



# My First Year Guide

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



# Welcome to Girl Scouts!

## Troop Co-Leaders

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.

### What do troop leaders do?

- **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

## Thank you!

Welcome to the great adventure that is Girl Scouting! Thanks to volunteers like you, generations of girls have learned to be leaders in their own lives and in the world. Have no doubt: you, and nearly one million other volunteers like you, are helping girls make a lasting impact on the world.

Alison Wilcox, GSWNY CEO

## Girl Scout 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.



## What is the Girl Scout Difference?

Girl Scouting is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. When you see this symbol throughout the book, it is used to highlight what makes our organization different and why it is so valuable to your girl.

# Table of Contents

## Girl Scouts Basics

Welcome to Girl Scouts. . . . .	1
Getting Started. . . . .	3
Your Troop’s Support System. . . . .	4
Your Service Unit Information. . . . .	5
Working with Parents/Caregivers. . . . .	6
Your Troop Team. . . . .	7
Working with Brownies. . . . .	8-9
Troop Finances. . . . .	10-11
Field Trips and Outdoors Experiences. . . . .	12
Girl Scout Ceremonies. . . . .	13
In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid Meeting Options. . . . .	14
Helpful Tools. . . . .	15

## Brownie Meeting Planning & Badges

Your Brownie Year at a Glance. . . . .	16
Girl Scout Way. . . . .	17-18
Outdoor Art Creator. . . . .	19-20
My Cookie Customer. . . . .	21-22
Inventor. . . . .	23-24
Senses . . . . .	25-26

# Getting Started

New leaders often spend the first few weeks getting started and setting up their troop.

## New Co-Leader Start-up Checklist

### Have you...

- Registered as a Girl Scout?
- Completed a criminal background check?
- Completed Volunteer Basic Training Series?
- Completed Grade-level Training?
- Received an approval letter in your email?
- Met with your co-leader(s)?
- Signed up for an optional virtual or in-person New Leader Welcome meeting near you?
- Checked gswny.org for up-to-date council guidelines and support?

**Need help with anything? GSWNY is here for you!**

Give us a call at 1-888-837-6410 or email [customercare@gswny.org](mailto:customercare@gswny.org)

**... Great! You're ready to get started!**

## Setting Up Your Troop


### 1 Grow your Troop

We recommend having 8-12 girls in your troop—small enough to encourage individual development and large enough to provide an interactive and cooperative learning environment. **Need help growing your troop? GSWNY is here for you!**

### 2 Troop Meeting Times and Location

Set meeting times that work within your schedule! We recommend meeting 2 times per month in a public, accessible space like a school, library, or community center, or meet virtually! Troops are not allowed to meet at private residences. **Need help finding a troop meeting location? We can help with that, too!**

### 3 Get Connected

Girl Scouting is all about sisterhood  In addition to your troop co-leader(s), your troop team of parents/caregivers, Service Unit, and Council are all here for you. Learn more on page 4.

### 4 Open a Troop Bank Account

Open a troop bank account as soon as possible. Learn more about funding your fun starting on

# Your Troop's Support System

Girl Scouts is all about sisterhood. As the leader of a Brownie troop, you are not alone!

## Your Troop Team

A strong leader-family partnership is a key component to a successful Girl Scout troop experience.

1. Get to know your co-leader(s) and determine the best division of troop tasks.
2. Host a troop parent/caregiver meeting to build your volunteer team
3. Subscribe to receive GSWNY Volunteer Facebook page and Volunteer Resources monthly email. Sign into your MYGS account, Click on My Profile, then Scroll down to the bottom and check the email opt in box.



## Your Service Unit (Neighborhood)

The Service Unit (SU) is the bridge between your troop and the GSWNY Council Support Staff and often your first stop for information!

**Where:** Our GSWNY Council is divided into Service Units based on neighborhood, school district, geographic area, or county. Each Service Unit is supported by a Service Unit team.

**Who:** Service Unit teams are made up of skilled volunteers with years of Girl Scout experience. Service Unit Managers (SUMs) coordinate the Service Unit. Other important Service Unit roles include: Finance Consultant, Product Program Managers, Troop Manager, and Welcome Specialist.

**What:** Service Unit teams support you by holding regular leader meetings and planning fun activities throughout the year like Cookie Kickoff, Camporee, or a STEM event.

**Learn more about your Service Unit in your co-leader(s) welcome and approval email!**

### Service Unit Meetings

Attending regular Service Unit meetings is required for at least one troop leader or troop representative. There you'll:

- Meet and network with fellow volunteers
- Learn about upcoming events and trainings
- Receive important resources and materials, like your Cookie Program materials

## Your GSWNY Council Staff

We are here for you! If you have a private matter, a conflict to discuss, issues with registration, or any other needs, GSWNY can help! Contact Customer Care for assistance at [customer care@gswny.org](mailto:customer care@gswny.org) or 1-888-837-6410.

# Your Service Unit Information

Remember, the Service Unit should be your first stop when you need help! The Service Unit team is made up of local, super skilled Girl Scout volunteers.

**Service Unit Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Service Unit #:** \_\_\_\_\_

Key Service Unit Team Members	Name	Phone	Email
Service Unit Manager(s) (SUMs)			
Finance Consultant (SUFC)			
Troop Manager			
Product Program Manager(s) (SUPPMs)			
Welcome Specialist			

## Service Unit Leader Meetings

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day of the Week:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Instructions (parking, entrance, room number, etc.)**

**Virtual Meeting Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Meeting Dates

<b>Sept:</b>	<b>Oct:</b>	<b>Nov:</b>	<b>Dec:</b>	<b>Jan:</b>
<b>Feb:</b>	<b>March:</b>	<b>April:</b>	<b>May:</b>	<b>June:</b>

# Working with Parents/Caregivers



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



## Parent/Caregiver Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and introduce one another and the Girl Scouts
- Share how family is an important part of the Girl Scouts
- Encourage caregivers to take roles in the troop (use the guide below and on the next page)
- Discuss troop dues, and how the troop will raise money (See pages 10-11 Troop Finances)
- Close by sharing contact information, collect health forms and permission slips, and answer any questions

Check out the detailed, step-by-step guide for the Parent/Caregiver Meeting online on the VTK (see page 15, Helpful Tools)

### ASK: How much spare time can you dedicate to your child's Girl Scout Experience?

<b>30 minutes/month</b>	Organize and manage the troop calendar for snacks or carpooling.
<b>1 hour/month</b>	Manage troop communication by texting or emailing families with meeting reminders, manage social media, or organize a phone tree in case of emergencies.
<b>1-2 hours/month</b>	Take photos or videos at troop meetings or Girl Scout events! Make sure all girls have signed photo releases.
<b>2-4 hours/month</b>	Share your interests or expertise by leading part of a troop meeting or guide girls through a specific badge. Or, register as a Troop Driver/Chaperone/Helper within the troop so you can participate along with the girls and assist the leaders when needed.
<b>5+ hours/month during cookie season (January to March)</b>	Help the troop during Cookie Season as the Troop Product Program Manager Or, sign up to be another co-leader! There is no limit to the number of co-leaders a troop can have. Plus, the more co-leaders the troop has, the more girls can join the troop!

### Helpful Tips!

- Make your ask for help clear and direct: "Will you be our First Aider?"
- Explain that you need parent/caregiver buy-in if the troop will be successful
- Invite a member of the Service Unit team to help during your Parent/Caregiver meeting
- If girls will be present during the parents' meeting, have a small craft or activity ready to keep them busy and engaged
- Did you know male caregivers can be Girl Scout volunteers too? (Note: All male co-leaders must be paired with a non-related female at all times)

# Your Troop Team

Volunteer Role	Description	Contact Information
<b>Product Program Manager</b>	Manages Fall Product Program and Cookie Program for the troop: helps build a troop product team to support girl/caregiver Product Program training, direct sale coordination and activities, product inventory and reward distribution, and payments. The Troop Product Program Manager will work closely with the Service Unit Product Program Manager.	Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____ Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
<b>Troop Treasurer</b>	Eases the task of maintaining your troop's financial records. Troop Treasurers must be a registered member and pass our background check because they are dealing with money.	Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
<b>First Aider</b>	At least one registered volunteer in all troops must be first aid certified before leaving the troop meeting place for field trips or outings. GSWNY offers first aid trainings throughout the year, or you can get certified with an outside vendor, like the Red Cross, or you can get trained through your Service Unit if it is offered.	Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
<b>Subject-Matter Experts</b>	Ask the parents/caregivers in your troop to share their talents! For example, if a caregiver is a veterinarian, they might lead a field trip to her office to teach the girls about anatomy on the family dog.	Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____ Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
<b>Troop Drivers/Chaperones/Helpers</b>	We encourage troop parents/caregivers to register as volunteers in the role if they intend to participate in Girl Scout meetings, events, carpooling, field trips, overnights, or camping trips. This way they will be background checked and covered by our Girl Scout insurance should an accident occur. This helps keep everyone safe!	Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____ Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____



# Working with Brownies

Girl Scout Brownies are ready to take on the world, and Girl Scouting lets them do just that! They want to learn new things and show off what they know. They want to explore the world and meet new people. And they want to do something big that makes them feel great! As a leader of a Brownie troop, your goal should be to act increasingly as facilitator, enabling girls to experience planning, decision-making, leadership, and yes, even failure.

Brownie girls...	This means...
Have lots of energy and need to run, walk, and play outside.	Taking your session activities outside whenever possible.
Are social and enjoy working in groups.	Allowing girls to team up in small or large groups for art projects and performances.
Want to help others and appreciate being given individual responsibilities for a task.	Letting girls lead, direct, and help out in activities whenever possible. Allow girls as a group to make decisions about individual roles and responsibilities.
Are concrete thinkers and focused on the here and now.	Ask girls questions to gauge their understanding and allow them to role play their own pretend experiences, such as visiting a new country.
Need clear directions and structure and like knowing what to expect.	Offering only one direction at a time. Also, have girls create the schedule and flow of your get-togethers and share those at the start.
Are becoming comfortable with basic number concepts, time, money, and distance.	Offering support only when needed. Allow girls to set schedules for meetings or performances, count out money for a trip, and so on.
Love to act in plays, create music, and dance.	Girls might like to create a play about welcoming a new girl to their school or to tell a story through dance or creative movement.



**Girl Scouts is girl-led!**

# Working with Brownies

## Helpful Tips for Working with Brownies

- Learn about each girl; learn her strengths and weaknesses
- Some girls may be reading well and some haven't mastered reading yet
- Attention spans and small motor coordination may differ greatly amongst girls
- Keep girls engaged during the meeting, it is good to have a "back up" activity
- Listen to girl's voices – they are quick to catch on if their decisions don't really count.
- Establish simple rules for the troop that girls can memorize and follow. State the behaviors you expect.
- Brownies like creating systems of self-governance such as taking turns, picking between two options, or having a vote
- Girls learn by doing. Allow girls to make mistakes, as long as there are not safety issues.
- Let the girls help plan the activities and brainstorm with them.

## Safety First

Keeping our girls and volunteers safe is our top priority. Contact Customer Care if you ever have any safety guidelines questions—it is better to be safe than sorry!

### 1. Permission Slips

Keep parent/caregiver permission slips and health with you for any activity outside your troop's normal meeting location. Find our Annual Permission Slip and health forms at [gswny.org/safety](http://gswny.org/safety).

### 2. First Aid

A first-aid kit and at least one registered volunteer who is first aid certified must be present any time you leave the regular troop meeting location.

### 3. Safety Ratios

To ensure everyone's safety, each troop is required to have two approved non-related co-leaders, at least one of whom is female, present at all times when meeting.

#### **Troop meetings in regular location:**

20 girls to 2 leaders during normal troop meetings

1 additional registered GSWNY volunteer for every 1-8 additional girls

#### **Field trips, events, and camping:**

12 girls per 2 registered GSWNY volunteers for events, travel, and camping

1 additional registered GSWNY volunteer for every 4 additional girls

Note: All caregivers who accompany the troop must be registered members. Those who serve as chaperones or drivers must also be approved volunteers.

### 4. Safety Activity Checkpoints

The Safety Activity Checkpoints (SAC) are detailed rules and policies for higher-risk activities. Prior to an activity, you may reference the SAC on the Safety page at [gswny.org/safety](http://gswny.org/safety).

### 5. Emergencies

First, call 911 if an emergency occurs during a Girl Scout meeting or activity, then inform GSWNY as soon as you are able. Call our emergency answering service if the emergency occurs after business hours at 1-800-882-9268.

# Troop Finances

You're probably wondering how you will fund your first year full of Girl Scout experiences. We are here to help you get started!

## Opening a Bank Account

Open a troop bank account as soon as you are able.

### 1. Connect with your SUFC

All troops must open bank accounts with the help of their Service Unit Finance Consultant, SUFC. Your SUFC contact information is provided to you in your co-leader welcome and approval email.

### 2. Visit the bank with your SUFC

Set a time to meet with the SUFC and go to the recommended bank for your Service Unit; bring any required paperwork or ID with you. All Girl Scout bank accounts must have three signers: the two co-leaders and the SUFC.

## Keep Financial Records

Save all of your receipts and bank statements. You can use the Finance tab of the Volunteer Tool Kit to keep an ongoing ledger of your troop's income and expenses, or download an Excel file from the online Forms Library which does the math for you! You'll submit the annual Troop Finance Activity Report (TFAR), which is due via the Volunteer Tool Kit (VTK) in May-June. Information on accessing the VTK is on page 15 of this guide.

## The Council Opportunity Fund

This is a resource available to all registered members of GSWNY to cover the cost of uniforms, registration, GSWNY programs, and adult trainings. Access financial assistance documents by visiting the Troop Basics page of our website ([gswny.org](http://gswny.org)) or searching "council opportunity fund" in the Forms Library of our website. Share this information with all families; it's better not to make assumptions about which families may need it. All girls are welcome and no girl is ever turned away for financial reasons.

## Volunteer Essentials

For full information about financial guidelines, you may consult Volunteer Essentials, our comprehensive policies document. Volunteer Essentials is updated annually and is the primary GSUSA & GSWNY reference document to be consulted for general safety and planning guidelines. Volunteer Essentials can be accessed by visiting the Troop Basics page of [gswny.org](http://gswny.org).

**Visit [gswny.org/troopbasics](http://gswny.org/troopbasics) for more Troop Finance information!**

# Troop Finances

How to fund your fun!

## 1. Troop Dues

Start-up funds to cover the cost of supplies and activities come from **troop dues**. Troop co-leaders can decide how much dues will be and how to collect them at the beginning of the year. Ask families what they feel most comfortable with during your first parent/caregiver meeting. Each girl (family) can pay \$1-\$2 per meeting, or you can ask for one-time dues of \$20-\$50 at the beginning of the year. At your parent meeting, you can also ask for families to donate supplies to the troop like markers or scissors.

**Note:** For field trips, we recommend asking families provide a small contribution—this helps ensure buy-in and good attendance. We also have financial aid and the Council Opportunity Fund (page 10) because at GSWNY, we never want cost to be a barrier.

## 2. Product Program Sales (Financial Literacy Program)

The Girl Scouts of Western New York holds two Product Program opportunities for girls to participate in throughout the year. While selling delightful nuts, candy, and magazine subscriptions to delicious Girl Scout Cookies, troops earn funds to do amazing things.

Troop Funds can be used for a variety of activities such as Council sponsored programs, field trips, camping adventures, travel and so much more! Troop Funds enable girls to try new experiences, get outdoors, and unleash their potential to do amazing things and keep their communities at the center of everything they do.

Fall Product Program	Girl Scout Cookie Program
October	January – March
Girls sell nuts, candy and magazine subscriptions to friends and family both Online and through in-person order taking.	Girls sell cookies to her customers through Online, in-person, door to door and booth sales.
Vendor: Ashdon Farms and M2	Vendor: ABC Smart Cookies
Troops will earn \$1 for nuts and candy and \$3 for magazines sold	Troops will earn a minimum of \$.75 per box of Girl Scout Cookies

**Are there other ways my troop can earn money?**



**The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world!**

Troop dues and Product Program money-earning opportunities are the best way to fund your Girl Scout Fun. Older girls may participate in other council approved money earning activities such as a car wash, or bake sale.

Through the generosity of a troop donation (physical or monetary) and or troop sponsorship, troops can utilize these funds/goods to power their Girl Scout activities, adventures, service projects and more! Visit [gswny.org](http://gswny.org) or contact Customer Care for more information.

# Field Trips and Outdoor Experiences

Getting outside of your normal meeting location can provide opportunities for learning, exercise, community service, and, most importantly, fun! Getting girls outdoors can be challenging and wonderful.

## Girl Scouts is Girl-Led!

Let the girls participate in the brainstorming process. Talk with your girls about being safe and all the fun things you can do outside.

## Great Outings for Brownies

- Start small – play at a playground for 30 minutes or go on a nature walk.
- If the weather is nice, consider hosting your troop meeting outside at a local park!
- Brownies love service opportunities. Take the troop out to clean up a local park or plant a community garden.
- Take field trips to local places of interest, like a museum, zoo, or farm.
- Participate in Service Unit events such as Cookie Kickoff, STEM events, or Service Unit Camp Out (also known as “SUCO”)
- Visit the [gswny.org/ourprogram](http://gswny.org/ourprogram) to see our council programs and events, Programs on Demand, community events, and more!
- Take advantage of GSWNY Summer Camp for Day Camp, Resident (overnight) Camp, and Troop Camping opportunities! Visit [gswny.org/camp](http://gswny.org/camp) to learn more.

**Have  
questions?  
We're here  
to help!**

Give us a call at  
1-888-837-6410 or email  
[customercare@gswny.org](mailto:customercare@gswny.org)

## Preparing for Your First Overnight Experience

Many girls and families join Girl Scouts for camping and outdoors experiences. Brownie Girl Scouts tend to be eager and ready for their first overnight experiences. Taking girls on overnights or camping for the first time doesn't have to be scary!

- First, talk with your girls and their families to gauge readiness. Go on hikes or visit camp for the day to build outdoor stamina.
- Help girls feel prepared. Spend time in troop meetings discussing what to pack for camp, what to wear, what you'll eat, and what you'll do at camp.
- Consider attending a GSWNY outdoor program, like “Conquer Camping.” Girls and leaders will learn important camping skills together including hiking, first aid, and more! Visit the [gswny.org/ourprogram](http://gswny.org/ourprogram) for more information.
- Start by spending one night in a lodge at camp or on an overnight field trip to someplace exciting like the zoo.
- Consider inviting parents for a “parent & me” overnight. Remember, all parents/caregivers that are spending the night must be registered and background checked.
- If needed, camping materials may be rented from GSWNY. Download an equipment request form located in the Forms Library of [gswny.org](http://gswny.org).
- Need help or guidance? Consult with your Service Unit team or GSWNY!

# Girl Scout Ceremonies

## Investiture



An investiture ceremony is for welcoming a new girl to Girl Scouts. New girls receive their special Brownie pin and are officially welcomed into the troop. Brownie troops tend to add new members as 2nd and 3rd grade girls become more social and seek opportunities to be with their friends, and families are seeking more extracurriculars for their daughters. This is also a chance to rededicate Daisy Girl Scouts who have bridged to Brownies. A Girl Scout tradition is that the Brownie Pin is pinned upside down during the ceremony. Before the girl can wear the pin right side up, she has to do a good deed.

## Bridging

Bridging from one level of Girl Scouting to another are important transitions in the life of a Girl Scout. They are opportunities for girls to look back at their accomplishments and look forward toward the new adventures and challenges that lie ahead.



The Brownie level is unique in that there is a Rainbow Bridging patch to earn as well as Brownie Wings. The wings signify that the girl has been a Brownie Girl Scout. Girls have received these “wings” when bridging up from Brownies since the 1920’s. When Brownies “fly up” to Juniors they earn their wings to wear on their uniform throughout all their levels of Girl Scouting. Brownies Bridge to Juniors between 3rd and 4th grade.

## Girl Scout Traditions

**Girl Scout Motto:** Be prepared

**Girl Scout Slogan:** Do a good turn daily

**Quip:** “Girl Scouts leave a place better than they found it.”

**Quip:** “Once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout!”

**Girl Scout Sign:** Hold the right hand up at shoulder height with the middle three fingers pointed to the sky and the thumb pressed down over the pinky finger. Make the Girl Scout sign while saying the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law, and using the Girl Scout handshake.



**Girl Scout Handshake:** Shake left hands and make the Girl Scout sign with the right hand.

**Quiet sign:** The signal to be silent in a group. The person in charge raises their right hand high into the sky. All girls and adults raise their right hands, stop talking, and stay quiet.

**The Buddy System:** A safety practice to keep girls in pairs when they are outside of the troop meeting space. Trios are sometimes nicknamed a truddy, as in, “Girls, stay with your buddy, or stay with your truddy!”

**The Brownie Smile Song:** Girl Scouts love to sing, and we have a very special Girl Scout song just for Brownies!

I've got something in my pocket I'm sure you couldn't guess it  
It belongs across my face. If you guessed a long, long while,  
I keep it very close at hand, so I'll take it out and put it on,  
In a most convenient place. It's a great big Brownie smile

Scan  
this QR  
Code to  
listen!



# In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid Meeting Options

Did you know badges and Journeys can be earned virtually? As the troop leader, you are able to decide if you want to meet with your troop in-person, virtually, or both! While in-person meetings are usually the more popular option, there are some benefits to meeting virtually.

Meeting with girls virtually, when they are in their own homes, allows for some fun activities not usually available in your troop's usual meeting location—such as household item scavenger hunts or cooking competitions! Your troop can go on a virtual trip together or invite a guest speaker/expert to your virtual meeting. Plus, virtual meetings can be a good back-up plan for the snowy winter months in Western New York! Keep these fun virtual meeting ideas “in your back pocket” in case your troop decides to have a virtual

## Virtual Meeting Tips

- Visit [gswny.org/virtualmeetings](https://gswny.org/virtualmeetings) for a full list of meeting ideas, documents, videos, and more!
- Read our full virtual meeting safety tips listed on our Safety page at [gswny.org/safety](https://gswny.org/safety).
- Hold a practice run meeting. Invite caregivers to go over expectations and troubleshoot.
- Keep your virtual meeting to 45-60 minutes. It might take longer to earn a badge virtually, and that's okay! 45 minutes is perfect for a traditional Girl Scout opening and closing, one or two badge activities, and a game.
- Keep your meeting supply list simple, and remember not everyone has lots of craft materials at home.
- If you are using Zoom, breakout rooms are a great way for girls to interact in smaller groups. Make sure at least one adult is “in” each breakout room.

## Virtual Meeting Ideas

### Fun Meeting Themes & Activities

<b>Paint Night (paint rocks or canvases)*</b>	<b>Yoga or Exercise</b>	<b>Scavenger Hunt</b>
<b>Talent Show</b>	<b>Tea Party*</b>	<b>Dance Party</b>
<b>Virtual Campout and Fort-building</b>	<b>Cookie or Cupcake Decorating Challenge*</b>	<b>Snack Making like an edible campfire or oven-s'mores*</b>

\*Remember to ask for parent/caregiver permission

### Digital Icebreakers

- **Digital Show and Tell:** Ask the girls to share something of theirs with the troop
- **Where Are You?:** Ask girls to give you a brief virtual tour of their space. What's one thing they love about the room they are in?
- **Virtual 'I Spy':** Have the girls take turns looking at each other's videos/backgrounds and seeing what they can find!
- **Question of The Day:** Pick a different question for each meeting and ask the girls to answer it in just one or two sentences. The question can tie into something going on in their lives, badge activities you will complete during the meeting, or just something silly!
- **What's Your Emoji Today?:** Ask the girls to take turns making or drawing the emoji face that matches how they are feeling today. Give the rest of the troop a few minutes to guess the emotion, then ask the girl to share how she is feeling. This is a fun way to check in on everyone!

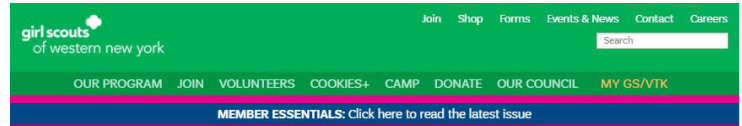
# Helpful Tools

## Volunteer ToolKit (VTK)

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) contains detailed program and meeting plans for Daisy through Ambassador and multi-level troops.

With the VTK, you can:

- Access step-by-step activity guides for each troop meeting—so you'll know exactly what to say and do, including every badge and journey!
- Easily share troop meeting activities and updates with parents/caregivers for each meeting
- Log girls' program achievements and milestones
- Add events and your own troop activities
- Keep track of troop income and expenses



**You can access the VTK through our website at [gswny.org](https://gswny.org).**

## GSWNY Program Resources



Service Unit Event



Council-Sponsored Program



Field Trip



Program on Demand



Outdoor Experience



Cookie Program



Brownie Journey



Badge in a Box



GSWNY Patch Program

**To learn more about these great programs and other helpful resources, visit [gswny.org/volunteerresources](https://gswny.org/volunteerresources)**

## Friendship Circle

The friendship circle is often formed at the end of meetings or campfires as a closing ceremony. Everyone gathers in a circle where they cross their right arm over their left in front of them and hold hands with the people on either side.

Once everyone is silent, the leader starts the friendship squeeze which is gently passed from hand to hand. When the squeeze returns to the leader, she says 'Goodnight Girl Scouts' and the girls raise their arms over head and then turn the circle inside out.

Girls will often sing 'Make New Friends' before passing the hand squeeze.

### Make New Friends

Make new friends,  
but keep the old.  
One is silver,  
the other is gold.

A circle is round,  
it has no end.  
That's how long  
I want to be your friend.





# Your Brownie Year at a Glance

The Girl Scout program is built around our four main pillars of Girl Scouting: STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), Life Skills, Outdoors, and Entrepreneurship. These four pillars form the foundation of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE). In this guide you will find five badges to get started in our four main program areas. Because Girl Scouts is girl-led, after you do one badge with the troop, there are suggestions for other badges or activities to complete in the same program area. Additional badges are located on the VTK, see page 15 for more information. Ask the girls what they enjoy to help determine your next badge!

Another option after completing badge work are the **Girl Scout Journeys**, an important component of the GSLE. Every Girl Scout grade level has seven different Journeys to choose from that include a sustainable Take Action (service) project. On a Journey, girls will identify a problem they want to do something about, come up with a sustainable, creative solution, put their plan into action, and then share what they've learned. For more information on our Journeys, log into your VTK account, visit [gswny.org](http://gswny.org), or contact Customer Care!

## Troop Meetings

Most Troops have two meetings a month. It may take you 2 or 3 meetings to complete each badge.

### Meeting 1: Badge Work

- **Girl Scout Way** (Life Skills)
- **Outdoor Art Creator** (Outdoors)
- **My Cookie Customer** (Entrepreneurship)
- **Inventor** (STEM)
- **Senses** (STEM)

You can earn these badges in the order that works for your troop. The Entrepreneurship badge works best around Cookie Season and you may want to head outdoors when it's warm!

### Meeting 2: Girls' Choice

Girl Scouts is girl-led! Ask your girls what they're interested in and choose from the following for your second meeting of the month.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Service Unit Event        |  Cookie Program      |
|  Council-Sponsored Program |  Brownie Journey     |
|  Field Trip                |  Badge in a Box      |
|  Program on Demand         |  GSWNY Patch Program |
|  Outdoor Experience        |   |

Check out [gswny.org](http://gswny.org) for more information!

## This Year in Girl Scouts

Ask your troop how they'd like to participate in these Girl Scout favorites!

### October-December

- Fall Product Program Sale
- International Day of the Girl (10/11)
- Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday (10/31)

### January-March

- Cookie Sale
- World Thinking Day (2/22)
- Girl Scout Week (Week of Girl Scout's Birthday)
- Girl Scout's Birthday (3/12)

### April-August

- Camp
- Renew your Membership
- Girl Scout Leader's Day (4/22)
- Year-end celebration
- Summer Patch Program



# Girl Scout Way

## Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Pencil, crayons, or markers
- Magazines, pictures, or newspapers
- Party supplies
- Juliette Story

You can find the Brownie and Juliette [gswny.org/](http://gswny.org/)

## Purpose

When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to practice and share the Girl Scout Way with your other sister Girl Scouts. While earning this badge, you will try some special Brownie traditions that have been shared for 100 years!

Steps	Directions
<b>Introduction</b> <b>Girl Scout Promise &amp; Girl Scout Law</b> <b>5 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As you gather your Brownies into a circle, welcome them and ask how they are doing.</li> <li>• Read the Girl Scout Promise and Law with them together. Ask one Brownie if they would like to read and everyone else repeat after them.</li> <li>• Tell them that they will be earning the Girl Scout Way badge.</li> </ul>
<b>Step #1</b> <b>Sing Everywhere</b> <b>Learn and create a new singing game, an action song, and a hand song.</b> <b>7-10 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Singing songs is so much fun no matter where you are! When we sing songs together it makes Girl Scouts feel connected, and proud. We are going to learn a new song.</li> <li>• You can find many Girl Scout songs (singing games, hand motion songs, and action songs) to choose from on YouTube. For example, you can teach the girls the Hokey Pokey singing game. Ask the girls to take turns leading the song.</li> <li>• Each Brownie Girl Scout can make up her own Brownie song based on nature. Grab a piece of paper and go to a window or take a walk outside. Help them write down the sounds they hear. They can use the sounds to create their own Brownie song and share it with each other or their families.</li> </ul>
<b>Step #2</b> <b>Celebrate Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday</b> <b>Throw a birthday bash!</b> <b>10 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Girl Scouts celebrate and honor women and girls who changed the world. During this step, you will celebrate Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low's birthday, which is on October 31.</li> <li>• Read the Juliette Story to learn more about the founder of Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low.</li> <li>• Help the girls plan a party for Juliette "Daisy" with their Brownie sisters in their troop. They may want to invite another Brownie troop to celebrate with them. During the party, the Brownies sisters can share their favorite thing about Juliette "Daisy" Low.</li> </ul>

# Girl Scout Way

Steps	Directions
<p><b>Step #3</b> <b>Share Sisterhood</b></p> <p><b>Make a team mural, collage, flag, or other artwork.</b></p> <p><b>10 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Sisterhood does not mean just sisters in our families. All the girls and women who are Girl Scouts make sure to keep the Girl Scout Promise and live by the Girl Scout Law. This makes our Girl Scout Sisterhood so special!</li> <li>• During this step, create a piece of art that shows the sisterhood between all the girls in your group. The girls can write their names, draw pictures of their troop, or draw how their Brownie sisters practice the Girl Scout Law.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #4</b> <b>Leave a place better than you found it.</b></p> <p><b>A better meeting place or home.</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: In Girl Scouts we care about the world and our environment. We always make sure to leave a place better than we found it.</li> <li>• Ask the girls to think of three ways they could leave their meeting place or a room in their home better than they found it. Help them make a chart to keep themselves on schedule.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #5</b> <b>Enjoy Girl Scout traditions</b></p> <p><b>Read the Brownie story from an old Girl Scout book.</b></p> <p><b>10 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Traditions bring people together and offers people a connection. A tradition can be anything that is passed along through the years.</li> <li>• Read aloud the traditional Brownie Story. If there is time, the girls can act it out as you read.</li> <li>• More Fun: find a neighbor, relative, older friend, or family member who was a Girl Scout. Invite them to come to your troop meeting and ask them their favorite memories about Girl Scouts. Discuss which things are the same today and which things are different today from when she was a Girl Scout.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Closing Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Congratulations! You have earned the Brownie Girl Scout Way Badge!</li> <li>• Join hands to form a Friendship Circle (page 15). Sing Make New Friends as you pass the gentle hand squeeze around the circle.</li> </ul>

## Additional Activities for Another Meeting

If you enjoyed this badge, check out these badges below by logging on to your VTK account:

- Celebrating Community
- Making Games
- My Best Self
- My Great Day

## Badge Earned





# Outdoor Art Creator

## Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Paper towel tube
- Crayon or colored chalk
- Pencil, crayons, or markers
- Scraps of paper
- Camera

## Purpose

When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to do different kinds of fun art projects outdoors.

## Note

There are many fun activities in this badge. You may need to limit the activities you choose, plan to do them at an outdoor outing when you have more time, or split the fun up into two meetings.

## Badge Earned



Steps	Directions
<p><b>Opening Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>We are Girl Scouts!</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather the girls into a circle. Welcome them.</li> <li>• Read/recite with them the Girl Scout Promise and Law, as they make the Girl Scout hand sign.</li> <li>• Tell them that they'll be working on their Brownie Outdoor Art Creator badge.</li> <li>• As an artist, they can walk outside and see colors, shapes, and ideas for things they want to create. They will find out how to make their own art outdoors and have fun doing it!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #1 Find Art Ideas Outdoors</b></p> <p><b>Go on a nature detective walk</b></p> <p><b>10 - 15 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Art can be found everywhere—not just inside the four walls of a museum. Go outdoors to collect ideas for art! Find colors you can use in a drawing, a shape you want to copy, or a new way to be creative.</li> <li>• Go on a nature detective walk. You can do this in a park, on a trail, or in your backyard. Look through a tube from a paper towel roll to focus on things close or far away. Spot at least three things from this list. Just observe with your eyes, ears and nose - don't collect or touch anything!</li> <li>• Do you see a...             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant not colored green</li> <li>• Tree with flowers</li> <li>• Bush as tall as you are</li> <li>• Pinecone or acorn</li> <li>• Leaf with a pattern you like</li> <li>• Animal</li> <li>• Insect</li> <li>• Bird (do you know what kind it is?)</li> <li>• Rock with an unusual shape</li> <li>• Colored moss on rocks or trees</li> <li>• More fun stuff you find</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #2 Make Something!</b></p> <p><b>Make a rubbing of something from nature</b></p> <p><b>10 - 15 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Let's take a walk outside to look at things in nature you think are pretty. It could be a garden with bright, colorful flowers. A rock that has sparking crystals in it. A colorful sunset. A bird's feather. A rainbow. The stars in the sky. Get ideas to help you create something to give away or keep for yourself!</li> <li>• Make a leaf rubbing by placing paper over a leaf and rubbing it with a crayon or chalk. Try it with soft and hard leaves to see if there's a difference or make a bark cast from a tree. Do the same thing on several leaves or tree trunks to see the different designs in the markings.</li> </ul>

# Outdoor Art Creator

Steps	Directions
<p><b>Step #3</b> <b>Dance or Make Music Outdoors</b></p> <p><b>Making Music</b></p> <p><b>10 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: When a bee comes back to its hive, it does a “waggle dance” to tell its bee friends where the pollen and flowers are. The bee dances to share information with other bees. Can you move your body like a bee does? Or create a song like a bird’s?</li> <li>• There are many ways you can express yourself through music and dance—remember, music and dance are art, too!</li> <li>• Play a nature dance game. First, on small pieces of paper, make animal cards by writing names or drawing pictures of animals or insects that have fun movements—like how a snake slithers, a deer leaps, and a grasshopper hops. Each of you can pick an animal card and move like the animal shown on the card. Can you guess what animal everyone is? Can they guess yours?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #4</b> <b>Be a Nature Photographer</b></p> <p><b>Take pictures from a miniature world.</b></p> <p><b>10 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Whether you have a camera or not, see nature the way a photographer would!</li> <li>• Pick something tiny in nature—it could be an ant in a garden or a butterfly in your backyard. Pretend to shrink yourself and take pictures with a camera or smartphone as if you were the ant or butterfly. Zero in on a blade of grass or take a picture looking down at a flower to show what a butterfly sees.</li> <li>• Share your pictures with a friend or family member.</li> <li>• No camera? No worries! Go outside to draw or paint a picture of what you see.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Design with Nature</b></p> <p><b>Build a Brownie Elf house outdoors.</b></p> <p><b>10 - 15 min</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Animals and insects are designers and architects: Birds make nests, spiders spin webs, and beavers build dams. They create these to live in, or to catch food, or for protection.</li> <li>• Look at the world outdoors and find ways you can design something, too!</li> <li>• Pretend Brownie Elf and friends are 3 inches tall and need a place to live outdoors. What kind of home can you make for them? Look for a place to build in your backyard, in the woods, or even on the beach. Use mud, rocks, leaves, twigs, feathers, dry grass, pinecones, shells, and anything else you find to shape into a Brownie Elf house.</li> <li>• Make sure to only use items that have fallen, and be careful not to disturb living trees, plants, and flowers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Closing Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Celebrate making art outdoors!</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Congratulations! You have earned the Brownie Outdoor Art Creator Badge! Now that you have earned this badge, think of some ways that you can use what you have learned to make the world a better place!</li> <li>• Join hands to form a Friendship Circle. Ask the girls what they liked the most about their meeting and about their ideas for future meetings.</li> <li>• Sing Make New Friends as you pass the gentle hand squeeze around the circle.</li> </ul>

## Additional Activities for Another Meeting

- Take a walk and look for things in nature that begin with each letter of the alphabet. A... B... C...
- Take a field trip to a local nature center
- Spend an afternoon at one of our GSWNY camps



# My Cookie Customer

## Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise And Law
- Slips of paper
- Large sheet of paper
- Old magazines/newspapers/catalogs
- Play money

## Purpose

Part of your succeeding in your Girl Scout cookie business is meeting customers. During this badge you will find out how to get new customers and keep them coming back!

Steps	Directions
<b>Opening Ceremony</b>  <b>Girl Scout Promise &amp; Law</b>  <b>5 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As you gather your Brownies into a circle, welcome them and ask how they are doing.</li> <li>• Read the Girl Scout Promise and Law with them together. Ask one brownie if they would like to read and everyone else repeat after them.</li> <li>• Tell them that they'll be working on their My Cookie Customers Badge!</li> </ul>
<b>Step #1</b> <b>Learn about Girl Scout Cookies</b>  <b>Be a detective</b>  <b>10 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: It's easier to sell when you know your product well! First, do some research. What are the different kinds of cookies? How much do they cost?</li> <li>• Find a Brownie friend to be a detective with. The pairs of girl "detectives" can draw a prepared question out of hat or bag to "investigate." Some questions could be How many kinds of Girl Scout Cookies are there? Which are the most popular? How does Digital Cookie/Smart Cookies work? What are some of the cookie rewards? How can customers donate cookies? Have each group share what they uncovered.</li> <li>• Fun tip: Play classic detective music!</li> </ul>
<b>Step #2</b> <b>Decide how to use your cookie money</b>  <b>Draw a target.</b>  <b>30 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With your troop, brainstorm ideas for your cookie money. Do the girls want to buy snacks for meetings? Or use the money for Girl Scout badges? They could use some money for a field trip or to help others. First, let the girls vote on their choices . Then set a troop goal. Track your goals by drawing a target chart.</li> <li>• Draw a target chart. Draw a target with rings around it. Write your troop's goals in the rings around the target. Put the smaller goals on the outer rings. Bigger goals will go on the inner rings. Hang the poster at your cookie booth or or in your meeting place. Use your target to track your goals!</li> </ul>
<b>Step #3</b> <b>Find customers</b>  <b>Make a customer list.</b>  <b>15 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: People often say they didn't buy Girl Scout Cookies because they were never asked. You can change that! Let's brainstorm ways we can find customers to support our cookie goals.</li> <li>• Let's make a customer list. First draw a picture of yourself. How will you look when you talk to customers? Are you in your Brownie uniform? Holding your order card? Smiling? Then make a list or draw pictures of people you can talk to about buying cookies. Start with friends, family, and neighbors.</li> <li>• More Fun: Draw all the places where they can find customers in your community. Is it their place of worship? Their school? Through their family's co-workers? Make it a team effort! Draw a community of customers mural on large paper.</li> </ul>

# My Cookie Customer

Steps	Directions
<p><b>Step #4</b> <b>Handle money and make change</b></p> <p><b>Set up a pretend cookie booth.</b></p> <p><b>10 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Part of selling cookies is handling money from your customers. Let's pretend you are at a cookie booth with play money ready to cash out your customers.</li> <li>• Role Play: Use play money and ask some troop members to be customers. Pretend a customer hands you \$10 for one box of cookies. Another gives you \$15 for two. Practice making change. As you practice, tell your customers all about the cookies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #5</b> <b>Connect with customers</b></p> <p><b>Create a video to inspire customer</b></p> <p><b>5-7 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Let's practice what we'll say to our cookie customers! We can tell them how we'll use our cookie money and what our goals are. We might inspire them to buy more cookies because they want to help us reach our goal. Maybe they will tell their friends about you!</li> <li>• Help the girls create a "pitch" by writing out what they want to say to their customers. Let the girls practice in front of each other and give each other feedback. They can improve their pitch, make changes, and try again!</li> <li>• Now help the girls create videos to inspire their customers. Don't forget to include their Digital Cookie/Smart Cookies link! Or, you can help them to take pictures of their troop cookie business and create a slide show to share with their friends and families. Remind them to show how people make the world a better place by supporting the Girl Scout cookie sale!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Closing Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Celebrate making art outdoors!</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congratulations! You have earned the Brownie My Cookie Customer Badge! Good luck with your first cookie sale!</li> <li>• Join hands to form a Friendship Circle. Sing Make New Friends as you pass the gentle hand squeeze around the circle.</li> </ul>

## Additional Activities for Another Meeting

If you enjoyed this badge, check out the Cookie Decision Makers badge too!

### For Fun

Come up with a cheer. Create a cheer that you and your troop can say when you update your sales goals. Then come up with another cheer you can do to celebrate when you reach your goals!

### Badge Earned





# Inventor

## Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Box
- Paper/notebook
- Pencil, crayons, or markers
- Various items from around your home or meeting place (like spoons, pencils, etc)
- Supplies such as cardboard, tape, string, etc.

## Purpose

Brownies will discover how inventors make things that make life easier or better. They will practice brainstorming ideas and may even invent something new themselves. When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to

## Badge Earned



Steps	Directions
<p><b>Opening Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>We are Girl Scouts!</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather the girls into a circle. Welcome them.</li> <li>• Read/recite with them the Girl Scout Promise and Law, as they make the Girl Scout hand sign.</li> <li>• Tell them that they'll be working on their Brownie Inventor badge.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #1</b></p> <p><b>Warm up your Inventor's Mind</b></p> <p><b>Make up five new uses for a box.</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Inventors warm up their minds so they can be creative! Investigate new and different ways to use objects you already have. Have you ever made up a new and different way to pay with a toy or to use a tool? If you have, then you are already an inventor! We are going to <b>brainstorm</b> ideas for new uses for something you already have. When we <b>brainstorm</b>, we make a list of very idea we can think of. Later, we look back at that list to see which ideas are "doable" or "practical."</li> <li>• Find a box that is no longer needed at home. It can be large, like a shipping box, or small, like a jewelry, cereal, or shoe box.</li> <li>• Say: Think of five different things you could use that box for. Could it store your toys, make a bed for a pet, become a play fort, or keep a special collection safe? What ideas can you think of. Let's brainstorm your ideas by writing a list or drawing pictures of all your ideas. Many inventors keep a notebook to record their ideas and observations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Just for Fun Game</b></p> <p><b>Brain Warm Up Game!</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Here is a simple game to help you start thinking of new ideas:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With your family or some friends, gather in a circle.</li> <li>• Take turns jumping into the circle and striking a pose.</li> <li>• A second person jumps up and copies that pose but make one change, such as raising an arm or bending a leg.</li> <li>• A third person copies the new pose and makes her own change.</li> <li>• Continue coping and adding changes the pose until everyone has had at least one turn.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Was it fun to think of new changes to the pose? Was it hard to come up with something different? Was it fun?</li> </ul>

## Additional Activities for Another Meeting

- Do an Inventions Scavenger Hunt in your meeting place. Ask the girls to identify things that make life easier or safer.
- Use the internet to learn about women who invented ways to make the world a better place.
- Take a field trip to a local museum and learn about local inventors.



# Inventor

Steps	Directions
<p><b>Step #2</b>  <b>Many Ways to Solve the Same Problem</b></p> <p><b>Making Music</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: There are many ways to solve a problem, but sometimes we don't try something new because it is different from what we are used to. Try this activity:</li> <li>• Making Music—Make a list of 10 ways to make music. Be sure to add some ways that you have never tried before. Now, pick one. You could use a spoon or chopsticks to tap out a beat on the table, bang two metal pots or pans together, make a hollow piece of pasta into a whistle by blowing air across the top of the opening.</li> <li>• What ideas can you come up with? Did you try some? Did they work</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #3</b>  <b>Make a Needs List</b></p> <p><b>Paint a Pointillism Nature Scene</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: To come up with new ideas, inventors must first learn to observe the people around them and identify what their needs are. What do they need help with or what will make their lives easier?</li> <li>• An inventor needs to observe the world around her.</li> <li>• In the morning, watch your family members, like a brother, sister, or a parent, as they get ready for work or school.</li> <li>• Do they wake up on time?</li> <li>• Do they have enough time to make and eat a good breakfast? Are their clothes ready for them to wear?</li> <li>• Are they prepared for the weather outside?</li> <li>• Is everything in their backpack?</li> <li>• See if you can identify any areas that they need help with. Make a list of these needs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #4</b>  <b>Solve a problem</b></p> <p><b>Sketch it out!</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Think about some of the problems and needs you have put on your lists.</li> <li>• Think of ways to make a difference. Sketch out pictures of your ideas. Can you think of 5 different solutions?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #5</b>  <b>Share your invention</b></p> <p><b>Draw it!</b>  <b>Act it out!</b>  <b>Build it</b></p> <p><b>10 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Finding out what others think about your ideas can help you create a better invention. You can share your ideas in many ways. Pick one of these ways and share one of your ideas.</li> <li>• Draw it out! – Draw a picture of your invention, including labels for all of its parts.</li> <li>• Act it out! – Create a skit that shows why someone might need your invention and then perform it.</li> <li>• Build it! – Use cardboard, tape or other materials to make a model of your invention and then show it off!</li> <li>• Did you receive any good suggestions for changes or ideas for new inventions? Draw it!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Closing Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Celebrate making art outdoors!</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: Congratulations! You have earned the Brownie Inventor Badge! Now that you have earned this badge, think of some ways that you can use what you have learned to make the world a better place!</li> <li>• Join hands to form a Friendship Circle. Sing Make New Friends as you pass the gentle hand squeeze around the circle.</li> </ul>



# Senses

## Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Pencil, crayons, or markers
- 10 Small common objects from home or your meeting place & cloth/paper to cover them
- Blindfold & 3 similar but different smelling foods (example: fruits like oranges, bananas, strawberries)
- Colored candies such as Skittles

## Purpose

When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to use your five senses to explore the world.

## Badge Earned



Steps	Directions
<p><b>Opening Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>We are Girl Scouts!</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather the girls into a circle. Welcome them.</li> <li>• Read/recite with them the Girl Scout Promise and Law, as they make the Girl Scout hand sign.</li> <li>• Tell them that they'll be working on their Brownie Senses badge. They will discover how they have the senses of touch, sight, taste, hearing to help them explore and learn about the world around them.</li> <li>• They will be doing activities like looking around, listening to the world, putting their noses to work, tasting and touching.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #1</b></p> <p><b>Play a Looking Around Game</b></p> <p><b>Girls play a game that tests their sense of sight.</b></p> <p><b>10 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask the girls what their sense of sight allows them to do (See!).</li> <li>• Tell the girls that in this activity, they will play a game, which will require them to rely on their sense of sight.</li> <li>• Place 10 common objects on the table and cover them.</li> <li>• Explain that there are 10 items, that you will lift the cloth, and they'll have 10 seconds to look at the items before they are covered again. Then they'll write down all the items they saw.</li> <li>• Ask the girls to share their lists. Did they all see and remember the same objects?</li> <li>• If there is time, remove one object and see if the girls can determine which one is missing.</li> </ul>

# Senses

Steps	Directions
<p><b>Step #3</b> <b>Put Your Nose to Work</b></p> <p><b>Try sniffing out 3 different foods</b></p> <p><b>10 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask the girls about their favorite things to smell.</li> <li>• Explain that one person might think something smells really good while another person thinks it smells really bad because everyone smells in a different way.</li> <li>• Tell them that in this activity, they will smell three different foods in the same food category while blindfolded. Then they will guess what each food is based on its scent.</li> <li>• <b>Girl led tip:</b> Split your girls in pairs. Give each pair a blindfold and the three foods. They can decide who will be blindfolded first, help each other put on the blindfold, and hold the food under their partner's nose. Then they can switch places.</li> <li>• Ask them if it was it easy or difficult to guess the food based on the smell and why?</li> <li>• What scents did they recognize right away what did they think helped them recognize some smells more quickly?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #4</b> <b>Take a Taste Test</b></p> <p><b>Test your taste buds activity</b></p> <p><b>10 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say: When you use your sense of taste, you need your tongue. This body part tastes food and then sends signals to your brain to let you know what the flavor is and whether or not you like it.</li> <li>• Ask the girls what foods they like to taste and if they think that their sense of sight affects the way a food tastes? We'll test it in this activity!</li> <li>• Ask one girl to close her eyes and place one colored candy in her hand. Without looking have the girl taste it guess what flavor it was.</li> <li>• Keep track of how many girls guess correctly.</li> <li>• Now, have each girl taste a second candy after looking at it. Are there more correct answers? Was it easier to tell what flavor the candy was if you could see it?</li> <li>• Draw any food you'd like in a different color than it usually is. For example, would you like to have pink pancakes? Or what new color would you like blueberries to be. You can even rename the food after you change its color.</li> <li>• Ask who'd like to share their drawing with the group?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step #5</b> <b>Touch and Feel</b></p> <p><b>Touching scavenger hunt</b></p> <p><b>5 min.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask the girls, how do you use your hands and fingers to use your sense of touch, which helps you feel different textures or surfaces.</li> <li>• Create small slips of paper with words like smooth, rough, sticky, bumpy, hard, soft, squishy, fuzzy, etc.</li> <li>• The girls girls can pick a word and try to find an example in the room by touching surfaces with their fingers.</li> </ul>

## Additional Activities for Another Meeting

- Make these activities more Girl Led by letting the girls take a turn at leading these simple activities.
- Go on a Senses Hike outside at a park or at a GSWNY Camp

# We're here to help!

If you have a private matter, a conflict to discuss, issues with registration, or any other needs, your GSWNY council can help!

The best way to connect with us is through our Council Customer Care team:

Call: 1.888.837.6410  
Email: [customercare@gswny.org](mailto:customercare@gswny.org)  
Website: [gswny.org](http://gswny.org)

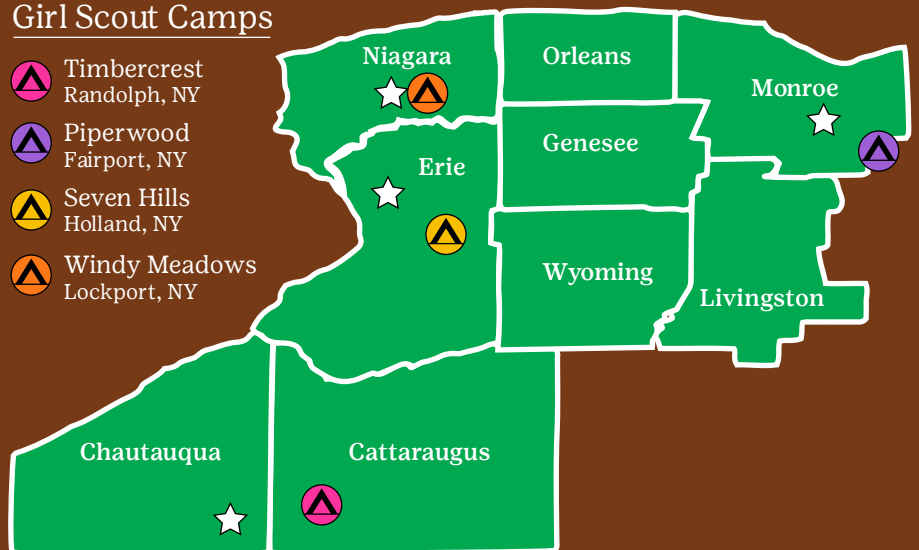
## Our Council Map

Visit [gswny.org](http://gswny.org) for hours by location or call for more information.

★ Girl Scout Office

### Girl Scout Camps

- 🏕️ Timbercrest  
Randolph, NY
- 🏕️ Piperwood  
Fairport, NY
- 🏕️ Seven Hills  
Holland, NY
- 🏕️ Windy Meadows  
Lockport, NY



**Buffalo Service Center**  
4433 Genesee St., Suite 101  
Buffalo, NY 14225  
716.935.6035

**Jamestown Service Center**  
2661 Horton Rd.  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
716.935.6040

**Lockport Service Center**  
5000 Cambria Rd.  
Lockport, NY 14094  
716.935.6080

**Niagara Falls Service Center (Satellite Office)**  
1522 Main St., Suite 307  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
716.935.6082

**Rochester Service Center**  
1000 Elmwood Ave., Door 9  
Rochester, NY 14620  
585.292.5160