

Juniors

(Grades 4-5)

Grade Level Essentials

Characteristics of Junior Girl Scouts

Sometimes very talkative
Eager to learn new skills
Can have fast emotional changes
Can be critical of herself

Has a vivid imagination
Is responsible and independent
Can be possessive of friends
Listens to reason

Enjoys humor
Can make up her mind easily
Is influenced by the media

Tips for working with Junior Girl Scouts

- Be supportive and interested in the girls' ideas and interests. Allow them to finish their activities to ensure they don't feel unimportant or discouraged.
- It is essential to anticipate group dynamics. Forming groups for different activities is a great way to get girls involved and discourage the formation of cliques.
- Let your girls learn from failures but never compromise their safety. When it comes to safety, you should be direct and specific with your instructions.
- Give the Juniors feedback and let them work to solve their own problems. Whatever "new" rule they think of will fit within the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Troop rules should be developed by the group and should be positive and realistic.
- Always have a backup plan so that if it doesn't go the way you expected, you can easily switch to a new activity.
- Let individual Girl Scouts shine by teaching their fellow Girl Scouts cool new skills! You'll need to get to know each member of your troop so you can help them reach their potential and feel positively about themselves.
- Provide some structure so they can succeed and let the Girl Scouts in your troop learn by experience, even if it requires some extra time.
- You are in charge but the Girl Scouts have responsibilities, too. Remember to also involve parents and caretakers.

Troop Meeting Essentials

Troop meetings are when Juniors get together to earn badges and journey awards, complete service projects, go on field trips, participate in programs and events, or sell cookies. Through troop meetings, Juniors have fun, enjoy sisterhood, and build courage, confidence, and character while they make the world a better place. As a troop leader, your goal is to act increasingly as a facilitator, enabling Juniors to experience planning, decision making, leadership, and even failure.

- Planning is key, be prepared!
- Establish troop rules and be prepared to follow through with the consequences. Make the list of rules accessible to the whole troop.
- Use the Girl Scout Promise and Law to guide your Juniors.
- Be consistent.
- Praise desirable behavior and ignore undesirable behavior, if possible. If intervention is necessary, correct undesirable behavior quickly.

The Patrol System

Troop government is a built-in structure that will help facilitate the Girl/Adult partnership and planning. We recommend that Juniors try out the Patrol System. In the Patrol System, the troop divides into small groups (3-5 girls), with each member playing a role. Each patrol take responsibility for one part of the total project. Patrols choose a patrol name, patrol symbol, and patrol leaders. Leadership jobs should be rotated among everyone.

The Bronze Award

Girl Scout Bronze Award is highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. Juniors use their special skills and interests to take action and make a difference in their communities. To earn the Bronze award, Juniors must identify and take action on a community issue that the group/troop feels passionately about, while the troop leader provides guidance and assistance to the group undertaking the project.

The steps you'll take to earn your Girl Scouts Bronze Award:

1. Go on a Girl Scout Junior Journey
2. Build your Girl Scout Junior team
3. Explore your community
4. Choose your Girl Scout Bronze Award project
5. Make a plan
6. Put your plan in motion
7. Spread the word



Learn more about Highest Awards like the [Bronze Award on our website](#).

Resources for Junior Troop Leaders

Badges and journey awards

On the [Award and Badge Explorer](#), find a list of the badges and Journey awards Juniors 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.