



Brownie

My First Year Guide

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

girlscouts 
of western new york

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** Girl Scouts reach their potential as creative, courageous leaders
- **Create** a space where Girl Scouts try new things without worrying about failing
- **Teach** lessons Girl Scouts will use for decades to come
- **Try** new things along with their Girl Scouts
- **Develop** leaders' own organizational and leadership skills
- **Join** a global community of sisterhood

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.

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.

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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?
- ☐ Reviewed Grade-level resources?
- ☐ Received a Congratulations email?
- ☐ Met with your co-leader(s)?
- ☐ Signed up for a New Leader Welcome Event 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
customer@gswny.org

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

Setting Up Your Troop

1 Grow your Troop

We recommend having 8-12 Girl Scouts 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 Determine 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

Schedule a Parent/Caregiver Intro meeting. Kick off the year by meeting with the families and caregivers of your troop. See more on page 6.

4 Open a Troop Bank Account

Open a troop bank account as soon as possible. Learn more about funding your fun starting on page 11.

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 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.

Check out Working with Parents/Caregivers on page 6 for more!



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 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

Learn more from your Service Unit Manager or Welcome Specialist

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 customercare@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

Sept:	Oct:	Nov:	Dec:	Jan:
Feb:	March:	April:	May:	June:

Working with Parents/Caregivers



Girl Scouting provides the best opportunities for Girl Scouts when families play an active part in the troop. Without meaningful support from parents and caregivers, it's difficult for a troop to be all it can be. Plus, Girl Scouts feel a special sense of pride when their families take part and show interest in the things they are doing!

Kick off
the year
with a
Parent/Caregiver
Meeting!

Parent/Caregiver Intro Meeting

The first meeting of every Girl Scout year is a Parent/Caregiver intro meeting. This meeting ensures everyone is on the same page and ready for the year ahead.

Meeting Agenda

Welcome (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and introduce one another to Girl Scouts• Go over dates/times/locations of meetings
Girl Scouts and Family (20 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share the mission of Girl Scouts and how Girl Scouts helps girls take risks, dream bigger, and gain important skills—all while having fun and making friends• Share overview of your year plan, including badges, trips, and outdoor adventures the troop may participate in• Discuss how families would like to be kept in the loop (text, email, other?)
Build your Troop Team (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using the troop team chart on page X, ask family members and caregivers what roles they can take on• Be direct and clear in your ask: “Jessica, will you be our First Aider?”• In addition to the roles on page (X), some smaller, concrete tasks caregivers can help with include: organizing troop calendar for snacks, managing troop communications or social media, taking photos or videos (ensure all Girl Scouts have a signed photo release), lending a hand during the cookie sale
Money Matters (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss how the troop will fund their fun through troop dues and the fall and cookie product programs (see page 11-12)
Wrap Up (10-15 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect permission slips and health forms (download from safety page on gswny.org)• Allow time for questions and for families to mingle and get to know one another

Helpful Tips!

If Girl Scouts will be present at the meeting, have a small craft or activity to keep them busy and engaged.

Follow up with a thank you, then keep the conversation going all year via email, in-person chats, and/or social media. Updating caregivers on troop activities helps them feel more invested and gives them a chance to build on their Girl Scout's experience at home.

Your Troop Team

Volunteer Role	Description	Contact Information
Product Program Manager	Manages Fall Product Program and Cookie Program for the troop: helps build a troop product team to support Girl Scout/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: _____
Troop Treasurer	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: _____
First Aider	At least one registered volunteer in all troops must be first aid certified before leaving the troop meeting place for field trips or outings. Visit gswny.org/safety for more information on getting FA/CPR certified.	Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Subject-Matter Experts	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 Girl Scouts about anatomy on the family dog.	Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____ Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Troop Drivers/Chaperones/Helpers	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: _____

Brownie Grade Level Essentials

(Grades 2-3) | Characteristics of a Brownie Girl Scout

At this level, Girl Scouts...	This means...
Have lots of energy and need to run, walk, and play outside	Take your troop meetings and activities outside whenever you can.
Are social and enjoy working in groups	Allow Brownies to team up in small or large groups for art projects or performances.
Want to help others and appreciate being given individual responsibilities for a task	Let Brownies lead, direct, and help out in activities whenever possible. Allow Brownies as a group to make decisions about individual roles and responsibilities.
Are concrete thinkers and focused on the here and now	Ask Brownies questions to gauge their understanding and allow them to role play.
Need clear directions and structure in order to know what to expect.	Provide a preview of what the meeting will look like and offer only one direction at a time.
Are becoming comfortable with basic number concepts, time, money and distance.	Offer support only when needed. Allow Brownies to set schedules for meetings or performances, count money for a trip, and so on.
Know how to follow rules, listen well, and appreciate recognition	Acknowledge when Brownies have listened or followed direction well – this will increase their motivation to do so again!
Are just beginning to write and spell and they don't always have the words for what they're thinking or feeling	Having girls draw a picture of something they are trying to communicate is easier and more meaningful for them.

Tips for working with Brownies

- Let the talents and skills of Brownies shine
- Encourage Brownies to solve their own problems and go to one another for support (where safe)
- Encourage Brownies to try new things, but do not expect everyone to participate in every activity
- Accept each Brownie where they are; offer specific praise and never criticize
- Show support for Brownies' ideas and interests
- Keep directions simple, direct, and positive
- Start projects Brownies can finish and give plenty of warning when transitioning between activities

Brownie Ring

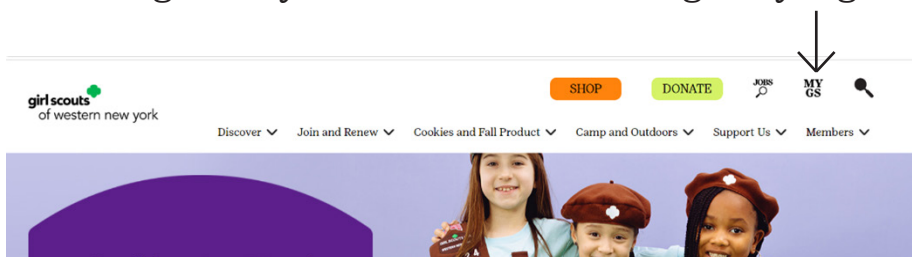
Our favorite way to help Brownies take the lead is with a Brownie Ring.

1. Use the quiet sign to quiet a noisy group by holding up one hand. Whenever anyone sees this quiet sign they put their own hand up in the air and become quiet.
2. Stand, holding hands, and spread out to form a circle.
3. Now that everyone is together and quiet, use this time to conduct the "business" of the meeting, such as voting on badge to work on next or where to take their next field trip.
4. Use a talking sign (a talking stick, or have Brownies touch the floor with two fingers when they want a turn) during discussions
5. Make sure Brownies speak much more than adults
6. Respect and follow decisions Brownies make – they are quick to catch if their decisions don't count

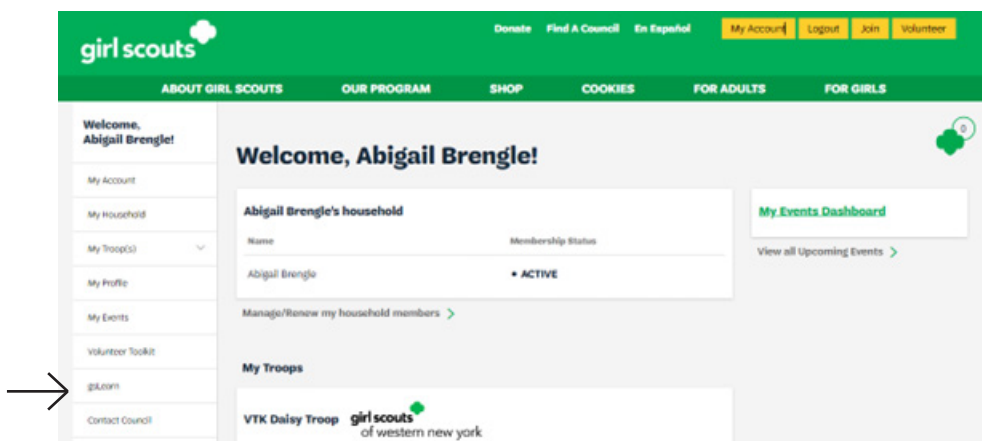
gsLearn

Ready to learn even more about Girl Scouts? We have a ton of short, fun, and informative online courses you can take through our Girl Scouts platform, gsLearn.

1. Log on to your MYGS account on gswny.org



2. Once logged in, click on the gsLearn Tab



3. Browse the great courses available to you



Safety First

Co-leaders keep their troop safe during regular troop meetings and when you head out on adventures like field trips and the outdoors.

Co-Leaders

Before meeting, each troop must have at least two approved, unrelated volunteers (married couples are considered related), one of whom is female, in place as co-leaders. Adult volunteers must be at least 18 years old and pass a criminal background check before volunteering.

Meeting Locations

Troops meet in public, accessible spaces like schools, library, or community center. Troops are **not** allowed to meet in private residences.

Permission Slips and Health Forms

At the beginning of each Girl Scout year, collect a permission slip and health form for each Girl Scout in your troop. Keep these with you for any activity outside your troop's normal meeting location. Find these forms on gswny.org/safety.

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. Follow these Volunteer-to-Girl Scout Ratios.

Girl Scouts Volunteer-to-Girl Ratios	Group Meetings		Events, Travel, and Camping	
	Two unrelated volunteers (at least one of whom is female) for up to this number of girls:	One additional volunteer to each additional:	Two unrelated volunteers (at least one of whom is female) for up to this number of girls:	One additional volunteer to each additional:
Girl Scout Daisies (Grades K-1)	12	1-6	6	1-4
Girl Scout Brownies (Grades 2-3)	20	1-8	12	1-6
Girl Scout Juniors (Grades 4-5)	25	1-10	16	1-8
Girl Scout Cadettes (Grades 6-8)	25	1-12	20	1-10
Girl Scout Seniors (Grades 9-10)	30	1-15	24	1-12
Girl Scout Ambassadors (Grades 11-12)	30	1-15	24	1-12

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.

Safety Activity Checkpoints

The Safety Activity Checkpoints (SAC) are detailed rules and policies for higher-risk activities. Prior to an activity, reference the SAC on the Safety page of our website, gswny.org/safety.

Emergencies

First, call 911 if an emergency occurs, during a Girl Scout meeting or activity, then inform GSWNY as soon as you are able. Please call our emergency answering service if the emergency occurs after business hours: 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!

Open 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 Troop Finances page on gswny.org 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) beginning in June. GSWNY will reach out to you as the deadline nears.

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). Share this information with all families; it's better not to make assumptions about which families may need it. All Girl Scouts are welcome and no one 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 Volunteer Basics page of gswny.org.

Visit gswny.org/volunteerbasics 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 Scout (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/caregiver 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 Girl Scouts 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 Girl Scouts 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
Mid-October - Mid-November	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

Are there other ways my troop can earn money?



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

Fall and Cookie Program Entrepreneurial Experiences

Girl Scouts Product Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world. Its goal is to empower girls through the development of five essentials skills: Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills and Business Ethics. Girls explore entrepreneurship as they participate in money earning activities that spark curiosity, confidence and innovation. Troop Proceeds can help fund your troop's entire year, including programs, experiences, trips, and more amazing opportunities.

Fall and Cookie Program Participation Information

Your Service Unit Product Program Manager (SUPPM) will share troop training dates and important participation information. Your SUPPM will be with you every step of the way and will provide program and troop support to ensure the program is fun, easy, and engaging! Head to gswny.org to visit our Cookies and Fall Products tab to find council resources, Smart Cookie training, and marketing resources.

Fall Product Program

Mid-October - Mid-November

One month, quick and easy program, starting mid-October. This is a great program to earn troop start-up funds to kick off your Girl Scout year!

Girl Scouts sell a variety of delicious nuts, candy, and magazine subscriptions to friends and family online and through in-person order taking.

Cookie Program

January - March


Girl Scouts use their in-person order card and online store front to sell cookies and reach her goals. The Cookie Program runs January - March, focusing on goal setting, skill building, and entrepreneurship. The Cookie Program funds amazing troop experiences!

With the support of your Service Unit Manager and Product Program Manager, each troop is encouraged to build a Cookie Team to ensure the program is fun, engaging, and successful. After attending a Troop Leader Cookie Training, as well as working with your Service Unit Product Program Manager throughout the cookie program, you'll feel confident, eager and ready for your girls to crush their cookie goals.

How is the Cookie Program Managed?

Using the Smart Cookie Digital Cookie platform, Girl Scouts and volunteers are able to seamlessly manage every phase of the cookie program, from online, to in-person, Keep Goaling, and Direct Sales! Girl Scouts are able to set goals, manage her cookie orders, and even communicate with her customers. For the volunteer, the platform allows you to set and monitor the troop's cookie goals, track girl/troop finances, view your troop recognitions and achievements and more!

Field Trips and Outdoor Experiences

Getting outside of your normal meeting location provides opportunities for learning, exercise, community service, and, most importantly, fun! 

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/activities 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 to learn more.

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

Give us a call at
1-888-837-6410 or email
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 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.
- Need help or guidance? Consult with your Service Unit team or GSWNY!

Girl Scout Ceremonies

Investiture



An investiture ceremony is for welcoming a new member to Girl Scouts. New Girl Scouts receive their special Brownie pin and are officially welcomed into the troop. Brownie troops tend to add new members as 2nd and 3rd graders become more social and seek opportunities to be with their friends, and families are seeking more extracurriculars for their kids.. 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 Brownie can wear the pin right side up, she has to do a good deed.

Bridging

Brownies Bridge to Juniors between 3rd and 4th grade. Bridging from one level of Girl Scouting to another is an important transition in the life of a Girl Scout. This is the opportunity for Girl Scouts 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 Scout has been a Brownie Girl Scout. When Brownies “fly up” to Juniors they earn their wings to wear on their uniform throughout all their levels of Girl Scouting.



Girl Scout Traditions

Girl Scout Motto: Be prepared

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

Girl Scout Slogan: Do a good turn daily

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

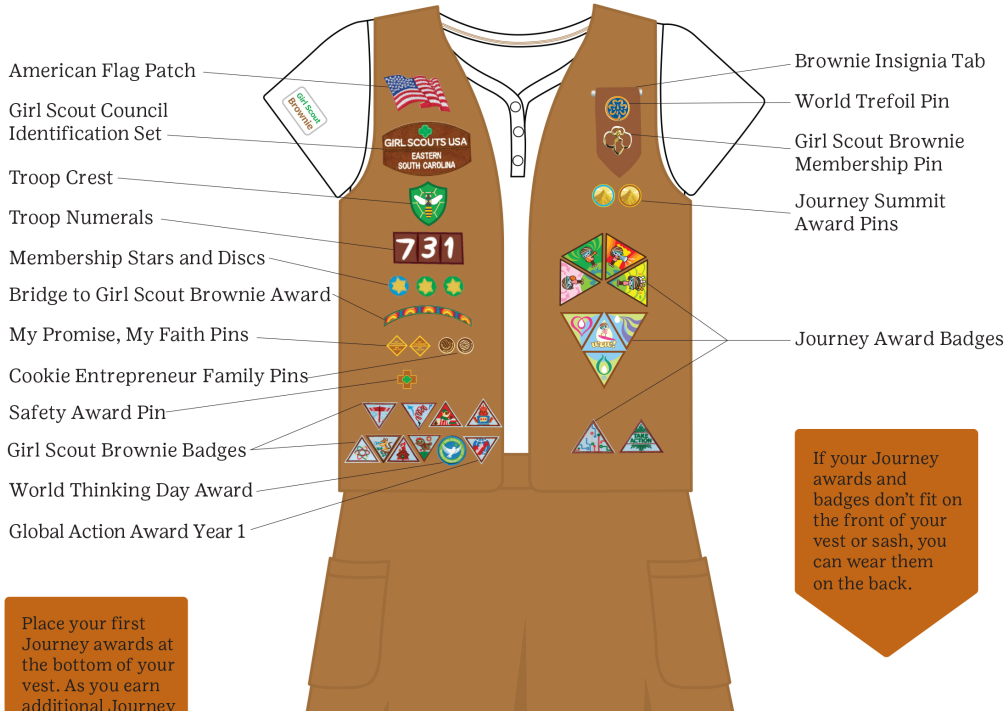
Scan
this QR
Code to
listen!



Uniform Diagrams

Insignia, Pin, and Badge Placement

Brownie Vest



Place your first Journey awards at the bottom of your vest. As you earn additional Journey awards, work your way up.

If your Journey awards and badges don't fit on the front of your vest or sash, you can wear them on the back.

Brownie Sash



Place your Journey awards above your badges.

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.



Girl Scout Resources



Girl Scout Shops

Our council has four shops for your shopping needs of official uniforms, apparel, badges, program materials, and so much more. Visit our website for current locations and hours.



Girl Scout Ceremonies & Traditions

Learn all about Girl Scout traditions like friendship circles, flag ceremonies, bridging, the Girl Scout uniform and more!



Badges & Journey Awards

On the Award and Badge Explorer, find a list of the badges and Journey awards Girl Scouts can earn.



Safety, Guidelines, & Procedures

You'll find Volunteer Essentials, Safety Activity Checkpoints, info on First Aid training, and more on the Members Page on our website.



Service Projects & 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.



Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)

The VTK is a digital planning tool that includes troop contact info as well as detailed troop meeting plans as you work on petals, badges, and more. Access the VTK through your myGS account on our website.



Field trips & the Outdoors

Check out our GSWNY website for more information on getting outdoors or attending Council Programs and Events.



GS Learn

Take short, fun, and informative online courses through gsLearn. Access gsLearn through your myGS account on our website.



Cookies & Money Earning

On the Cookies+ tab, you'll find helpful information for both Product Programs -- Fall Nuts and Candy and Cookie Program -- as well as forms, resources, training videos, and more! This is your one-stop shop for volunteers, girls and families, giving you all the tools needed for a great product program year.



Stay Connected!

Join our GSWNY Members Facebook Group to read our monthly Volunteer Resources email, full of timely information for Troop Leaders. Be sure you've opted in to email via your myGS account on our website.

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 16 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, 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)
- **Pets** (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: Girl Scout's 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



Council-Sponsored Program



Field Trip



Program on Demand



Outdoor Experience



Cookie Program



Brownie Journey



Badge in a Box



GSWNY Patch Program

Check out 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)

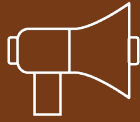
January-March

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

April-August

- Renew your GS Membership
- Cookie Sale
- GS Leader's Day (4/22)
- Year-end celebration
- Camp

Learn more about these programs on the **Members** tab of our website gswny.org



Girl Scout Way

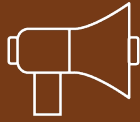
Materials:

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

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
Introduction Girl Scout Promise & Girl Scout Law 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As you gather your Brownies into a circle, welcome them and ask how they are doing.• 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.• Tell them that they will be earning the Girl Scout Way badge.
Step #1 Sing Everywhere Learn and create a new singing game, an action song, and a hand song. 7-10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• 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 your troop the Hokey Pokey singing game. Ask the Brownies to take turns leading the song.• Each 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.
Step #2 Celebrate Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday Throw a birthday bash! 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Read the Juliette Story to learn more about the founder of Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low.• 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.



Girl Scout Way

Steps	Directions
Step #3 Share Sisterhood Make a team mural, collage, flag, or other artwork. 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Say: Sisterhood does not mean just sisters in our families. All 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!• During this step, create a piece of art that shows the sisterhood between all the Brownies in your group. The Brownies can write their names, draw pictures of their troop, or draw how their Brownie sisters practice the Girl Scout Law.
Step #4 Leave a place better than you found it. A better meeting place or home. 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Ask the Brownies 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.
Step #5 Enjoy Girl Scout traditions Read the Brownie story from an old Girl Scout book. 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Say: Traditions bring people together and offers people a connection. A tradition can be anything that is passed along through the years.• Read aloud the traditional Brownie Story. If there is time, your troop can act it out as you read.• 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.
Closing Ceremony 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Say: Congratulations! You have earned the Brownie Girl Scout Way Badge!• Join hands to form a Friendship Circle (page 15). Sing Make New Friends as you pass the gentle hand squeeze around the circle.

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
- Natural items found outdoors

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
Opening Ceremony We are Girl Scouts! 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather your troop into a circle. Welcome them. • Read/recite with them the Girl Scout Promise and Law, as they make the Girl Scout hand sign. • Tell them that they'll be working on their Brownie Outdoor Art Creator badge. • 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!
Step #1 Find Art Ideas Outdoors Go on a nature detective walk 10 - 15 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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! • Do you see a... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant not colored green • Tree with flowers • Bush as tall as you are • Pine cone or acorn • Leaf with a pattern you like • Animal • Insect • Bird (do you know what kind it is?) • Rock with an unusual shape • Colored moss on rocks or trees • More fun stuff you find
Step #2 Make Something! Make a rubbing of something from nature 10 - 15 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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! • 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.



Outdoor Art Creator

Steps	Directions
Step #3 Dance or Make Music Outdoors Making Music 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?• There are many ways you can express yourself through music and dance—remember, music and dance are art, too!• 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?
Step #4 Be a Nature Photographer Take pictures from a miniature world. 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Say: Whether you have a camera or not, see nature the way a photographer would!• 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.• Share your pictures with a friend or family member.• No camera? No worries! Go outside to draw or paint a picture of what you see.
Design with Nature Build a Brownie Elf house outdoors. 10 - 15 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Look at the world outdoors and find ways you can design something, too!• 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, pine cones, shells, and anything else you find to shape into a Brownie Elf house.• Make sure to only use items that have fallen, and be careful not to disturb living trees, plants, and flowers
Closing Ceremony Celebrate making art outdoors! 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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!• Join hands to form a Friendship Circle. Ask your troop what they liked the most about their meeting and about their ideas for future meetings.• Sing Make New Friends as you pass the gentle hand squeeze around the circle.

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
- Markers/Pencils
- 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
Opening Ceremony Girl Scout Promise & Law 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As you gather your Brownies into a circle, welcome them and ask how they are doing.• 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.• Tell them that they'll be working on their My Cookie Customers Badge!
Step #1 Learn about Girl Scout Cookies Be a detective 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?• 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.• Fun tip: Play classic detective music!
Step #2 Decide how to use your cookie money Draw a target. 30 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With your troop, brainstorm ideas for your cookie money. Do they 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 Brownies vote on their choices. Then set a troop goal. Track your goals by drawing a target chart.• 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 in your meeting place. Use your target to track your goals!
Step #3 Find customers Make a customer list. 15 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• 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.• 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.



My Cookie Customer

Steps	Directions
Step #4 Handle money and make change Set up a pretend cookie booth. 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• 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.
Step #5 Connect with customers Create a video to inspire customer 5-7 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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!• Help your troop create a "pitch" by writing out what they want to say to their customers. Let Brownies practice in front of each other and give each other feedback. They can improve their pitch, make changes, and try again!• Now help your troop 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!
Closing Ceremony Celebrate making art outdoors! 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congratulations! You have earned the Brownie My Cookie Customer Badge! Good luck with your first cookie sale!• Join hands to form a Friendship Circle. Sing Make New Friends as you pass the gentle hand squeeze around the circle.

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





Pet Badge

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Pet Bingo cards (download on the VTK See page 16)
- Paper
- Coloring supplies
- Computers, smartphones or tablets

Purpose

When Brownies have earned this badge, they'll know how to take care of pets.

Badge Earned



Steps	Directions
Opening Ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather your troop into a circle. Welcome them.• Read/recite with them the Girl Scout Promise and Law, as they make the Girl Scout hand sign.• Tell Brownies that they will be working on their Brownie Pets badge and learning how to care for pets.• Ask, "What is your favorite pet?" Give Brownies time to think and make sure each Brownie has a chance to answer if they wish.
Step #1 Play Bingo at a Veterinarian's office or Pet Supply Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribute Pet Bingo cards to each Brownie• Share that pets are as different as the people who love them.• Have Brownies pick one of the squares on their Bingo card. Then answer these questions about the animal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How much does it cost to care for this pet per year?- How much space does this pet need?- How much food does this pet need per day?- What kind of human contact does this pet like?• When you find the answers to the questions above, make an X on the square. You're finished when you've made one row up, across, or diagonal!
Step #2 Make a cozy sleeping space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask, "Where do pets live? What do they need to be comfortable in their homes?" Let Brownies know that it's okay if they don't know the answer, but encourage them to take a guess. Remind them that taking risks is part of learning and discovery• Share, "If your pet's cage, crate, or tank is dirty, they can get sick. If you want to be a pet owner, you need to know how to keep their space clean and comfortable so your pet can be healthy and happy."• Introduce a kid-friendly video tutorial or guest expert, or you could lead a tutorial yourself that demonstrates how to make a bed or sleeping nook for a pet.• If possible, have Brownies make one of their own.• Ask, "Is cleaning a pet home easier or harder than you thought it would be? Why?"



Pet Badge

Steps	Directions
Step #3 Help a dog get exercise for one week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share, “Just like humans, pets need special care to stay healthy. One of the things we need to stay healthy is exercise.”• Have Brownies pretend they are dog sitting for a friend or family member. Discuss where they would walk a dog in their neighborhood and how much exercise it needs in a week.• Once they make an exercise plan for the week, have them draw pictures of items they’d need to bring with them to keep their pet safe and happy.• Ask, “Can you think of other ways to get pets to move around and exercise?”
Step #4 Learn how different pets communicate their feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask, “What can you do to make a pet feel loved?”• Share that pets need attention and kindness, and lots of time to have fun and play.• Ask, “How do pets communicate their feelings? What sounds do they make? How do they move their bodies?”• On slips of paper, ask Brownies to write down or draw a pet they learned about and a feeling it communicates. Put the slips in a pile and have Brownies pick one at random.• Have Brownies act out how the pet would express that particular feeling. Have the troop guess what pet and feeling is being acted out. Alternatively, you can have Brownies think of a pet and a feeling the pet might express and act it out.• Then have the troop guess what they think the pet and feeling is.• Ask, “How you can use what you know about how pets communicate their feelings to make them feel more loved?”
Step #5 Make a pet budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask, “What foods do pets eat? What are some things pets should not eat?”• Share that one important responsibility of a pet owner is knowing what their pet eats, what it can’t eat, and how much it needs to eat. And, of course, making sure there’s food ready when the pet gets hungry.• Ask, “What are some types of common pets?” Have Brownies vote on the two they’d like to use for the activity. Help them go online to figure out what foods, treats, or vitamins a pet would need for an entire month. Use a large sheet of paper to record the lists.• Ask, “What do you think the total price of all these food items would be for a whole month?”• Help Brownies look up how much each item costs and how much of each item they’d need to feed a pet for a month. Record the prices and quantities on the sheet of paper. Then help your troop work together to add them all up.• Ask, “Does the cost surprise you? Did you think feeding a pet would cost more or less?”
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Say, “Congratulations! You have earned the Brownie Pets Badge. What were your favorite parts about this meeting?”• Join hands to form a Friendship Circle. Sing Make New Friends as you pass the gentle hand squeeze around the circle.

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



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
Opening Ceremony We are Girl Scouts! 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather your troop into a circle. Welcome them. • Read/recite with them the Girl Scout Promise and Law, as they make the Girl Scout hand sign. • 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. • They will be doing activities like looking around, listening to the world, putting their noses to work, tasting and touching.
Step #1 Play a Looking Around Game Girls play a game that tests their sense of sight. 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask Brownies what their sense of sight allows them to do (See!). • Tell them that in this activity, they will play a game, which will require them to rely on their sense of sight. • Place 10 common objects on the table and cover them. • 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. • Ask Brownies to share their lists. Did they all see and remember the same objects? • If there is time, remove one object and see if they can determine which one is missing.
Step #2 Listen to Your World Listen for different sounds 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your troop that hearing is also one of their 5 senses. Ask them what they already know about sound and how their ears and hearing work. • Tell them that they will be listening to sounds and, without peeking, will write draw what they think is making the sound. • Bring a variety of objects, instrument that make noise or bring them outside to listen to sounds outdoors. • Ask Brownies to list as many sounds as they can. • Ask them to share their list/drawings and tell what they heard. • Tell them they did a great job using their hearing! • Ask if they all heard the same sounds and what sounds were different. • Ask what made them notice the sounds that they did hear? What stood out about them?



Senses

Steps	Directions
Step #3 Put Your Nose to Work Try sniffing out 3 different foods 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask your troop about their favorite things to smell.• 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.• 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.• Split your Brownies 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.• Ask them if it was it easy or difficult to guess the food based on the smell and why?• What scents did they recognize right away what did they think helped them recognize some smells more quickly?
Step #4 Take a Taste Test Test your taste buds activity 10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Ask Brownies 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!• Ask one Brownie to close her eyes and place one colored candy in her hand. Without looking have her taste it guess what flavor it was.• Keep track of how many Brownies guess correctly.• Now, have each Brownie 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?• 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.• Ask who'd like to share their drawing with the group?
Step #5 Touch and Feel Touching scavenger hunt 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask your troop, how do you use your hands and fingers to use your sense of touch, which helps you feel different textures or surfaces.• Create small slips of paper with words like smooth, rough, sticky, bumpy, hard, soft, squishy, fuzzy, etc.• Brownies can pick a word and try to find an example in the room by touching surfaces with their fingers.
Closing Ceremony Celebrate what you have learned! 5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Say: Congratulations! You have earned the Brownie Senses 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!• Join hands to form a Friendship Circle. Ask them what they liked the most about their meeting and about their ideas for future meetings.• Sing Make New Friends as you pas the gentle hand squeeze around the circle.


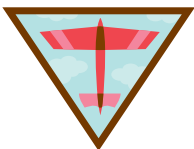








Additional Activities for Another Meeting

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

BROWNIE
Year Plan
2
Try and
Explore

Your Awesome Year as a Girl Scout Volunteer

Third-grade Brownies are proud of their abilities and excited to show the world what they're made of. Whether they're flexing their business skills at a cookie booth or learning how to help in emergency situations, they're taking pride in who they are and what they have to offer their community. As their leader, you'll be amazed at your Brownies' capabilities and bravery in trying new things. This guide will help you as your Girl Scouts explore activities focused on discovery, confidence, and practical skills that will help them become their best selves. When you use this plan to map out your 90-minute meetings and activities, you'll see just how simple it can be to make a huge difference in your Girl Scouts' lives. Get ready for a year of adventure and excitement as you help them grow.

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to troop 	 <p>Two meetings plus service project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flying Flyer (parts one and two) • Hunger Service Project 	 <p>Two meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate Community (parts one and two) 	 <p>One meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookie Entrepreneur Family Pin
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p>Two meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookie Decision Maker (Parts one and two) 	 <p>Two meetings plus event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Friends (parts one and two) • World Thinking Day event 	 <p>Two meetings plus field trip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senses (parts one and two) • Field trip 	 <p>Two meetings plus field trip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid (part one) • Service project • Field trip
<p>COOKIE TIME</p> <p>The cookie program helps troops pay for things like field trips, badges, supplies, and celebrations. Reach out to your council to learn more about how to participate and when your local cookie season starts. You may need to adjust the recommended order of earning the cookie badges in your year plan.</p>		<p>My council cookie sale dates:</p>	
MAY	SUMMER	<p>Choose a way to get started...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Access online instructions to plan your activities through the free Volunteer Toolkit (myGS.girlscouts.org). Simply log in, choose "Explore," then "Pre-Selected Tracks." Once you're there, you'll find "TRY AND EXPLORE". Select that and you're set! • Option 2: Shop our printed activities at girlscoutshop.com/troop-year-plans. 	
 <p>One meeting plus celebration and overnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid (part two) • End-of-year bridging celebration • Overnight trip 	 <p>Two activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag Ceremony • Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge 		

Tips and Resources

- When you have the opportunity to get outside, go or a small trip, or simply meet in a new space, do it! Shaking things up once in a while keeps things exciting.
- Check with your council to see if they're offering events or activities that your troop could attend. Those events make your life easier and allow your troop to connect with other Girl Scouts from their area.

- Discover more possibilities for your troop at Girl Scout Badge Explorer (girlscouts.org/badgeexplorer).
- Stay up to date with then latest in Girl Scout activities (girlscouts.org/newactivities).
- Find fun videos, how-to's, and more at Girl Scout Activity Zone (girlscouts.org/activityzone).

- Shop year plan printed resources at girlscoutshop.com/troop-year-plans.



Girl Scouts Choose

If one of the recommended badges is not the right fit, or if you want to give your Girl Scouts the chance to shape their own experience, have them vote to choose a different badge within the same focus area. Check out our [Award and Badge Explorer](#) for other badge favorites, our latest release of [new programs](#), or visit the [Girl Scout Activity Zone](#).

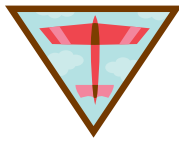
STEM



or

- Fling Flyer Design
- Brownie Inventor
- Brownie Letterbox
- Digital Leadership

Outdoors



or

- Hiker
- Senses
- Cabin Camper
- Brownie Trail Adventure

Life Skills



or

- Resilient. Ready. Strong. (patch)
- First Aid
- Painting
- Pets

Entrepreneurship



or

- Cookie Decision Maker
- Budget Builder
- My Own Budget
- Budding Entrepreneur

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

Website: gswny.org

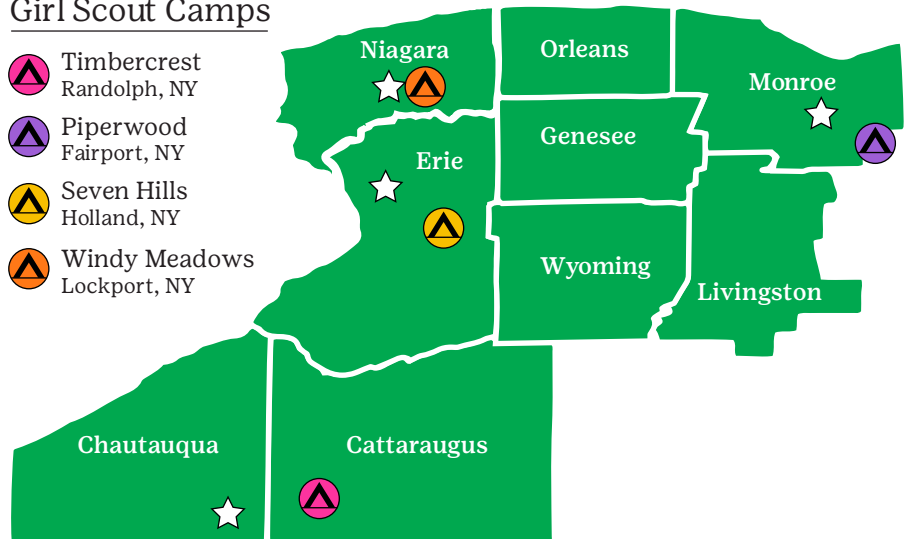
Our Council Map

Visit 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

