

Daisy

(Grades K-1)

Grade Level Essentials



Characteristics of a Daisy Girl Scout

At the Girl Scout Daisy level girls...	This means...
Have loads of energy and need to run, walk, and play outside	They'll enjoy going on nature walks and outdoor scavenger hunts
Are great builders and budding artists, though they are still developing their fine motor skills	Encourage them to express themselves and their creativity by making things with their hands. Girls may need assistance holding scissors, cutting in a straight line, and so on.
Love to move and dance	They might especially enjoy marching like a penguin, dancing like a dolphin, or acting out how they might care for animals in the jungle.
Are concrete thinkers and focused on the here and now	Showing is better than telling. For example, show Daisies how animals are cared for: Plan visits to animal shelters, farms, or zoos. Meet care providers or make a creative bird feeder.
Are only beginning to learn basic number concepts, time, and money	You'll want to take opportunities to count out supplies together – and, perhaps, the legs on a caterpillar!
Are just beginning to write and spell and don't always have the words for what they're thinking or feeling	That having girls draw a picture of something they are trying to communicate is easier and more meaningful for them.
Know how to follow simple directions and respond well to recognition for doing so	Being specific and offering only one direction at a time. Acknowledge when girls have followed directions well to increase their motivation to listen and follow again.

Tips for working with Daisy Girl Scouts

- Build on the strengths of each girl and praise desirable behavior
- Use simple words
- Use quiet, pleasant tones
- Be flexible—attention spans are short
- Utilize the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Always try to be at the daisy's eye level
- Encourage girls to solve problems
- Develop a friendly relationship with each girl
- Keep activities short and varied
- Only offer a choice when there really is one

Troop Meeting Essentials

Troop meetings are when Daisies gather to earn petals, badges, and journey awards; complete service projects; go on field trips; participate in programs and events; or sell cookies. Throughout, they have fun, enjoy sisterhood, and build courage, confidence, and character while they make the world a better place.

Parts of a Daisy Troop Meeting

- Pre-meeting: a planned activity to engage Daisies while waiting for others to arrive
- Opening: a fun, quick activity to focus girls' attention
- Daisy Girl Scout Circle: a time for Daisies to share ideas and vote on decisions
- Program or activity: a main activity (petal or badge work, game, program, etc.) designed to help girls develop a skill or interest while having fun
- Sharing time: an opportunity for girls to share what's on their minds
- Closing: a ceremony or routine that includes all of the girls and brings closure to the meeting

*We suggest Daisy troop meetings last no longer than one hour. If you are meeting directly after school, be sure to include extra time for snack. Daisies will be hungry and will need time to talk and release some energy.

Planning a Successful Daisy Girl Scout Troop Meeting

Time spent planning can make the experience even more rewarding. Troop leaders should try to:

- Be prepared
- Connect with each girl
- Plan a pre-meeting activity for Daisies to do while everyone arrives
- Show where bathrooms and exits are located
- Establish routines
- Enjoy an organized, simple, relaxed snack time
- Include Daisies in decision-making**
- Finish with a closing ceremony

**Including Daisies in Decision-making: Daisy Girl Scout Circle

Although working with 5- and 6-year-olds requires you to do most of the planning, the girls can help make decisions about specific activities. A Daisy Girl Scout Circle is an organized time during the meeting for Daisies to express their ideas and talk about activities they enjoy.

- Have your daisies form a circle and share their ideas
- Stimulate discussions by asking questions to guide the girls
- Allow girls to vote on what activities they'd like to do for the next month

The Daisy/Adult Partnership

As the troop leader, your goal is to act increasingly as a facilitator, enabling Daisies to experience planning, decision-making, leadership, and yes, even failure! The Daisy/adult partnership ensures Daisies grow and take charge as much as is appropriate for their age and development. Initially, everything might take longer to plan and be less perfect than you would like.

Here are some tips:

- Start small and gradually turn over more and more responsibility to the Daisies
- Girl Scouts provides a safe environment for girls to try new skills. Sometimes they will succeed with flying colors. At other times, they will fail, and that's OK! We learn from our mistakes.
- Share the importance of the Daisy/adult partnership with the parents and caregivers in your troop and ask them to try not to "save" their Daisies from making mistakes

Resources for Daisy Troop Leaders

Badges and journey awards

On the [Award and Badge Explorer](#), find a list of the badges and Journey awards Daisies can earn

Service projects and activities

Explore ideas for your troop's next adventure in the [Girl Scout Activity Zone](#) full of Girl Scout tested and approved activities and service projects.

Fieldtrips and the Outdoors

Check out our GSWNY website for more information on [getting outdoors](#) or attending [Council Programs and Events](#).

Cookies and Money Earning

[Cookies+](#) is your go-to page on our website to learn about funding your troop (and having fun doing it!)

Girl Scout Ceremonies and Traditions

Learn all about [Girl Scout traditions](#) like friendship circles, flag ceremonies, bridging, the [Girl Scout uniform](#) and more!

Safety, Guidelines, and Procedures

You'll find Volunteer Essentials, Safety Activity Checkpoints, info on First Aid training, and more on the [Volunteer Resources](#) page on our website.

Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)

The VTK is a digital planning tool that includes year plans and detailed troop meeting plans as you work on petals, badges, and more. Access the VTK through your [myGS](#) account on our website, [gswny.org](#).

gsLearn

Ready to learn even more about Girl Scouts? Take short, fun, and informative online courses through gsLearn. To access, log on to your [myGS account](#) on our website, [gswny.org](#).

Stay Connected!

Join our Volunteers Facebook Group and read our monthly Volunteer Resources email, full of timely information for Troop Leaders.

