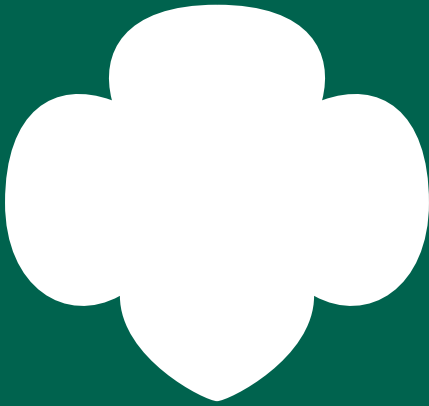




Welcome to Girl Scouts!

A guide for new volunteers



girl scouts 
of colorado

Welcome to Girl Scouts!

Are you ready for the ride of a lifetime? That's what you'll get as a Girl Scout leader! In this role, you'll guide your own troop (a group of Girl Scouts from your local area) and help members build confidence, leadership skills, and friendships. In the process, you'll create lifelong memories for your troop and yourself.

We're here to support you every step of the way. Let's get started, and remember—your Girl Scout adventure starts today, but the best is yet to come.

Meet Our Council

Girl Scouts of Colorado is your local connection to the larger Girl Scout organization. We support local troops, organize events, and provide resources and training for leaders like you, ensuring you have everything you need to help youth members have an unforgettable Girl Scout experience.

Contact us at 877-404-5708, inquiry@gscolorado.org

<http://www.girlscoutsofcolorado.org/>

Girl Scout DreamLab

63 N. Quebec St.
Denver, CO 80230
303-607-4816

Denver Mailing Address

1485 S. Colorado Blvd, Suite 210
Denver, CO 80222
877-404-5708

Colorado Springs

5353 N. Union Blvd., Suite 101
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719-597-8603

Girl Scouts of Colorado Council Shop

1485 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 260
Denver, CO 80222
303-607-4880

Shop online 24/7 at <https://shop.girlscoutsofcolorado.org/>

Loveland

2725 Rocky Mountain Ave., Suite 420
Loveland, CO 80538
970-493-1844

Grand Junction

580 24 1/2 Road
Grand Junction, CO
970-242-4461

Pueblo

1250 West Highway 50 (Inside Vectra Bank)
81505 Pueblo, CO 81008
719-543-4690

Notes

The Girl Scout Program

As Girl Scouts, youth members discover the fun, friendship, and power of working together. They grow courageous and strong through a wide variety of enriching experiences, such as field trips, skill-building sports clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardship.

Badges are a key part of the Girl Scout program. Girl Scouts earn badges by learning new skills and doing activities that demonstrate their accomplishments and understanding.

In earning badges, Girl Scouts...

- **Build skills.** As they earn badges, Girl Scouts develop new skills and explore their interests.
- **Show their accomplishments.** When worn, badges show the world what a Girl Scout can do.
- **Make a difference.** Badge work helps Girl Scouts discover ways to make a difference in their community.

Girl Scouts Explore in a Fun and Safe Environment

Girl Scouts typically complete activities as part of a troop. A troop is a group of Girl Scouts and volunteers who meet regularly to have fun, learn new skills, and improve their community. Troop involvement allows Girl Scout members to grow their confidence, explore new interests, and find their voice. Troops can either be single-level or multi-level.

- A **single-level troop** is made up of Girl Scouts from a single program level, such as Daisies. This structure allows activities and experiences to be tailored to the group's age and developmental stage.
- A **multi-level troop** includes Girl Scouts from more than one program level—such as Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors—together in the same troop. This setup lets older Girl Scouts mentor younger ones, supports diverse learning, and balances shared activities with age-specific needs.

Both troop types offer unique benefits! The choice depends on leader preferences, community needs, and available resources.

Badge Levels

Badge Line for Cookie Business I

Daisy
(Grades K-1)



Brownie
(Grades 2-3)



Junior
(Grades 4-5)



Cadette
(Grades 6-8)



Senior
(Grades 9-10)

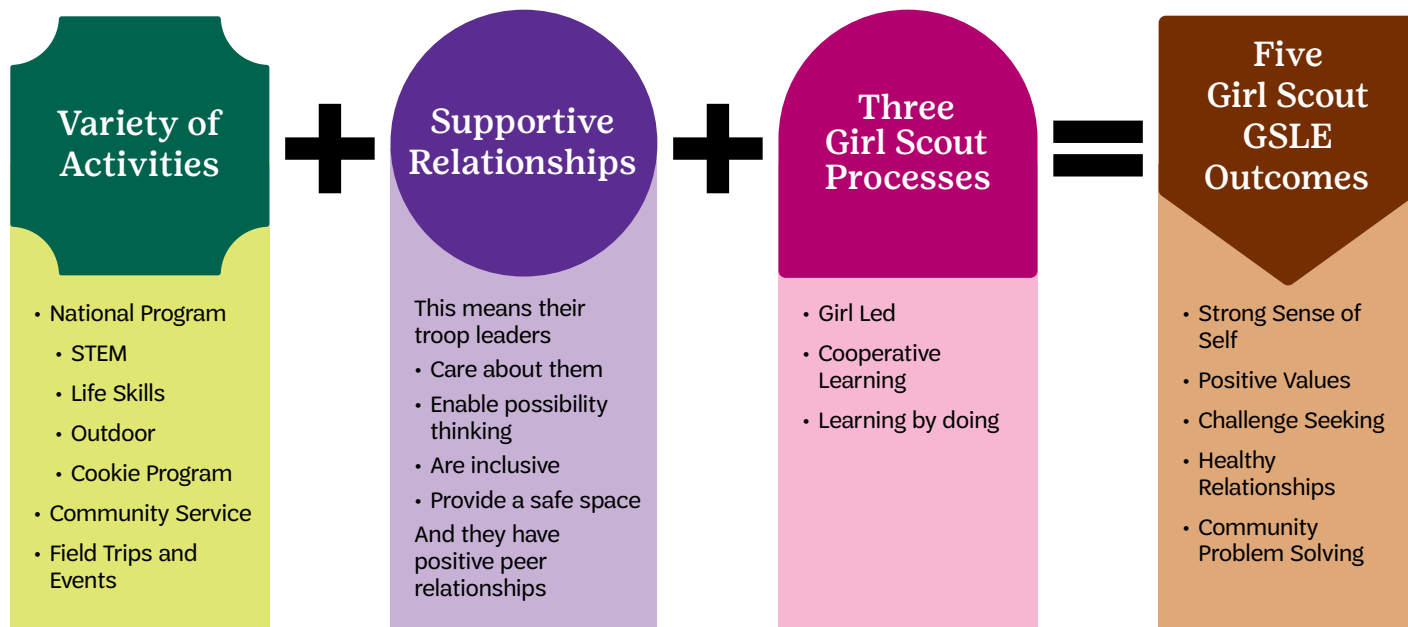


Ambassador
(Grades 11-12)



The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Girl Scouts look at the world and take action to change it for the better. They make friends, challenge themselves with new experiences, write their own stories, and develop the skills and confidence to say, “I know I can do this!” As a troop leader, you support this process—and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) is the tool that helps you to do it.



Putting the GSLE into Practice

It's time to put the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (our secret sauce) to work! Implementing it is simple. Just remember these three steps, and you're good to go:

- 1. Plan a variety of activities,** both in and out of the meeting space. Explore Girl Scout badges in STEM, life skills, the outdoors, and entrepreneurship. Get out and experience the world through field trips, council-run events, community service, cookie sales, and more. Check out the Volunteer Toolkit (<https://www.girlscoutsofcolorado.org/volunteers>) for all sorts of ideas.
- 2. Create a supportive environment.** Support your Girl Scouts' physical, mental, and emotional well-being, and make sure other adult helpers provide positive support as well. Inspire and guide your Girl Scouts to value, respect, and encourage each other, too! As the troop leader, you'll want to make sure ALL Girl Scouts feel they are welcome, included, and all-around supported within the troop. Take the lead in creating safer spaces where Girl Scouts can thrive! Check out the Safety Activity Checkpoints resource (see page 8) for more on this topic.

Tip: Encourage them to explore a variety of activities in the Outdoors, STEM, Life Skills, Entrepreneurship, and even field trips, allowing them to discover new interests and passions.

Tip: The main ways you can support girls in your troop is to make them feel welcomed and included, acknowledging their ideas and feelings, keeping them safe, and encouraging respect and teamwork among them.

3. Let Girl Scouts shine by empowering them in three key ways.

- **Girl-Led:** Encourage Girl Scouts to take the lead, whatever their age. When you let your troop choose things like snacks, badge activities, or how to use cookie sale proceeds, you give them the confidence to grow their skills and follow their dreams.
 - **Cooperative Learning:** Plan activities that have Girl Scouts working together and learning that principles of collaboration and mutual respect can help them conquer any challenge. Cooperative learning can be as simple as sharing supplies (for younger Girl Scouts) or playing games and completing activities that require teamwork (for older Girl Scouts).
 - **Learning by Doing:** Hands-on activities aren't just fun, they're also empowering. Girl Scouts unlock their "I got this!" attitude as they work through details to get things done. At the end of each troop meeting, gather members for a discussion about what they experienced, what it means, and what they'll do together with what they learned.
- Multi-level tip:** "Girl-led" looks different at each age. Be sure to include program level-appropriate ways for each Girl Scout in your troop to keep it girl-led. For example, Brownies may pick which badges they'd like to earn, while Juniors may start leading specific activities with their peers or younger Girl Scouts. For more information, check out our Leading a Multi-Level Troop course available on gsLearn ([girlscouts.org/gslearn](https://www.girlscouts.org/gslearn)).

Proven Results

Why follow these steps? Because they work! Studies show that Girl Scouts are more likely to develop a strong sense of self, positive values, healthy relationships, challenge-seeking traits, and community problem-solving skills when they experience all the elements of the GSLE—and as a troop leader, you're a key part of making the magic happen!

Notes

An Experience for the Whole Family

Participation in Girl Scouts isn't just for youth members. Everyone in the family can have fun and benefit—Girl Scouts, their adults, and troop leaders, too! There are lots of ways for families to get involved, both big and small.

As a troop leader, you can engage families by:

- Communicating with them about what their Girl Scouts are doing
- Including them in Girl Scout celebrations
- Encouraging their participation in Girl Scout activities
- Enlisting their help with specific group support roles (outlined below)

Multi-level tip: Facilitating a multi-level troop is a great way to include the whole family in the Girl Scout experience, since siblings of different program levels can attend the same troop meetings

When families feel engaged, they're more likely to help out. And their involvement results in the best possible experience for troop members. Family support also helps your troop members stay connected over time.

Building Your Troop Leadership and Support System

Although managing the Girl Scout experience for your troop is rewarding, it can be time-consuming. Luckily, there are many ways that parents/caregivers and other family members can engage to support your efforts. No matter how much or little time someone has, there's always a way for them to volunteer.

Troop leadership and support roles

- **Troop leader:** As a troop leader, you guide and mentor Girl Scouts in your troop. You support their personal growth, leadership skill development, and community involvement through engaging activities and learning experiences.
- **Co-leader:** A co-leader provides general backup and support. They help plan and run meetings and activities, bringing the Girl Scout experience to life for your troop.
- **Treasurer:** This volunteer manages the troop's finances. They oversee budgeting, track expenses, and clearly communicate financial information to support the troop's activities and goals.
- **Cookie manager:** When cookie season comes, you'll want one volunteer who will commit to supporting your troop's efforts throughout the process. This person manages cookie sale logistics, including troop orders, cookie delivery, and other key functions.
- **Outdoor helper:** It's great to have one volunteer dedicated to supporting your troop's outdoor experiences and learning. This person can help your troop explore the outdoors, serve as the camp-certified volunteer for the troop, and take on other outdoor-related responsibilities.
- **Troop helper:** Every troop leader needs a little extra help. Ask family members to serve as troop helpers, providing support during meetings to make sure everything runs smoothly.
- **Field trip chaperone:** This volunteer ensures the safety and well-being of Girl Scouts during outings. They supervise activities while promoting teamwork and making sure guidelines are followed.

Multi-level tip: Parents/caregivers with multiple Girl Scouts in a troop may especially enjoy volunteering. Getting involved lets them embrace the Girl Scout experience together as a family.

Family/Caregiver Meeting Checklist

Communication with families is key and it all starts at your Family/Caregiver Meeting. Here's a meeting checklist you can follow to make sure to cover the most important points with your families/caregivers.

1. Welcome and introductions

- ☐ Leader introductions
- ☐ Family/caregiver introductions
- ☐ Troop meeting logistics

2. Discover the Girl Scout difference

- ☐ Mission; Promise and Law
- ☐ What Girl Scouts do
- ☐ How Girl Scouts do it (GSLE)
- ☐ Troop Year Plan

3. Family as part of the formula

- ☐ Why family engagement?
- ☐ Communication methods

4. Getting families involved

- ☐ Troop leadership opportunities
- ☐ Other ways to help

5. Money matters and more

- ☐ Uniforms, supplies, and other costs
- ☐ How troops pay for things
- ☐ Paperwork

6. Wrap it up

- ☐ Close with intention
- ☐ Q&A

For more family/caregiver meeting content, check out the Family Engagement training on [gsLearn](https://girlscouts.org/gslearn) (girlscouts.org/gslearn).

Note: If Girl Scouts will be attending this meeting, consider starting out by having the families/caregivers and Girl Scouts introduce themselves and discuss their hopes for their Girl Scout experience. Then provide a short craft activity for Girl Scouts to do while the parents/caregivers attend their part of the meeting.

Multi-level tip: Encourage older Girl Scouts to lead a simple activity for younger Girl Scouts while the family/caregiver meeting takes place.

Notes

Resources to Simplify Your Experience

Girl Scouts provides a selection of useful tools—both in print and online—to support you in preparing for your volunteer role and getting started with troop meetings.

Volunteer Resources

myGS (mygs.girlscouts.org)

The Girl Scout member account management system, [myGS](https://mygs.girlscouts.org), is your go-to portal for managing your troop's Girl Scout experience. Here you'll find membership information and additional troop management tools, including gsEvents, the Volunteer Toolkit, and gsLearn. Families also have access to myGS to manage memberships in their household.

Volunteer Toolkit (girlscouts.org/vtk)

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) is a digital planning tool that helps troop leaders run a Girl Scout troop or experience. The VTK provides Girl Scout programming at your fingertips, offering fully scripted meeting plans, badge requirements, and Troop Year Plans to help you deliver an engaging and exciting Girl Scout year. This tool is available on any device and can be found at girlscouts.org/vtk or you can also access it on your myGS navigation bar under My Account.

gsLearn (girlscouts.org/gslearn)

gsLearn is packed with indispensable volunteer trainings and courses, including new leader onboarding material, program training, and advice for guiding Girl Scouts at every grade level. You can access both national and council-specific courses through gsLearn, which is found on your myGS navigation bar.

Girl Scout Shop (girlscoutshop.com)

Girl Scout uniforms are a great way for Girl Scouts to show their pride and display their achievements! Find uniforms, badges, leader resources, apparel, outdoor gear, gifts, and more—all in one place. Plus, every purchase at GirlScouts.org supports Girl Scouts everywhere and helps power our mission. Shop online or visit a local council store today!

gsEvents (girlscouts.org/gsevents)

gsEvents is a tool that lets you search for Girl Scout-affiliated events by title, date, location, topic, age range, and other criteria. Instructions to access gsEvents can be found at girlscouts.org/gsevents or by clicking My Events on your myGS navigation bar.

Volunteer Essentials (<https://www.girlscoutsofcolorado.org/volunteer-essentials>)

This detailed guide to volunteer policies and procedures is designed to support busy troop volunteers. Inside you'll find everything you need to dive into your newest adventure—being an awesome Girl Scout leader.

Safety Activity Checkpoints (<http://bit.ly/4lOtazc>)

Safety Activity Checkpoints (SAC) is a comprehensive collection of safety guidelines for GSUSA- and council-approved activities. The resource lays out standards that ensure the physical and emotional safety of youth. It also guides leaders in considering equity, diversity, and inclusivity when planning activities, making sure that all Girl Scouts who want to participate are included. Whether you're looking for field trip guidelines or tips for creating an inclusive meeting space, you'll find key information here.



Access Key
Volunteer
Resources
here

Multi-level tip: Be sure to check out Leading a Multi-Level Troop and other training courses designed for multi-level troops.

Handbooks are available for Girl Scouts at each program level, Daisy through Ambassador. These serve as guides for the Girl Scout experience, meeting Girl Scouts where they are and introducing them to the programming and other foundational aspects of being a Girl Scout. Handbooks are not required, but they're a helpful resource. You can ask that each Girl Scout get one, or you can choose to obtain one copy for your troop to share.

A guide for families as they begin their Girl Scout adventure! Packed with background info, family activities, and places for Girl Scouts to write down their favorite memories from the year, Girl Scout Family Connection is a go-to guide to the year ahead for families.

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Get Ready!

Follow this checklist to kick off a great Girl Scout year.

To get started...

- ☐ Register as a volunteer with the council, if you haven't already.
- ☐ Complete a background check.
- ☐ Invite potential members to join the troop. (Talk to a council representative for recruitment support, if needed.)
- ☐ Visit [myGS](#) to understand where badges and other program resources are hosted in the Volunteer Toolkit and available training courses in gsLearn, our online training platform ([girlscouts.org/gslearn](#)).
- ☐ If you haven't already, reach out to your network to find a potential co-leader for your new troop.
- ☐ Meet with your co-leader(s), once established, to plan an initial family/caregiver meeting.

In your first month...

- ☐ Hold your family/caregiver meeting.
- ☐ Check out [GSUSA's Troop Year Plans](#) as you start planning for your first troop meeting.
- ☐ Confirm your troop roster by logging into myGS ([girlscouts.org/forvolunteers](#)).
- ☐ Connect with your service unit for peer-to-peer advice, local event info and coordination, and general support.
- ☐ Determine where you'll hold your meetings and host your first troop meeting. (If you're having trouble finding a location, reach out to a council representative for help.)
- ☐ Review the [GSCO Financial Management Guide](#).
- ☐ Open your troop bank account. (See page 7 of the Financial Management Guide)
- ☐ Access gsLearn ([girlscouts.org/gslearn](#)) Work with your council representative to learn how to start your role's learning path. Be sure to start with 512 Essential Leadership Foundations (ELF). Completing this training unlocks the next level of leader training you'll need to complete.

Family/Caregiver Meeting: Holding a family/caregiver meeting is a key part of starting your troop year. It helps set expectations for families and shows them how they can support the troop. You can use the Family/Caregiver Meeting Checklist on page 7 to plan your troop's meeting.

Multi-level tip: Troop Year Plans are available for both single-level and multi-level troops. The multi-level Troop Year Plans are designed with badges that are easy to facilitate simultaneously across levels.

Service Units: Your service unit is an organized network of Girl Scout youth, family members, and volunteers (including all current troop leaders) in your area. It is a source of peer-to-peer advice and support. Service units typically hold regular troop leader meetings to share details on upcoming events, product/cookie sales, and other timely topics.

In your first three months...

- ☐ Complete first aid/CPR/AED training. (Connect with a council representative to sign up for a course.)
- ☐ Follow up with the council if you have any additional questions. Host your first one or two troop meetings.

Plan Your Girl Scout Year

It's go time! Get started with the ready-to-use Troop Year Plans on myGS. Then use the calendar below to build out a Girl Scout year packed with fun, friendship, learning, and so much more.

The Girl Scout Membership Year

The Girl Scout membership year runs from October 1 through September 30. Current Girl Scouts can renew their membership for the next year starting on April 1. New Girl Scouts can start at any time.

Fall milestones:

- New membership year starts October 1
- Fall product program
- Welcome returning your troop back for another year
- Invite new girls to join your troop

Winter milestones:

- Prepare for cookie season
- Attend cookie rallies
- Cookie program begins

September

Back to Troop Time!
Fall Product Program

December

Happy holidays!

October

10/11 International Day of the Girl
10/31 Juliette Gordon Low's birthday/Founder's Day

January

Happy New Year!
Summer camp registration begins

November

February

2/22 World Thinking Day

Spring milestones:

- Consider planning a trip or service project
- Early Girl Scout registration begins for next membership year
- Celebrate Girl Scout Week

Summer milestones:

- Hold closing/bridging ceremonies
- Provide optional activities for families to complete together over the summer (such as [Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors](#))

March

3/8– 3/14 Celebrate Girl Scout Week!
3/8 Girl Scout Sunday
3/12 Girl Scouts' birthday
3/13 Girl Scout Jummah
3/13-14 Girl Scout Sabbath Shabbat

June

Annual Troop Report due
Summer day camps
Overnight camps
Troop summer activity

April

Happy Volunteer Appreciation Month! (Thank you!)
Early renewal begins - Renew your membership!
4/22 Earth Day—April 22
4/22 Leader Appreciation Day—April 22

July

Enjoy summer troop activities!

May

August

Enjoy summer troop activities!

Additional Resources

Girl Scout Program



Girl Scout Daisies

sparkle with that “first time ever” newness in everything they do. They go on trips, learn about nature and science, and explore the arts and their communities—and so much more. Girl Scout Daisies can also earn Learning Petals and receive participation patches.



Girl Scout Brownies

work together, earn badges, and explore their community. Friendship, fun, and age-appropriate activities begin at the Girl Scout Brownie meeting and move out to the community and wider world. While earning badges, they build skills, learn hobbies, and have fun!



Girl Scout Juniors

work together, earn are big-idea thinkers. They’re explorers at camp and product designers when they earn their Innovation and Storytelling badges, or even their Bronze Award. Every day, they wake up ready to play a new role.



Girl Scout Cadettes

chart their own course and let their curiosity and imagination lead the way. They learn about the power of being a good friend, gain confidence mentoring younger girls, and can earn the Silver Award.



Girl Scout Seniors

are ready to take the world by storm, and Girl Scouts gives them tons of ways to do it. Their experiences help to shape their world, while giving them a safe space to be themselves and explore their interests. Girl Scout Seniors can earn the Gold Award.



Girl Scout Ambassadors

know that small acts create big change. While they get ready for life beyond high school, Girl Scouts helps them take flight. They also earn the Gold Award (which, adds something “extra” to college applications).

At Girl Scouts, girls have tons of fun, make new friends, and go on fantastic new adventures. Our program centers on something called the Girl Scout Leadership Experience—a collection of activities and experiences girls have as they earn badges, participate in the Cookie Program, go on exciting trips, explore the outdoors and do Take Action projects that make a difference.

In Girl Scouts, girls will:

Discover

Find out who they are, what they care about, and what their talents are.

Connect

Collaborate with other people, locally and globally, to make a difference in the world.

Take Action

Do something to make the world a better place.

Whether they learn new skills through badges, solve global problems with Highest Awards, or create lifelong memories with fun patches, at Girl Scouts, every girl has countless ways to explore our Girl Scout Leadership Experience and hone the skills they'll need to power a lifetime of success—whatever that looks like for them.

Programs and Events

Girl Scouts of Colorado offers a wide range of programming — everything from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to life skills activities to exploring the outdoors. Events are open to attend as a troop, or individually, depending on interest. GSCO is committed to pursuing its mission through its programming, offering an astounding array of innovative, fun, and memorable activities. Council-sponsored activities are designed to enhance the

Girl Scout experience are developed for specific grade levels. We offer so many ways for you to explore your current interests, and help you discover more! Visit our Events Calendar for details about all the cool programs and events available to you this year. Programs are added continually throughout the year.

Field Trips and Travel

Troops are encouraged to go places—from field trips to the local library or fire station as a Girl Scout Brownie to global adventures as teens.

Girl Scouts of Colorado partners offer a variety of leadership development programming through the lens of STEM, life skills, and outdoor stewardship. Plan a field trip or complete a council patch. Get more information in the [Anytime Activities](#) section of our website.

As your girls get older, you can look for opportunities farther afield. Girls will see and learn new things, pack their bags full of inspiring, life-changing experiences and memories, and make friends from all over the world as they travel with Girl Scouts. For more information about how to travel with your troop visit our [Travel page](#).

Badges

What have your girls always wanted to do? Make their own movie, go geocaching, plant a garden? Great news! They can learn to do all these things and more while earning Girl Scout badges. Badges are worn on the front of the vest or sash and indicate an increase in knowledge or skill in a subject area. The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) and printed badge guides are your resources for badge requirements.

Patches

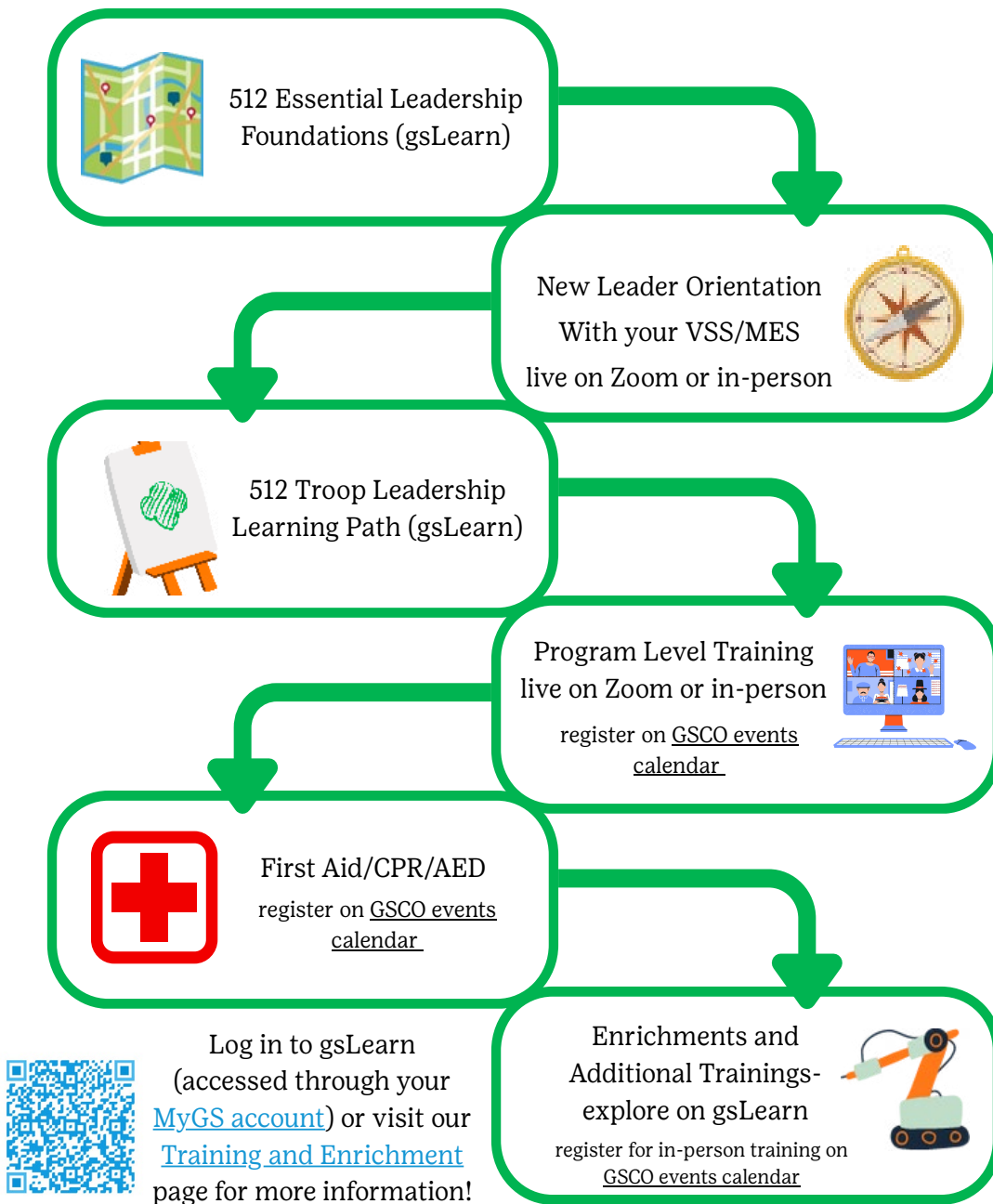
Think of patches like collecting memories. They're a part of the activities girls can do in Girl Scouts without the requirements of badges.

Camp and Outdoors

We encourage Girl Scouts to build skills like building a campfire, pitching a tent, or canoeing across a lake. Girl Scouts of Colorado offers various types of organized camping opportunities: day camp, summer resident camp, troop camp, and family camp. Overnight summer camps are offered at Sky High Ranch and Tomahawk Ranch in three-, six-, nine- and 12-day sessions. Girls attend by themselves or with a buddy and are placed in groups based on age and activities. Older Girl Scouts, Cadettes and up, can join our [Outdoor Adventure Club](#) and make new friends while rock climbing, snow shoeing, or summiting a 14'er!

GSCO has eight camp properties across the state available for troops, Girl Scout groups, families and outside user groups to rent. Take a hike in Rocky Mountain National park from Meadow Mountain Ranch, hang from a zip-line at Sky High Ranch, and visit the farm animals or shoot a bullseye on the archery course at Tomahawk Ranch! Get more information about property rental learn more about how to get your troop outside on the [Camp and Outdoors page](#).

Troop Leader Training



Working with Parents/Caregivers

Before meeting with parents/caregivers or the girls, meet with your team 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?
- The troop: Will the troop have girls in one grade or many?
- What kind of help will the troop need from parents/caregivers?
- How will you handle your own Girl Scout(s) 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?
- Create a Family Agreement. This is an opportunity for everyone to gain a mutual understanding of troop expectations for the year.

Family/Caregiver Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and introductions. Introduce everyone to one another and to the Girl Scouts. Ask about each girl and get to know her a little.
- The Girl Scout Difference. Talk about the Girl Scout Promise and Law and how the troop will be girl-led, hands-on and cooperative.
- Family Involvement. Share how important each family will be to the troop. Set expectations for communication and response times and how parents/caregivers can get involved to help the troop.
- Troop Meeting Logistics.
- Discuss meeting location, day and times, uniforms and troop dues (you may want to collect at the meeting).
- Discuss the types of activities the troop will participate this year (regular meetings, outings, events, camping trips).
- Have parents/caregivers complete health history forms and annual permission forms.
- Share contact information for all troop members.
- Answer any questions the parents/caregivers may have.

Helpful Tips for your Parent/Caregiver meeting!

- 100% of troops with the most satisfied parents and leaders report they hold a Parent/Caregiver Meeting
- Don't try to do this alone! Find parent/caregiver meeting agendas and ideas for welcome meeting activities and tools in the Volunteer Toolkit.
- If Girl Scouts will attend this meeting, have a craft or simple activity to keep them engaged.

Annual Forms

There are required forms that need to be collected from families each year. The parent/caregiver meeting is a good time to collect these.

- [Girl Health History](#)
- [Adult Health History](#)
- [Annual Parent Permission Form](#)
- [Medication Permission Form](#)

Family and Troop Agreements

Family Agreements

If your leadership team does not create a family agreement ahead of time, the best time to create one is at the first meeting a new troop has. Your very first meeting should be a Family Meeting with caregivers and adults present. Creating a Family Agreement 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 in the agreement include:

- Meeting time and location
- Drop off and pick up windows/expectations
- 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)
- Troop accounting transparency
- Communication methods

Group/Troop Agreements

A group agreement should be put into place by the girls at their first official 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)

Example Troop Family Agreement

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

Example Troop Family/Caregiver Agreement

Troop ##### Family/Caregiver Agreement

Troop Leader Contact Information

Troop Leader Name

Troop###@gmail.com

Phone Number

Troop Leader Name

Troop###@gmail.com

Phone Number

Who and Why

The purpose of this Girl Scout Daisy troop is for first grade girls to form quality friendships, grow together, develop strong character, try new things, and have quality time with their parent/caregiver.

When

Meetings one Tuesday per month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. AND one event per month on a Sunday afternoon

Where

Smoky Hill Library - Leader will reserve either Meeting Room A or B three months before each meeting

There may be meetings where we meet in an outdoor location nearby (depending on the badge activity and weather)

Events -TBD

How We Fund the Fun

The cost of the membership (\$45), uniform (~\$20-\$40), and the cost to attend any events will be covered by the family.

- \$30 troop dues - covers supplies, badges, and fun patches
Girl Scouts of Colorado does not want cost to be a barrier to participation, so they offer to cover the full cost of the membership. If a troop member needs financial assistance, they are also encouraged to fill out the Opportunity Grant Form. Each membership year, each girl is eligible for one uniform and books grant and one troop dues grant. There is no limit on requests for council-sponsored events.
- Bank statements and receipts will be posted to the Troop's google drive once a month. This is to ensure financial transparency.
- The troop will participate in the Fall Product Program (candy, nuts, and magazines) and the Cookie Program. This is so that the troop can earn money to cover events, uniforms, and membership dues. Our hope is that next year we won't have to charge any troop dues and can also cover the cost of the membership and events. According to Girl Scouts of Colorado policy "The income from product programs does not become the property of individual girl members"

Communication

- We will communicate mainly through the troop Rallyhood account
You will be invited to join “Troop #####” on the Homeroom app. You will need to download the app for free and turn on notifications. We will send meeting reminders and other important information on here as well as share pictures. This group is private and only open to those that are invited by the Troop Leaders through email.
- A group text may also be sent if there is information that needs to be communicated immediately.
- We are all super busy, but please respect the troop leaders and other adults by responding to all communications in a timely manner. We will also do our best to respond to your requests/emails as well in a timely manner

Meetings

- Every meeting and event will need one registered volunteer “on-call” in case the leader/co-leader can’t attend a meeting - we will use sign-up genius to sign-up for these “on-call” shifts.
- We have a lot to cover in the meetings, so please make sure your girl is on time to meetings and never drop your girl off without confirming the girl is with the troop leaders.
- Please be respectful of troop leaders’ times and make it a priority to be on time for pick-up. We understand that things come up, if you know that you will be more than 5 minutes late to pickup then call the troop leaders ASAP.
- Carpooling to events can be arranged between parents, but the leaders will not be transporting any parents or girls.

Miscellaneous

- Fun patches go on the back of the Daisy tunic, Badges go on the front. Troop Leaders will let parents know which patches are badges and which are fun patches. Families will be responsible for attaching patches and badges to the uniform.
- There is a service unit camping trip (usually in September) with girls and their caregiver.

Guardian Signature:_____

Troop Leader Signature:_____

Adult Volunteer Sign Up

You cannot do this alone! Recruit adults and caregivers to help at least one meeting a year. Adults that attend three or more Girl Scouts activities or meetings must have a membership and background check. GSCO suggests signing every adult up as a Troop Support Volunteer. Financial Assistance is available for adult memberships.

Example: Adults Sign Up for One Meeting a Year

Example: Adults Take on Different Roles in Troop

Parents and other family members can take an active role in supporting their Girl Scout's experience.

The list below explains a number of roles your troop can use throughout the year.

If you have a talent not represented on this list, speak up and offer to share with the troop.

Help Needed	Description
Troop Support Volunteer	Assist leaders at meetings with activities. Any adult that helps at three or more meetings should register as a volunteer. Membership and background check required.
Troop Treasurer/Bank Account Signer	Help leaders with all money matters, budgets, deposits, etc. Membership, background check, and training required.
Driver	Drivers help drive girls to and activities. Must have valid driver's license and vehicle insurance. Membership and background check required.
Troop Fall Product/Cookie Program Manager	Manage and coordinate troop participation in the Fall Product Program or Cookie Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attends product program training.• Trains girls and parents/guardians at a troop meeting.• Confirms orders with parents/guardians and enters all data into Fall Product or Cookie program database (M2/eBudde). Membership, background check, and training required.
Camp/Outdoor coordinator	Helps plan for camp outing(s) or other outdoor experiences with girl and adult input. Membership, background check, and training required.
Ceremony/Recognition coordinator	Work with leaders to plan troop ceremonies, such as investiture at start of year, bridging at end of year, and awards at end and/or middle of year.
Game/Song expert	Research and teach girls group games to play. Share your musical gift with girls by researching and teaching them Girl Scout songs or others appropriate for their troop activities.

Girl Scout Traditions

There are many kinds of traditions in Girl Scouting, ranging from more formal investiture, rededication, and bridging ceremonies, to the way you open and close your regular troop meetings.

What counts in Girl Scout traditions is that they are meaningful to the participants, that the girls are involved in the planning, and that everyone participates in the way they are able.

Girl Scout Sign: Used to stand at attention for reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law, the Pledge of Allegiance during flag ceremonies, etc.



Girl Scout Quiet Sign: A way to ask for silence in a crowd without shouting.

Made by holding up the right hand with five fingers extended.

Friendship Circle: Girls gather in a circle and cross their right arm over their left, then link hands with the next girl. With everyone silent, the a leader starts the “friendship squeeze” by squeezing the hand of the girl to her right. One by one, each girl passes the squeeze until it travels the full circle. A great way to end meetings.

Girl Scout Motto: “Be prepared.”

Girl Scout Slogan: “Do a good turn daily.”

SWAPS: Small, handmade tokens of friendship exchanged with other Girl Scouts.

Stands for “Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere.” SWAPS may be exchanged by members at events like troop camp or service unit events.



Ideas for opening a troop meeting:

- Sit or stand in a circle and recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Do a simple flag ceremony
- Sing a Girl Scout song (serious or silly!)
- Play an icebreaker game

Ideas for closing a troop meeting:

- Share reflections on the meeting using a “temp check”, “Rose and Thorn” or other reflection activity
- Gather in friendship circle and sing a song (“Taps”, “Make New Friends”, etc.)
- Close your circle with the friendship squeeze, a hand squeeze (or fist/elbow bump, etc.) that travels around a friendship circle from one person to another after someone starts it
- Make an archway. Girls make two lines facing each other, then reach up making arches with their arms; the pair farthest from the door goes through under the arches, then the next pair, etc. The last two go out under the arch made by the two adult leaders.



Girl Scout Songs

There are so many Girl Scout songs of all sorts: traditional, silly, serious, camp classics, repeat-after-me, and more! Here are just a few to get you started:

Make New Friends



Brownie Smile



Little Green Frog



Boom Chicka Boom



Princess Pat



Great Big Moose



Thunderation



I Am One Voice



On My Honor



The Bear



Watch Me Shine



Linger



You're on a Roll

Now that you have all the tools you need for a strong start, below is easy access to the useful information that will help you soar together with your Girl Scout Troop.



[Girl Scout Promise and Law](#)



[Make New Friends](#)



[What Do Girl Scouts Do?](#)



[Uniform Insignia Placement](#)



[Troop Year Plans](#)



[Tips for Troop Leaders](#)



It's time to be inspired and have fun with your troop! When leaders and Girl Scouts work together, the sky's the limit—so get ready to soar!

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