **Opening** – Each troop decides what they will do regularly. Most begin with the reciting the Girl Scout Promise & Law, a song, game, story, or other activity designed by the girls. Plan 5-10 minutes for this.
3. **Troop Business** – Collect dues, take attendance, make announcements or plan upcoming activities while parents may be present.
4. **Let the fun begin!** This is your activity for the meeting, work on a badge, journey, or complete other activities during this time plan 30 minutes to 1 hour according to your meeting time.
5. **Clean Up** – Girls clean up all supplies and always leave a place cleaner than they found it. Plan about five minutes.
6. **Closing** – As a troop, girls decide how they will end each meeting – a song, a game, a Girl Scout tradition. Plan 5-10 minutes for this.

Got Snacks?

Snacks are optional, but if your troop has chosen to include snacks, guide families to consider healthy snacks and always share any food allergies the girls in your troop may have. Include snack time as part of your troop meeting.

First Meeting Checklist

- ❑ Cover the basics. Review the details about when and where the meeting will take place and make sure parents/caregivers are aware.
- ❑ Get ready. Use the VTK to verify your troop roster and email parents. This might be a great time to remind parents to send health history forms, uniform orders, and troop dues to the meeting.
- ❑ Know the agenda. Refer to the Six Elements of a Troop Meeting list and your meeting agenda/plans
- ❑ Review and practice your agenda. You'll feel calmer during the actual meeting and ready to make adjustments as needed.
- ❑ Prepare for Fun! When the girls and parents see that you're prepared for the meeting and ready to have a great time, they'll follow your lead!

Planning your Girl Scout year

- Choose your dates – be sure to consider holidays and schedules.
- Decide how many Girl Scout meetings/ activities a month the troop will do.
- We recommend you start with the badges included in your *My First Year Handbook* and let the girls vote on the order.
- Decide how the troop will choose meeting topics and activities. Remember to keep it girl-led.
- Have a list of ideas for the girls to vote on doing and when to do each, or have the girls bring ideas to your meeting for a vote.
- Alternate regular meetings with fun outings, field trips or events.
- Include a wide variety of activities for the girls to participate in throughout the year.
- Keep it age appropriate.
- Consider what the troop will do during inclement weather, illness, etc. Is virtual an option for your troop?
- Will the troop do one activity each month during the summer or be on a break?
- Remember to be flexible – be prepared for a meeting plan to run askew and adjust – keep it fun! If girls miss a meeting, it's okay. Making up a badge is voluntary.
- Take time to get to know the girls and their interests – make sure at least one meeting meets each girl's individual interests.
- As you plan your year, engage the parents with the girls – have each girl sign up to lead a meeting with her caregiver, she chooses the badge/activity and you serve as their mentor.

4 Girl Scout Pillars and The Girl Scout Promise & Law

- STEM
- Outdoors
- Life Skills
- Entrepreneurship

Other ideas to include

- Field Trips
- Service Unit Events
- Community Service
- Council-led Events
- GSNETX Patch Programs

Resources to help you plan

- Volunteer Toolkit
- GSNETX New Leader Rallyhood
- Service Unit leader meetings
- Get ideas from experienced Troop Leaders
- GSUSA Badge booklets & Journeys GSUSA & GSNETX Patch Programs

Example of how to plan your calendar

For meeting 1 & 2 each month – rotate badges/activities based on the 4 pillars

Month 1 Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?	**Month 2** Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?	**Month 3** Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?	**Month 4** Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?	**Month 5** Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?	**Month 6** Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?
Month 7 Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?	**Month 8** Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?	**Month 9** Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?	**Month 10** Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?	**Month 11** Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?	**Month 12** Meeting 1 Meeting 2 Additional?

*GSNETX – Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Council *GSUSA – Girl Scouts of the United States of America

Your Daisy Year-at-a-Glance

Troop Meetings

Your troop goal should be to host two meetings a month.

Meetings 1: Petal Meeting

Earn petals by completing fun activities to learn about the Girl Scout law. Below is a list of all the Daisy petals.

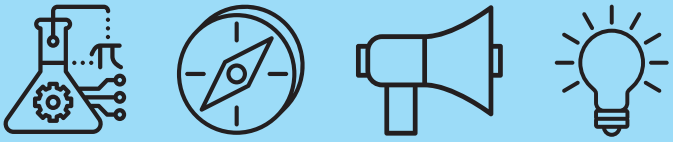
Promise:	Center
Lupe Peta:	Honest and Fair
Sunny Petal:	Friendly and Helpful
Zinni Petal:	Considerate and Caring
Tula Petal:	Courageous and Strong
Mari Petal:	Responsible for What I Say and Do
Gloria Petal:	Respect Myself and Others
Gerri Petal:	Respect Authority
Clover Petal:	Use Resources Wisely
Rosie Petal:	Make the World a Better Place
Vi Petal:	Be a Sister to Every Girl Scout

Learn more about earning petals in your Volunteer Toolkit found in your MY GS account at **gsnetx.org**.

The Girl Scout Secret Sauce

WHAT:

Girl Scouts do activities in Four Pillars



Traditions | Troop Meetings | Field Trips
Badges | Patches | Journeys | Camp
Cookie Business | Take Action Projects

HOW:

Girl Scouts experience our unique environment and three processes

Environment = all-girl safe space with supportive adult mentors (you!)

Three processes = girl-led, learn by doing, cooperative learning

The **"secret sauce"** is the vehicle that distinguishes Girl Scouts from other youth organizations and the driver of amazing leadership outcomes!

WHY:

Girl Scouts become people of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Outcomes, or benefits, of the Girl Scout experience include:

Sense of Self • Positive Values
Healthy Relationships • Challenge Seeking
Community Problem Solving

Promise Center: Introductory Caregiver Meeting

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Girl Scout Family Promise*
- Name Tag Template*
- Scissors
- Glue
- Yarn

*Found in the VTK, see page 19

Activity 1: Meeting Agenda

- Introduce yourself to your troop caregivers and have them do the same
- Share the Girl Scout Family Promise

Activity 2: Practice Girl Scout Traditions

Daisy Circle
Girls come together to share thoughts and ideas and make plans for their troop.

Girl Scout Hand Sign
While reciting the Girl Scout Promise & Law, hold up your right hand with the three middle fingers up and hold your thumb and pinky finger together.

Quiet Sign
When Girl Scouts see a hand raised, they raise their hand and wait quietly while others do the same.

Practice the Quiet Sign

- **Have** everyone stand up and wiggle, jump in place, make lots of noise
- **Raise** the Quiet Sign, encourage the girls to stop what they are doing, raise their own hands, and be quiet.

Activity 3: Daisy Name Tags

- Have girls color their names on the Daisy name tag
- Cut out and glue the Girl Scout Promise to the back of the tag and tie a piece of yarn to the top

Ask your girls:

- What does it mean to make a promise and why is it important to keep our promises?
- Do you think these three parts of the promise are good things to live by? Why?

Activity 4: Daisy to Daisy Game

- Girls make the Girl Scout sign with their right hands and shake hands using their left
- Girls introduce themselves to their partner and tell her something about herself
- Give them more directions such as: Touch your partner elbow-to-elbow, now try knee-to-knee
- When you say Daisy to Daisy, the girls scurry and find a brand-new partner
- Repeat until all of your girls have met each other!

Activity 5: Closing Ceremony

- Ensure your caregivers have all of the information they need, collect health and permission forms
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing “Make New Friends” and passing a gentle squeeze around the circle (page 13)



Make sure to access your Volunteer Toolkit for more info on leading this badge and for meeting aids to assist you. Also, check out the Virtual Meetings Playbook at gsnetx.org/volunteertraining for help adapting your in-person meeting to a virtual meeting.

Lupe: Honest and Fair

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Lupe the Lupine Coloring Sheet*
- Lupe's Story*
- Snacks to Share
- Poster Paper
- Crayons

*Found in the VTK, see page 19

Activity 1: Welcome

- Have girls color Lupe the Lupine coloring page as they arrive
- Tell them that Lupe stands for being honest and fair

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Gather the girls into a circle to read the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Ask the girls: What is an honest and fair thing you've done?
- Read Lupe's Story, A Fair Turn in the Flower Garden
- Have the girls act out what they hear:
  * Jump—Jump up and down or pretend to jump rope
  * Cheese—Pretend to nibble on a piece of cheese
  * Fair—Raise their hands

After the story, ask the girls:

- What does being honest mean to you?
- How about what it means to be fair?
- What are some of the things you've done that show you are honest and fair?

Activity 3: Snack Chat

One important thing Girl Scouts do is to help make the world a better place. As you go through Girl Scouting, you'll plan a Take Action Project. Taking Action means finding a need, coming up with a plan to help, and putting the plan into action.

Ask the girls:

- Remember in Lupe's Story, when Lupe suggested everyone take turns playing a favorite game?
- Why do you think it's important to help other people?

Activity 4: Take Action Pause

- Help the girls think of a way to Take Action like Lupe.
- Can you think of some ways that you can be honest and fair even when it is hard?

Activity 5: Closing Ceremony



- Form a Friendship Circle and remind the girls what they have experienced and learned together about being honest and fair. Ask your girls:
  * What are some ways you can be honest and fair at home?
  * How about at school?
  * Let's go around the circle and say one way you plan to be honest and fair. You can begin your statement by saying, "I pledge to be honest and fair by..."
- Invite the girls to sign a group poster that says "I will do my best to be honest and fair."
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing "Make New Friends" and passing a gentle squeeze around the circle (page 13)

Make sure to access your Volunteer Toolkit for more info on leading this badge and for meeting aids to assist you. Also, check out the Virtual Meetings Playbook at gsnetx.org/volunteertraining for help adapting your in-person meeting to a virtual meeting.

Sunny: Friendly and Helpful
Zinni: Considerate and Caring

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Sunny and Zinni Coloring Sheets*
- Sunny's Story*
- Zinni's Story*
- 4 Poster Boards
- Crayons
- Magazines
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Snacks

*Found in the VTK, see page 19

Activity 1: Welcome

- Have girls color pictures of Zinni the Zinnia and Sunny the Sunflower as they arrive
- Tell them that Sunny stands for being friendly and helpful, and Zinni stands for being considerate and caring

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Gather the girls into a circle to read the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Read Sunny's Story and Zinni's Story
- After the story, ask the girls:
  - How did Zinni forget to be considerate and caring at first?
  - What reminded her to act in a considerate and caring way?
  - What are some of the ways you have acted considerate and caring?
  - Do you know what it means to be friendly?
  - How about what it means to be helpful?

Activity 3: Daisy Mural

- Divide the girls into four groups and assign each group to one poster: Considerate, Caring, Friendly, and Helpful
- Allow each group 3-5 minutes to cut out images from the magazines to glue to their poster
- Rotate posters every 3-5 minutes, giving each group a chance to contribute to each poster

Activity 4: Snack Chat

- Have the girls be responsible for dividing the snacks evenly
- Discuss the following question while the girls enjoy their snack:
  - Remember in Zinni's Story, when Zinni shared her green paint so the bird could finish painting its picture?
  - Can you think of other ways to be a considerate and caring Daisy?
  - Why do you think it's important to help other people?
  - Can you think of other ways to be a helpful Daisy?



Activity 5: Closing Ceremony

- Form a Friendship Circle and remind the girls what they have experienced and learned together: We've learned about Sunny's Story and Zinni's Story, made a Daisy mural, and learned about being friendly and helpful, and considerate and caring
- Ask the girls:
  - What are some ways you can practice being all these things at home? How about at school?
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing "Make New Friends" and passing a gentle squeeze around the circle (page 13)

Make sure to access your Volunteer Toolkit for more info on leading this badge and for meeting aids to assist you. Also, check out the Virtual Meetings Playbook at gsnetx.org/volunteertraining for help adapting your in-person meeting to a virtual meeting.

Tula: Courageous and Strong

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Tula the Tulip Coloring Sheet*
- Tula's Story*
- Crayons
- Markers
- Strips of Red Construction Paper (Long enough to wrap around a girl's head
- Decorations

*Found in the VTK, see page 19

Activity 1: Welcome

- Have girls color the Tula the Tulip coloring sheet as they arrive
- Tell them that Tula stands for being courageous and strong

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Gather the girls into a circle to read the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Tell the girls they will be learning more about Tula and being courageous and strong
- Read Tula's Story, Standing Up for Darla
- Have girls act out what they hear:
  * Hop—hop up and down
  * Kickball—pretend they're kicking a ball,
  * Dandelion—raise their right hands!
- After the story, ask the girls:
  * Courageous is another way of saying brave. What's a brave thing you've done?
  * We usually talk about being strong as a physical thing, like having muscles or being able to lift heavy objects. Did you know that you could also be strong in your mind?
  * How do you think Tula felt when she acted courageously?
  * Do you think she was scared? Can you be scared and courageous at the same time?
  * How do you think Darla felt when Tula asked the dandelions to stop teasing her?
  * How can you show you are courageous and strong?

Activity 3: Courage Crowns

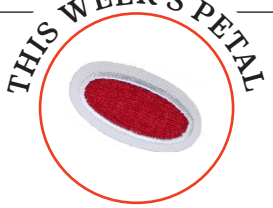
- For each girl, take a strip of paper and write one thing she thinks is good about being courageous and strong
- Let girls decorate freely
- Once girls are done decorating, wrap the strip around each girl's head and tape the crown at the ends so she can wear it to remind her that she is courageous and strong

Activity 4: Take Action Pause

- Help the girls think of a way to Take Action like Tula. Taking Action means finding a need, coming up with a plan to help, and putting the plan into action.
- Ask the girls:
  * Remember in Tula's Story, when Tula noticed that Darla was being treated unfairly and came to her defense?
  * Why do you think it's important to help other people?

Activity 5: Closing Ceremony

- Remind the girls what they have learned together about being courageous and strong.
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing "Make New Friends" and passing a gentle squeeze around the circle (page 13)



Make sure to access your Volunteer Toolkit for more info on leading this badge and for meeting aids to assist you. Also, check out the Virtual Meetings Playbook at gsnetx.org/volunteertraining for help adapting your in-person meeting to a virtual meeting.

Mari: Responsible for What I Say

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Mari the Marigold Coloring Sheet*
- Mari's Story*
- Crayons
- Index Cards for Responsibilities Game

*Found in the VTK, see page 19

Activity 1: Welcome

- Have girls color pictures of Mari the Marigold as they arrive
- Tell them that Mari stands for being responsible for what you say and do

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Gather the girls into a circle to read the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Tell the girls they will be learning more about Mari and being responsible for what they say and do. Ask the girls to share examples of being responsible
- Read Mari's Story, Keeping a Cupcake Promise
- Have the girls act out words they hear like:
  - Jump—jumping rope
  - Spin—spinning in a circle
- After the story, ask the girls:
  - Sometimes, being responsible for what you say and do can be difficult. How do you think Mari felt when she couldn't get ice cream with her cousins when they invited her?
  - Mari proved that she was responsible for what she says and does when she decided to finish decorating the cupcakes before playing with her cousins. How do you think she felt when she finished her task and then could join the others?
  - How can you show that you are responsible for what you say and do?



Activity 3: Responsibility Guessing Game

Prepare ahead index cards with responsibilities on them. The girls can take turns picking a card and acting out the responsibility without using words—such as picking up their clothes, feeding pets, brushing teeth, etc.

Activity 4: Take Action Pause

- Help the girls think of a way to Take Action like Mari. Taking Action means finding a need, coming up with a plan to help, and putting the plan into action.
- Ask them: Can you think of some ways that you can help others each day and show that you are responsible?

Activity 5: Closing Ceremony

- Form a Friendship Circle. Remind the girls what they have experienced and learned together
  - Now that we've acted out Mari's Story and played the Guessing Game, you've learned about being responsible for what you say and do.
  - What are some ways you can be responsible for what you say and do at home or at school?
  - You can let us know at the next meeting what you tried and how it went.
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing Make New Friends, and passing the gentle squeeze around the circle (page 13)

Make sure to access your Volunteer Toolkit for more info on leading this badge and for meeting aids to assist you. Also, check out the Virtual Meetings Playbook at gsnetx.org/volunteertraining for help adapting your in-person meeting to a virtual meeting.

Gloria: Respect for Myself and Others | Gerri: Respect Authority

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Gloria and Gerri Coloring Sheets*
- Gloria's Story*
- Gerri's Story*
- Crayons
- Snack

*Found in the VTK, see page 19

Activity 1: Welcome

- Have girls color the Gloria the Morning Glory and Gerri the Geranium coloring sheets as they arrive
- Tell them that Gloria stands for respecting myself and others, and Gerri stands for respecting authority

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Gather the girls into a circle to read the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Read Gloria's Story and Gerri's story

For Gloria, ask the girls:

- How did Gloria show that she had respect for herself?
- How did she show she had respect for others?
- How do you show you have respect for yourself and others?

For Gerri, ask your girls:

- Why was it important that they respect authority?
- What are some ways you can show respect for authority?



Activity 3: Snack Chat & Manners Game

- Have girls set the snack table with napkins, plates, and utensils
- Everyone will sit at their place and begin eating their snack. Go around the table, and for each girl, call out an action and they will say good or bad manners. Then call on the next girl with another action.
  Some sample actions:
  * Chew with your mouth open
  * Greet someone by saying hello
  * Say please and thank you
  * Get up from table during the meal without asking
- Then ask:
  * Did you agree with how everyone said good or bad to these actions?
  * How can you show good manners at home and school?

Activity 4: Take Action Pause

Help the girls think of a way to Take Action like Gloria and Gerri. Taking Action means finding a need, coming up with a plan to help, and putting the plan into action.

Activity 5: Closing Ceremony

- Form a Friendship Circle
- Have each person say one thing you will do to show respect for yourself, others, or authority.
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing "Make New Friends", and passing the gentle squeeze around the circle (page 13)

Make sure to access your Volunteer Toolkit for more info on leading this badge and for meeting aids to assist you. Also, check out the Virtual Meetings Playbook at gsnetx.org/volunteertraining for help adapting your in-person meeting to a virtual meeting.

Clover: Use Resources Wisely

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Clover Coloring Sheet*
- Clover's Story*
- Crayons
- Assorted Containers (Soup cans, deli tubs, yogurt containers, etc.)
- Scissors
- Tape or Glue Stick

*Found in the VTK, see page 19

Activity 1: Welcome

- Have girls color the Clover the Clover coloring sheet as they arrive
- Tell them that Clover stands for using resources wisely

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Gather the girls into a circle to read the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Ask your girls:
  * What do you think 'use resources wisely' means?
  * One way to use resources wisely is to reuse something instead of throwing it out. Another way to use resources wisely is to save water. Another way to use resources wisely is to recycle. Do you recycle at home or school?
- Read Clover's Story, A Visit to the Busy, Buzzy Bees
- Have the girls act out words they hear like:
  * Honeybee—stand up and buzz around like a bee
  * Car—call out "vroom vroom!"
- After the story, ask the girls:
  * How did Clover save water?
  * Why do you think she came up with the idea to have a tea party?
  * What do you think would happen to the leftover yogurt and apples if Clover hadn't suggested making a dip?
  * What have you done that shows you use resources wisely?



Activity 3: Recycled Pencil Holders

- Color strips of scrap paper with flowers, bees, plants, and trees
- Tape or glue the paper, magazine clippings, etc., to the used containers
- Remind the girls:
  * These holders are made from things that would have gone into the trash. You can use it to put your crayons, markers, and pencils in. This is a good start to using resources wisely!

Activity 4: Take Action Pause

- Help the girls think of a way to Take Action like Clover. Taking Action means finding a need, coming up with a plan to help, and putting the plan into action.
- Ask the girls:
  * Can you think of some ways that you can use resources wisely or teach others how to use them wisely too?

Activity 5: Closing Ceremony

- Remind the girls what they have experienced and learned together.
- Invite girls to make a pledge, about using resources wisely, such as picking up trash, recycling, or reusing things instead of throwing them away.
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing Make New Friends, and passing the gentle squeeze around the circle (page 13)

Make sure to access your Volunteer Toolkit for more info on leading this badge and for meeting aids to assist you. Also, check out the Virtual Meetings Playbook at gsnetx.org/volunteertraining for help adapting your in-person meeting to a virtual meeting.

Rosie: Make the World a Better

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Rosie the Rose Coloring Sheet*
- Rosie's Story*
- Crayons
- Cardboard Squares
- Glue
- Magnetic Tape
- Sand
- Objects No Longer Being Used (Wrappings, cards, jewelry, etc.)

*Found in the VTK, see page 19

Activity 1: Welcome

- Have girls color the Rosie the Rose coloring sheet as they arrive
- Tell them that Rosie stands for making the world a better place

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Gather the girls into a circle to read the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Tell the girls they'll be learning more about making the world a better place.
- Ask the girls:
  * What are some things you can do to make the world a better place? For example, pick up trash? Recycle? Plant flowers? What other things can you think of?
- Read Rosie's Story, A Better Beach for Everyone
- Have girls act out words they hear like:
  * Trash—pretend like you're throwing out a piece of trash
  * Beach—pretend like you're swimming
- After the story, ask the girls:
  * How did Rosie show that she wants to make the world a better place?
  * How did the Flower Friends make the world better when they gave other people tips about reducing the amount of trash they have to throw out?
  * What have you done that helps make the world a better place?

Activity 3: A Better Beach Magnet

- Girls spread a layer of glue on their cardboard square
- Girls can add small objects to make beautiful pictures out discarded and found objects (Make shapes like flowers, birds, etc)
- Sprinkle sand over the exposed glue to remind them of the beach
- When dry add magnetic tape to turn their art into a refrigerator magnet



Activity 4: Make a Better World Pledge

- Ask the girls:
  * Now that you've learned about how to make the world a better place. What are some ways you can help to make the world a better place?
- Help the girls write their pledges on their Rosie coloring sheet. Tell them to take home their Rosie sheet as a reminder of their promises

Activity 5: Closing Ceremony

- Form a Friendship Circle. Remind the girls what they have learned together. You might say:
  * Now that we've listened to Rosie's story, learned about keeping our world clean, and made your pledge, we will all remember make the world a better place everyday!
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing Make New Friends, and passing the gentle squeeze around the circle (page 13)

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Vi: Be a Sister to Every Girl Scout

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Vi the Violet Coloring Sheet*
- Vi's Story*
- Crayons
- Colorful Beads (Including purple and green)
- Elastic Cord
- Poster Board
- Drawing Paper
- Stickers
- Tape

*Found in the VTK, see page 19

Activity 1: Welcome

- As girls arrive, lead them in making bracelets: Make one bracelet using Vi the Violet's colors - purple and bright green. Then make another bracelet, in any colors you want, for a Girl Scout sister.
- Optional: have girls color the Vi the Violet coloring sheet as they arrive

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Gather the girls into a circle to read the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Tell girls they'll be learning more about being a sister to every Girl Scout
- Share Bracelets. Tell your girls:
  * Today you'll earn your Vi Petal, which stands for being a sister to every Girl Scout! That's another way of saying that you should always treat other Girl Scouts with kindness and respect. To show kindness, let's offer our colored bracelet to the girl on your right. This bracelet will remind you of sisterhood.
- What other ways have you shown kindness and respect to another Girl Scout?
- Read Vi's Story, Friends Around the World.
- After the story, ask the girls:
  * How were the flowers from other countries the same as the Flower Friends from home?
  * How were they different?
  * Which country do you want to know more about? Why?
  * How can you show you are a sister to every Girl Scout?



Activity 3: Hands Across the Daisy World Mural

- Help the girls make a poster that will show solidarity with other Girl Scouts
- The girls can trace each other's hands (with fingers touching) and decorate them with stickers or crayons
- Write the phrase "Hands Across the Daisy World" on the poster
- You can display it at your meetings to remind all to be a sister to every Girl Scout

Activity 4: Closing Ceremony

- Form a Friendship Circle
- Say something like:
  * Great job, everyone! Imagine that all the hands in this mural connect to all the hands of Girl Scouts around the world! How exciting would that be? As a Girl Scout, you are part of a worldwide group of sisters. Try and remember to act like a sister to every Girl Scout when a new Daisy joins your troop and when you attend Daisy meetings.
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing Make New Friends, and passing the gentle squeeze around the circle (page 13)

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Girl Scout Glossary

- **CASC:** Collin Area Service Center
- **CIT:** Counselor in Training. An opportunity for High school girls at our summer camp locations.
- **DC:** Digital Cookie is an online platform that helps girls run and manage their Girl Scout Cookie business online.
- **DSC:** Denton Service Center
- **eBudde:** The online cookie software system volunteers use to manage the Cookie Program
- **ETRC:** East Texas Regional Center
- **FP:** Family Partnership – direct donation program from members to GSNETX
- **G.I.R.L.:** The spirit of Girl Scouts: Go-Getter, Innovator, Risk Taker, Leader
- **G.O.R.P.:** Good Old Raisins & Peanuts or Granola, Oats, Raisins & Peanuts; trail mix
- **GSE:** Girl Scout Entrepreneur-Loyalty program for girls that sold in the 2021 Cookie Program.
- **gsEvents:** GSUSA Events & Activities Platform
- **GSLE:** Girl Scout Leadership Experience - The experience identifies all the elements that need to be in place for Girl Scouting to achieve its mission; Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. When Discover, Connect, and Take Action activities are combined with the Girl Scout Processes of Girl-Led, Learning by Doing, and Cooperative Learning, girls achieve the desired and expected short-term leadership outcomes, ultimately resulting in Girl Scouting achieving its mission.
- **gsLearn:** GSUSA Training Course Platform
- **GSLI:** Girl Scout Leadership Institute – older girl career programs such as job shadowing and career exploration
- **GSNETX:** Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas
- **GSRI:** Girl Scout Research Institute – delivers customer-centric, data-driven insights across the GS Movement
- **GSUSA:** Girl Scouts of the United States of America – Girl Scout movement in the United States
- **IO:** Initial Pre-Season Order-The number of cookie packages, broken out by flavor, that you want to begin the cookie season with.
- **JAFSC:** JoAnn Fogg Service Center
- **JULIETTE/IRM:** Independently Registered Member; a member who participates without a troop
- **LIA:** Leader in Action. Cadette Girl Scouts show their leadership skills and assist Brownie sisters in completing their National Leadership Journey! They will actively assisting during Journey sessions, use organizational skills, help the Brownies complete their requirements, and—most importantly—helping them reflect on their experience.
- **LIT:** Leader in Training. The L.I.T. award is for Girl Scout Senior and Ambassadors who would like to mentor a Girl Scout Daisy, Brownie, Junior or Cadette group outside of the camp experience. A LIT project (working with a troop) needs to span a 3 to 6 month period.
- **LBB:** Little Brownie Bakers is the company that GSNETX partners with for the Girl Scout Cookie Program.
- **My GS:** Your Girl Scout Account Management System
- **NLA:** New Leader Academy – interactive, informational & digital support group for new leaders
- **OFR:** Outstanding Funds Report - form that is completed when a Girl Scout family has an unpaid cookie balance
- **PA:** Program Aide – Girl who has completed 6th grade, taken a specialized training to help troop leaders with activities for their girls
- **PGA:** Per Girl Average, is the total number of cookies assigned to the troop divided by the number of girls selling
- **PGL:** Program Grade Level. Daisies (K & 1st), Brownies (2nd & 3rd), Juniors (4th & 5th), Cadettes (6th-8th), Seniors (9th & 10th), and Ambassadors (11th & 12th)
- **PPF:** Parent Permission Form - allows participation in the Cookie Program.
- **RALLYHOOD:** Digital Communication Tool for GSNETX staff & volunteers
- **Safety-Wise:** the number of adult Girl Scout members with a background check needed to safely supervise a troop
- **SSSC:** Southern Sector Service Center
- **STEM COE:** Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics Center of Excellence; GSNETX Camp
- **SUM:** Service Unit Manager – administrative volunteer for a specific geographical area
- **SU:** Service Units support troops in their local communities and is comprised of a team of volunteers who serve as the first point of contact for troops and volunteers in their area.
- **SUCPC:** Service Unit Cookie Program Coordinator
- **SWAPS:** Some Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere; small tokens exchanged between Girl Scouts
- **TCM:** Troop Cookie Manager
- **TL:** Troop Leader
- **VTK:** Volunteer Toolkit – digital support for leaders – manage troop, communications & Girl Scout program materials
- **WAGGGS:** World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts – global association supporting female-only Guiding and Scouting Organizations in 150 countries.