

CREATING FAMILY AND TROOP AGREEMENTS

GIRLS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE TROOP

- Follow the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Be willing to take risks, be confident, and supportive toward her Girl Scout sisters
- Attend and participate in meetings and events
- Listen to others and be respectful
- Be prepared and conduct herself in a safe manner
- Respect troop leaders and other volunteers

LEADERS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE TROOP

- Follow the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Let girls lead – ensure girls of every age take an active and grade-appropriate role in deciding the what, where, when, why, and how of what they do
- Create an inclusive environment where girls and families feel welcome and connected to the troop
- Provide a well-rounded and safe program following all Girl Scout guidelines
- Listen to and respect every participant and serve as a role model
- Utilize volunteer resources such as Volunteer Essentials, the Volunteer Toolkit and contact service unit leaders or your volunteer support specialist when you need support.
- Take GSCO volunteer training – Nuts and Bolts and program level 101 (Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Older Girl, Multi-level 101)

FAMILYS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE TROOP

Volunteer with your troop –leaders cannot do it alone!

- Consider being a troop support volunteer, so you can assist at cookie booths, drive girls for field

trips, and help at meetings.

- Talk with the Troop Leadership Team to see how you can help and then follow through.

Support your Girl Scout through all facets of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Ask questions about what she's discovering, connecting to, and how she is going to take action.

- Encourage her to take risks and try new things, talk through failures and use them as learning opportunities.
- Be a cheerleader and allow her to take the lead.
- Attend events with your Girl Scout and encourage active participation in troop meetings.
- Encourage her to speak up and be a part of the girl-led process. Attend ceremonies and field trips to see her in action!

Have questions? Ask your troop leadership team.

Stay current – Once you've become a member, log into MyGS – your Girl Scout community found at the top of our website at girlscoutsofcolorado.org. This member community will allow you to update your contact information with Girl Scouts, renew your membership(s), add volunteer roles, and see troop information when populated by your troop leader.

Stay connected through our social media channels, monthly council emails, and the GSCO website.

For inquiries, contact your local Girl Scout staff at inquiry@gscolorado.org

Family Agreements

If your troop does not have a family agreement, the best time to create one is at the troop/family meeting to kick-off your new troop year. A family agreement should be created at the first parent meeting before the troop starts regular troop meetings. This is an opportunity for the leadership team and families to gain a mutual understanding of troop expectations for the year. Some important points to cover include:

- Meeting time and location
- Drop off and pick up windows/expectations
- Collection of health history, any other relevant data needed
- Family involvement with the troop, chaperones, additional troop support
- Girl led expectations, see volunteer essentials for details
- Troop dues (if any)
- Attendance policy (if any)
- A little bit about the leaders, and each girl
- Troop accounting transparency
- Communication methods
- Introduction of Volunteer Essentials as a useful resource

Group/Troop Agreements

A group agreement should be put into place by the girls at their first troop meeting. This can start with one simple directive from the group and grow as their age and troop maturity do. This is an opportunity for the girls to determine expectations for the troop year. Some important points to cover include:

- What is the troop focus for the year?
- Is the troop planning to participate in fall and cookie sale programming to participate in money earning activities?
- What will those funds be used for?
- When to speak and when to listen
- Defining sisterhood and positive relationship building.

- Troop accounting
- Attendance policy (if needed).

Note: removal of a girl from the troop is never a decision that can be reached by a troop leadership team member without the support of their Volunteer Support Specialist. Using language like “failure to do so, will result in removal from the troop” is strongly discouraged.