



My First Year Guide

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

girl scouts 
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 Troop
- **Develop** your own organizational and leadership skills
- **Join** a global community of sisterhood

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 the trefoil throughout the book, it is used to highlight what makes our organization different and why it is so valuable to your girl.

Thank you!

Welcome to the great adventure that is Girl Scouting! Thanks to volunteers like you, generations of Girl Scouts 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.

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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 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 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 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 10.

Your Troop's Support System

Girl Scouts is all about sisterhood. As the leader of a Daisy 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.

Check out page 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, camping, 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!

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.

Kick off the year with a Parent/Caregiver Meeting!

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 7, 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 7, 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 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

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, she 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: _____

Daisy Grade Level Essentials

(Grades K-1) | Characteristics of a Daisy Girl Scout

At this level, Girl Scouts...	This means...
Have lots of energy and need to run, walk, and play outside.	Daisies will enjoy going on nature walks and outdoor adventures.
Are great builders and budding artists, though they are still developing their fine motor skills.	Encourage Daisies to express themselves by making things with their hands. Daisies may need help holding scissors, cutting in a straight line, and so on.
Love engaging activities with lots of movement.	They'll 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 by planning a visit to an animal shelter or zoo.
Are beginning to learn basic number concepts, time and money.	Take opportunities to count out supplies together (and maybe even the legs of a caterpillar!)
Are beginning to write and spell and don't always have the words for what they are thinking and feeling.	Drawing a picture of what Daisies are trying to communicate can be easier and more meaningful for them.
Know how to follow simple directions and respond well to recognition for doing so.	Be specific and offer one direction at a time. Acknowledge when Daisies have followed directions well to 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 Daisies draw a picture of something they are trying to communicate is easier and more meaningful for them.

Tips for working with Daisies

- Develop a friendly relationship with each Daisy
- Talk to Daisies at their eye level
- Use simple words and quiet, pleasant tones
- Be flexible – Daisy attention spans are short
- Tasks might take longer than you anticipate
- Encourage Daisies to solve problems
- Keep troop meetings to about an hour long
- Offer a snack -- especially if meeting after school
Daisies will be hungry and will need some time to talk and release some energy
- Show where bathrooms and exits are located
- Keep activities short and varied

Daisy Circle

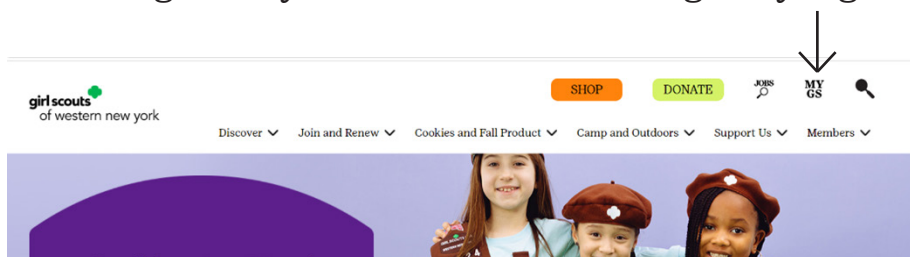
As the troop leader, your goal is to act increasingly as facilitator, enabling Daisies to take the lead and experience planning, decision-making, problem solving, leadership, and yes, even failure! Our favorite way to help Daisies take the lead is with a Daisy Circle. Aim to include a Daisy Circle in your troop meetings:

1. Have Daisies form a circle and share their ideas
2. Stimulate discussion by asking concrete questions:
“What would you like most: Go on a hike or build a robot?”
3. Allow Daisies to vote on activities they'd like to do for the next month

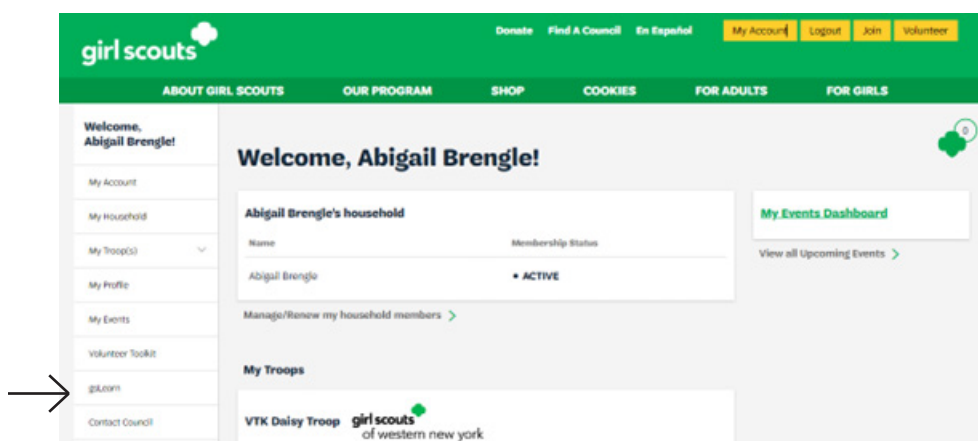
gsLearn

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



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 Finances page on our website, 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 Girl Scouts are welcome and no one is ever turned away for financial reasons.

Volunteer Essentials

For full information about financial guidelines, 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 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 or 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 9) 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 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?

The short answer is, no. 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, aiming to empower girls through the development of five essentials skills: Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills and Business Ethics. Girls will 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!

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.

Daisy Field Trips

Get Out and Explore!

Taking one or two field trips during your first Daisy year is an exciting way for Daisies to learn new things about their community, practice new skills, and gain confidence.

Planning a Field Trip

- Consider attending a local council event. Or visit places in your community that connect to a petal or badge. For example, visit a fire station to complete your Respect Authority petal.
- Involve your Daisies in planning. Talk as a troop about how you'll travel to the location, what you'll need to bring, and what questions you will ask the people you meet. Daisies can also help make their packing list.
- Plan to cover the cost of the field trip using troop dues or product program proceeds. Deciding on a field trip is a great way to help Daisies set a cookie sales goal.

Safety Checklist

Discuss safety with Daisies before your trip.

Adults are responsible for safety, but Daisies are part of the plan, too! Talk about how Girl Scouts always use the “buddy system” (every Daisy always has a buddy), and why it's important to listen to troop leaders and other adult helpers during the trip.

Keep parents/caregivers informed.

You may choose to invite all parents/caregivers on your first few field trips to build community among the troop. You could also ask just a few parents/caregivers to be chaperones.

Review Safety Activity Checkpoints.

Find the document on the Safety page of [gswny.org](https://www.gswny.org). Be sure to read the Introduction—Standard Safety Guidelines, especially the Checklist for Drivers, if troop volunteers will be driving anywhere. If you are doing an activity that has its own checkpoint (e.g., Community Clean Ups, Hiking), skip to that checkpoint for additional guidance.

Plan for health.

Make sure you have a trained first-aider attending, and plan to bring all completed parent/caregiver permission forms and health history forms on your trip.

Reflection

Talking about what they experienced after the trip helps Daisies learn and build confidence.

Ask questions like:

- *Did we follow our plan?*
- *Did we have to make any changes to the plan?*
- *What went well?*
- *What might we do differently next time we take a field trip?*
- *Did you do anything for the very first time?*

Going and Growing

- After your Daisies are expert day-trippers, you can start to plan an overnight experience for next year, giving them more responsibility for planning.
- Your field trip is the first step of the Girl Scout travel Progression, which offers a world of possibility for your Girl Scouts!

Visit [girlscouts.org/travel](https://www.girlscouts.org/travel) to learn more.



Girl Scout Ceremonies

Investiture



An investiture ceremony is a ceremony that honors Girl Scouts of all ages officially into the Girl Scout and Girl Guide family. The investiture part is where Girl Scouts say the Girl Scout Promise and are invested into Girl Scouts receiving their daisy membership and world trefoil pins. There is no “right way” for girls to be invested, as long as each girl has a chance to make her Promise and receive both of her pins. Typical Girl Scout investiture ceremonies are made up of three parts:

Opening: begins the ceremony

Main: the reason for holding the ceremony

Closing: ends the ceremony

During your Daisy investiture ceremony, you will pin girls with the Daisy Girl Scout Pin. View a sample Daisy Investiture Ceremony on gswny.org!

Bridging



Girl Scout Daisies Bridge to Brownies between 1st and 2nd grade.

Bridging from one level of Girl Scouting to another are important transitions in the life of a Girl Scout. This is the opportunity for Girl Scouts to look back at their accomplishments as a Daisy and look forward toward the new adventures and

challenges that lie ahead as a Brownie. A Daisy who continues with Girl Scouts and bridges to Brownies can earn a special Bridge to Brownie Arc that they will wear on their Brownie uniform. The arc signifies that the Girl Scout has been a Daisy Girl Scout.

A Daisy Bridging Ceremony is available through the GSWNY website. One important component of Bridging is talking to an older troop to learn and get excited about being a Brownie. Contact sister troops within your Service Unit to get started!

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!”

Visit gswny.org/volunteerbasics for more ceremony resources!

Daisy Uniform

Insignia, Pin, and Badge Placement

Daisy Tunic



Daisy Vest



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 Daisy Year at a Glance

Troop Meetings

Each month, you and your troop will aim to hold two meetings

Meeting 1: Petal Meeting

Earn petals by completing fun activities to learn about the Girl Scout Law. Below is a list of all the Daisy petals.

Promise Center

Honest and Fair

Friendly and Helpful

Considerate and Caring

Courageous and Strong

Responsible for What I Say and Do

Respect Myself and Others

Respect Authority

Use Resources Wisely

Make the World a Better Place

Be a Sister to Every Girl Scout

Meeting 2: Girl Scouts' 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



Daisy Financial Literacy Leaf



Badge in a Box



GSWNY Patch Program

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 the Girl Scout's Birthday) (3/7-3/12)
- Girl Scout's Birthday (3/12)

April-August

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

1 | Promise Center: Introductory Caregiver Meeting

Materials:

- Girl Scout Family Promise*
- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Name Tag Template*
- Scissors
- Glue
- Yarn

*found in the VTK, see page 15

This Week's Petal:



Welcome & Caregiver Meeting Agenda

- Introduce yourself to your Daisies and their caregivers and have them do the same
- Discuss building your troop team *see page 7 of guide

Step 1: Practice Girl Scout Traditions

Daisy Circle

Girls come together to share thoughts and ideas and make plans for their troop.

Girl Scout Hand Sign

While reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law, hold up your right hand with the three middle fingers up and hold your thumb and pinky finger together.

Quiet Sign

When Girl Scouts see a hand raised, they raise their hand and wait quietly while others do the same.

Practice the Quiet Sign

- Have everyone stand up and wiggle, jump in place, make lots of noise
- Raise the Quiet Sign, encourage the girls to stop what they are doing, raise their own hands, and be quiet.

Step 2: Create Daisy Name Tags

- Have girls color their names on the Daisy name tag
- Cut out and glue the Girl Scout Promise to the back of the tag and tie a piece of yarn to the top

Step 3: Daisy to Daisy Game - Girl Scout Handshake Tradition

- Daisies make the Girl Scout sign with their right hands and shake hands using their left
- Daisies introduce themselves to their partner and tell her something about herself
- Give them more directions such as: Touch your partner elbow-to-elbow, saying Elbow-to-elbow! Now try knee-to-knee!
- When you say Daisy to Daisy, the girls scurry and find a brand-new partner. Repeat until all of your girls have met each other!

Closing Ceremony

- Ensure your caregivers have all of the information they need, collect health and permission forms
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing "Make New Friends" and passing a gentle squeeze around the circle (page 15)

2 | Next Meeting: Girl Scout's choice!

Talk to your troop about what they'd like to do for the second meeting of the month. Choose from:



See pages 19-27 for more

3 | Honest and Fair

Welcome: Once everyone is present, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law together.

Say: *Daisies who are honest and fair keep their promises, tell the truth, follow the rules, and share. They try to make sure everyone is included.*

Step 1: Discover what it means to be honest

Say: *Being honest means telling the truth and not hiding important things from others. When you are honest, people know they can trust you.*

Play the Truth or Lie Game:

- Have Daisies think of one true fact about themselves. Then have them make up a lie. Give your Daisies examples like: “My favorite color is... food is... sport is... song is... school subject is... etc.”
- The Daisies guess which one is the lie.
- Talk about if it is easier to tell the truth or to lie. Talk about why lying can be hurtful. You can ask Has someone ever told you a lie? How did that make you feel?

Step 2: Find out what it means to be fair

Say: *What does it mean to be fair? Being fair means sharing with others. It also means following the rules and including everyone. Being fair makes things more fun! In this step, let's practice being fair with each other.*

Have some trick-or-treat fun.

Help your Daisies divide up treats for the group. They can fill paper cups with varying amounts of small treats. Help the Daisies determine how to make the situation fair.

Closing Ceremony

Close with a Friendship Circle, remind the girls what they have learned and experienced, sing “Make New Friends,” and pass a gentle hand squeeze around the circle.

Materials:

- Small Treats
- Paper Cups

This Week's Petal:



Step 3: Put it into practice

Say: *What is the best way to show what you learned about something? You can show others what you learned by actually doing it! Now that we know what it means to be honest and fair, you can show what you learned with this step.*

Play a new game.

Read and discuss the rules of Skippyroo from Australia.

Rules:

- Sit in a circle and an adult picks one person, the Skippyroo, to crouch in the middle.
- Skippyroo closes her eyes while the others chant: “Skippyroo, kangaroo, dozing in the midday sun, here comes a hunter, run, run, run.”
- The adult taps another player’s shoulder who says, “Guess who’s caught you just for fun?” Skippyroo tries to guess whose voice they hear and swaps places if correct.
- The game repeats until everyone has a chance to be Skippyroo.
- After the game, ask: Did it feel like everyone was honest and fair? Did it make the game more or less fun? Why?

4 | Next Meeting: Girl Scout's choice!

Talk to your troop about what they'd like to do for the second meeting of the month. Choose from:



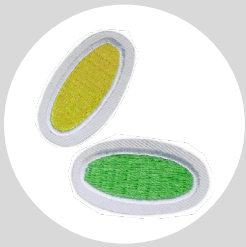
See pages 19-27 for more

5 | Friendly & Helpful Considerate & Caring

Materials:

- Crayons
- Markers
- White paper
- Paper bags
- Ball

This Week's Petals:



Welcome: Once everyone is present, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law together.

Say: *When we say the Girl Scout Law, we promise to try to be friendly, helpful, considerate and caring. Daisies who do this make everyone feel included. They find different ways to be there for others.*

Step 1: Be friendly, helpful, considerate, and caring at home

Say: *You can always find ways to lend a helping hand at home! When you're part of a family, you're part of a team. In a team, everyone needs to do their part. What is one way you help at home?*

Create a Bag of Kindness

- Have the Daisies to draw pictures or words of their ideas on strips of paper. They can also add notes of kind messages such as "I love you" with a heart. They can put these paper strips into a paper bag that they decorate to share with their friends and families.
- Discuss how it feels to help people and why it is important to help their family and friends. How does it make them feel when their parent or friend helped them?

Step 2: Be friendly and helpful in your troop

Say: *There's no better place to practice the Girl Scout Law than in your Daisy troop! What are things you do to help your Daisy friends?*

Play a rapid-fire game

Say: *Part of friendship is learning about each other. Let's form a circle with our Daisy friends. One person will start by holding a ball. Pass the ball around the circle as each person answers a question. Try to get the ball around the circle as fast as you can!*

Rapid Fire Questions Examples: How old are you? How many siblings do you have? What is something you are really good at? What do you want to be when you grow up? What was the best part of your day? What are you thankful for?

Closing Ceremony

Close with a Friendship Circle, remind the girls what they have learned and experienced, sing "Make New Friends," and pass a gentle hand squeeze around the circle.

Step 3: Be friendly, helpful, considerate, and caring in your community

Ask: *What is a community? A community is a group of people that have something in common. They could live in the same place, like the same things, or have the same job. Being part of a community means finding ways to help others when they need it.*

Ask: *What could you do to help your community? Think of something you could do with your Daisy friends. Is there something your community needs?*

Here are some ideas: collecting cans of food or clothing for a local food pantry, cleaning up trash, sharing information about a problem in the community with others. Make a plan for who you will help and how. Make a goal with your troop to complete your plan by the end of the Girl Scout year. (The plan doesn't need to be executed for them to earn the petal badge.)

6 | Next Meeting: Girl Scout's choice!

Talk to your troop about what they'd like to do for the second meeting of the month. Choose from:



See pages 19-27 for more

7 | Courageous & Strong

Welcome: Once everyone is present, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law together.

Say: *When you say the Girl Scout Law, you promise to try to be courageous and strong. Daisies who are courageous and strong try new things. They stand up for themselves and others.*

Step 1: Find examples of courage and strength

Say: *People show bravery and strength every day. You can learn what it means to be courageous and strong by looking at what other people do. This is not just about physical strength. Strong people speak up for others, try new things, or help their family during challenging times.*

Draw a scene. Have Daisies think of a character they love from a book, show, or movie and draw something they did that was courageous and strong. Have Daisies share their art project with a friend or family member and talk about how her character is brave and strong.

Say: *Courageous means being brave. A Daisy with courage chooses to do something even if it seems a little scary. Being strong means having confidence. Strong Daisies share their thoughts and feelings with others. Being brave is also part of being strong. Listen to a story about Malala Yousafzai and learn how she was courageous and brave:*

Malala grew up in Pakistan. When Malala was 11 years old, girls were stopped from going to school in her country. Malala stood up for herself and other girls in her country, even though it was dangerous. One way she spoke out was by writing stories about her life using a fake name. On her sixteenth birthday, Malala made a speech at the United Nations about why allowing girls to go to school is important. The United Nations is a group of people that helps keep the world fair and peaceful. She started her own organization to help girls around the world go to school. Malala is known as one of the most courageous and strongest female leaders. She is a great example of how girls can make a difference in the world!

Step 2: Honor courageous and strong people

Say: *Courageous and strong people can be found all around you! Do you know someone brave and confident? They could be a friend or family member. What about a teacher or neighbor? Let's celebrate people who are courageous and strong!*

Make a medal of honor. Ask Daisies if they know a courageous and strong person. Create a medal for them using a paper plate and ribbon, or some quick drying clay. Have Daisies give their medals to that person and tell them why they consider them courageous and strong!

Step 3: Practice being courageous and strong

Say: *Now it's your turn! Try acting out these scenes to show how you can be courageous and strong!*

- Your friend is waiting to use a swing on the playground, but someone else takes the swing before them.
- You notice the new student at your school is alone on the playground.
- Your friend invites everyone in your class to their birthday party, except one person.
- One of your soccer teammates laughs every time another teammate misses a goal. After the game, ask: "Why is it important to stand up for others?"

Materials:

- Small paper plates or quick drying clay
- Coloring supplies
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Hole punch

This Week's Petal:



Closing Ceremony

Have Daisies share their medals of honor with each other, then close with a Friend-ship Circle, sing "Make New Friends," and pass a gentle hand squeeze around the circle.

8 | Next Meeting: Girl Scout's choice!

Talk to your troop about what they'd like to do for the second meeting of the month. Choose from:



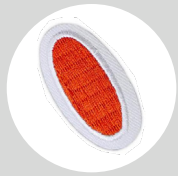
See pages 19-27 for more

9 | Responsible for What I Say and Do

Materials:

- Pencils
- Paper coloring supplies
- Paper

This Week's Petal:



Step 2: Be responsible for what you do

Say: *What does it mean to be responsible for what you do? When you agree to do something and then do it, people know they can count on you. That's being responsible for your actions! In this step, we'll do an activity that shows how being responsible with our actions can also be fun.*

Play the Responsibility Game

Help Daisies brainstorm their responsibilities at home, at school or during their Girl Scout meetings. Write down any their ideas. Help facilitate the game by calling out the responsibilities.

Ask: *"What is one new responsible action you can do this week? Were there things you were supposed to do that you couldn't do? What stopped you from doing them?"*

Welcome: Once everyone is present, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law together.

Say: *When you say the Girl Scout Law, you promise to try to be responsible for what you say and do. Daisies who are responsible for what they say and do think about how they make others feel. They do the things they say they will do and they don't blame others for their mistakes.*

Step 1: Be responsible for what you say

Say: *Words are powerful. They can change how we feel and think. That's why it's important to choose your words carefully. Why do you think it's important to be responsible with your words?*

Play word travel

Being responsible with your words means doing your best not to hurt others. When words are passed from person to person, their meaning can be changed.

Form a Friendship Circle with your Daisies. Choose one person to whisper a positive message to the next person. Keep passing the message all the way around the circle. Ask: Does the last person hear the same message? Or did the message change along the way? How can you avoid spreading false or changed information?

Say: *The words we use can make others feel good. Sometimes, they can also hurt. Read each sentence below. Which sentence says something kind? Can you think of others?*

- Thank you!
- You're a good friend
- Your drawing is ugly
- Your smile makes me happy
- That was a brave thing to do
- That's so dumb

Step 3: Be responsible in your community

Ask: *How can you show your community you care? Your family, school, Daisy troop, and neighborhood are your communities. You can be responsible in your communities by showing you care, making it better, and helping others.*

Make a pledge. Come up with three ideas that are feasible ways for your troop to help their community. Let the Daisies vote on which activity they would like to do. They can plan by drawing a picture of what they plan to do. Plan for your troop to fulfill the pledge within the Girl Scout year.

Closing Ceremony

Close with a Friendship Circle, remind the Daisies of the pledge they made, sing "Make New Friends," and pass a gentle hand squeeze around the circle.

10 | Next Meeting: Girl Scout's choice!

Talk to your troop about what they'd like to do for the second meeting of the month. Choose from:



See pages 19-27 for more

11 | Respect Myself & Others - Respect Authority

Welcome: Once everyone is present, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law together.

Say: *When you say the Girl Scout Law, you promise to try to respect yourself and others, and to respect authority. Daisies respect themselves and others by showing love and being thoughtful. They respect authority by following rules and laws that keep us safe.*

Step 1: Show respect for yourself

Say: *You are special! When you think and talk about yourself, try being as kind as you would be to a friend. You can also show respect for yourself through your actions. Respecting yourself means that you love yourself. In this step, find out how you can take care of yourself, inside and out! Say and think kind words about yourself. You can also show respect for yourself through your actions. In this step, we'll figure out some ways we can take care of ourselves on the inside and outside!*

Make a respect myself checklist. Have Daisies think about ways they can take care of themselves at home. Make a list with drawings of each action. Daisies could draw a toothbrush to remind themselves to care for their teeth, or draw a stuffed animal to take care of their feelings. Have Daisies hang the list at home as a reminder to respect herself every day, making a check mark next to each action every time you do it.

Step 2: Learn how to respect others and your community

Say: *You can show respect to others with your words and actions. What are some ways you show respect to others? You can say please and thank you or listen carefully when someone is speaking.*

Write thank-you notes. Saying thank you is a way to show respect for a person who has done something nice for you. When you say thank you, it lets them know you are grateful! Ask Daisies to think about someone who helped them or did something for them in the past. Have Daisies write or draw them a thank-you note.

Ask: *How do you think the note will make them feel? How does it make you feel to say thank you?*

Closing Ceremony

Close with a Friendship Circle, sing "Make New Friends," and pass a hand squeeze around the circle.

Encourage the Daisies to show respect towards each other by being gentler when they squeeze hands.

Materials:

- Paper, pencils
- Paper coloring supplies
- Emoji faces

This Week's Petals:



Step 3: Respect authority

Say: *Respecting authority can help keep you safe in your city or town. What would happen if there were no rules or laws?*

Ask: *What are rules or laws you follow in public? In this step, we'll find out how respecting rules and laws in public can help keep you safe in your city or town.*

Play rules and laws charades. Before the meeting, draw or print pictures of different safety rules and laws on separate sheets of paper. Ask the Daisies to act these out (like putting on a helmet while riding a bike). Have Daisies guess what each troop member is acting out.

Ask: *Why do you think these laws or rules are important?*

12 | Next Meeting: Girl Scout's choice!

Talk to your troop about what they'd like to do for the second meeting of the month. Choose from:



See pages 19-27 for more

13 | Use Resources Wisely

Materials:

- Paper, crayons
- Stickers
- Colored tape (masking, duct, or washi)
- Markers
- Bin/box
- Pictures of recyclable materials
- Glue Stick

This Week's Petal:



Welcome: Once everyone is present, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law together.

Say: *When you say the Girl Scout Law, you promise to try to use resources wisely. Daisies who use resources wisely know their actions can help protect nature.*

Step 1: Reduce your use

Say: *Earth is our home. If we all work together, we can take care of our planet! Earth only has limited natural resources—like trees and water—so it's important not to use too much*

Find ways to save natural resources

Ask: *What is a natural resource? Explain what resources are. Include energy. Share that energy is power that goes through wires or batteries to make televisions, cell phones, lights, and other electronics work.*

Then ask: *What could we do in our meeting space to use resources wisely? Have Daisies look at their space to help them brainstorm. Help them make signs that remind themselves how to save resources.*

Step 2: Reuse everyday things

Say: *What does reusing something mean? When you find a new way to use an object, it's called reusing.*

Give Daisies a new item to use.

Ask: *How could you turn this item into something new and useful? Help Daisies create their ideas and have them share their creations with the group. Discuss ways they've reused things in the past.*

Step 3: Recycle what is left

Ask: *What is recycling? What things can we recycle? Recycling uses materials that would be thrown out to make new items! Some items made from plastic, metal, and paper can be recycled. For example, you can recycle plastic water bottles, metal cans, and newspaper.*

Make a recycling bin craft.

- Have Daisies ask an adult about what things can be recycled in her area.
- Have Daisies cut out photos or draw pictures of items that should be recycled. Glue or tape them to a bin or box that they can use to make a recycling bin for home or for your meeting space. You notice the new student at your school is alone on the playground.
- Now you will always know what should be put inside! Use your bin to collect recycling whenever you can.

Closing Ceremony

Close with a Friendship Circle, sing "Make New Friends," and pass a hand squeeze around the circle. Encourage the Daisies bring their recycled craft home to remind them about recycling and using resources wisely.

14 Next Meeting: Girl Scout's choice!

Talk to your troop about what they'd like to do for the second meeting of the month. Choose from:



See pages 19-27 for more

15 | Make the World a Better Place

Welcome: Once everyone is present, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law together.

Say: *When you say the Girl Scout Law, you promise to try to make the world a better place. There are many ways a Daisy can do that! You can help your community, protect the environment, or take action to fix important problems.*

Step 1: Start with your community

Say: *The first place you can make better is your community. A community is a group of people that have something in common. They could live in the same place, like the same things, or have the same job. Your community includes your home, neighborhood, school, sports team, and Daisy troop.*

Ask: *Is there something you want to fix in your neighborhood? If time allows, have Daisies make a model or drawing that shows how their idea works. Encourage them to share their ideas in small groups. They could use modeling clay, building blocks, or paper and coloring supplies*

Step 2: Protect the environment

Say: *The Earth is our home. It gives us many things we need to live. Water, sunlight, plants, and animals are part of nature. But, sometimes, people do things that can hurt nature, like cutting down lots of trees and creating pollution. These are some other things you can do to protect your environment:*

- Turn off the lights when you leave a room to save energy
- Walk or ride your bike instead of taking a car or bus to reduce pollution
- Plant a tree
- Take short showers to save water
- Reduce the amount of plastic you use, like straws, bottles, and spoons
- Leave no trace when you're outdoors
- Unplug chargers when you're not using them to save energy. Have Daisies ask an adult about what things can be recycled in her area.
- Use reusable bags to lessen plastic bags in the environment
- Use both sides of your paper to save trees

Closing Ceremony

Congratulate the Daisies for working to make the world a better place! Close with a Friendship Circle, sing "Make New Friends," and pass a hand squeeze around the circle.

Materials:

- Modeling clay
- Building blocks
- Paper
- Coloring

This Week's Petal:



Step 3: Be a change maker

Say: *Daisies don't have to be an adult to make change happen! Change is created by people who speak up and take action. In activity, we'll learn how to make a difference beyond where we live.*

Be president for a day.

Ask: *How would you make the world a better place for everyone?*

- Have Daisies talk about it together and vote on one thing they want to change together.
- With an adult's help, have Daisies make a short video or write a letter to send to their local government representative (such as your mayor, congressperson, or state representative), or invite them to your meeting.
- Explain why the change you want to make is important.

16 | Next Meeting: Girl Scout's choice!

Talk to your troop about what they'd like to do for the second meeting of the month. Choose from:



See pages 19-27 for more

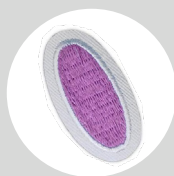
17 | Be a Sister to Every Girl Scout

Materials:

- Girl Scout Promise & Law*
- Vi the Violet Coloring Sheet*
- Vi's Story*
- Crayons
- Colorful Beads (Including purple and green)
- Elastic Cord
- Poster Board
- Drawing Paper
- Stickers
- Tape

*found in the VTK, see page 15

This Week's Petal:



Activity 3: Hands Across the Daisy World Mural

- Help the girls make a poster that will show solidarity with other Girl Scouts
- The girls can trace each other's hands (with fingers touching) and decorate them with stickers or crayons
- Write the phrase "Hands Across the Daisy World" on the poster
- You can display it at your meetings to remind all to be a sister to every Girl Scout

Activity 1: Welcome

- As girls arrive, lead them in making bracelets: Make one bracelet using Vi the Violet's colors - purple and bright green. Then make another bracelet, in any colors you want, for a Girl Scout sister.
- Optional: have girls color the Vi the Violet coloring sheet as they arrive

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

- Gather the girls into a circle to read the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Tell girls they'll be learning more about being a sister to every Girl Scout
- Share Bracelets. **Tell your girls:** *Today you'll earn your Vi Petal, which stands for being a sister to every Girl Scout! That's another way of saying that you should always treat other Girl Scouts with kindness and respect. To show kindness, let's offer our colored bracelet to the girl on your right. This bracelet will remind you of sisterhood.*
- What other ways have you shown kindness and respect to another Girl Scout?
- Read Vi's Story, Friends Around the World.

After the story, ask the girls:

- How were the flowers from other countries the same as the Flower Friends from home?
- How were they different?
- Which country do you want to know more about? Why?
- How can you show you are a sister to every Girl Scout?

Activity 4: Closing Ceremony

- Form a Friendship Circle
- Say something like:
 - * Great job, everyone! Imagine that all the hands in this mural connect to all the hands of Girl Scouts around the world! How exciting would that be? As a Girl Scout, you are part of a worldwide group of sisters. Try and remember to act like a sister to every Girl Scout when a new Daisy joins your troop and when you attend Daisy meetings.
- Close with a Friendship Circle, singing "Make New Friends" and passing a gentle squeeze around the circle (page 15)

18 | Next Meeting: Girl Scout's choice!

Talk to your troop about what they'd like to do for the second meeting of the month. Choose from:






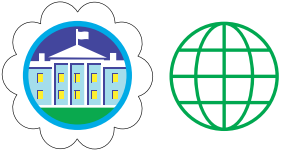

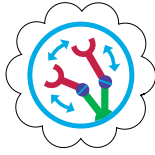


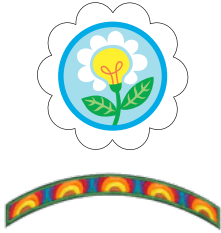

See pages 19-27 for more

Your Second Year as a Girl Scout Volunteer

DAISY Year Plan 2 Fun and Friendship

Daisies are excited to embark on new adventures, make friends, and spread fun wherever they go. As their leader, you get a front-row seat! You will guide your Girl Scouts through activities focused on giving them the social and practical skills that will serve them as they start school and discover all they can do and be. When you use this plan to map out your 60-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 giggles and wonder as you help them grow.

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to troop and family meeting 	 <p>Two meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shapes in Nature (parts one and two) 	 <p>Two meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Neighbor (parts one and two) 	 <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 Goal-Setter (parts one and two) 	 <p>Two meetings plus event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy for Daisies (parts one and two) • World Thinking Day event 	 <p>Two meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Art Maker (parts one and two) 	 <p>Two meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a Robot (parts one and two)
<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>Two meetings plus celebration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toy Business (parts one and two) • End-of-year and bridging celebration 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge

Choose a way to get started...

- **Option 1:** Access free online instructions to lead each of these meetings through the free Volunteer Toolkit (myGS.girlscouts.org). Simply log in, choose "Explore," then "Pre-Selected Tracks." Once you're there, you'll find "Fun and Friendship." Select that you're set!
- **Option 2:** Shop printed badge booklets, badges, and resources at girlscoutshop.com/troop-year-plans.

Tips and Resources

- When you have the opportunity to get outside, go for 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 life easier for you and allow

your troop to connect with other Girl Scouts from their area.

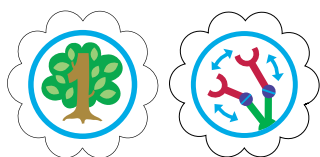
- Shop year plan printed resources at girlscoutshop.com/troop-year-plans.



Girl Scouts Choose

If one of the recommended options 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 or activity within the same focus area. Get the details on badges on our Award and Badge Explorer page (girlscouts.org/badgeexplorer). For information on patch programs, visit the Girl Scout Activity Zone (girlscouts.org/en/activity-zone/explore-girl-scouts.html).

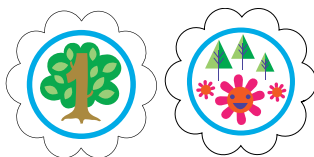
STEM



or

- Automotive Design
- Coding Basics
- Space Science Explorer
- Digital Leadership

Outdoors



or

- Eco Learner
- Daisy Trail Adventure
- Buddy Camper

Life Skills



or

- Ready. Resilient. Strong. (patch)
- Community Celebrations (patches)

Entrepreneurship



or

- Money Explorer
- My First Cookie Business
- My Money Choices

Troop Year Plans

As your troop grows, year plans are available for every year of Girl Scouting. Follow these plans to a T, or use them as inspiration.

<https://www.gswny.org/en/members/for-volunteers/troop-year-planner.html>



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

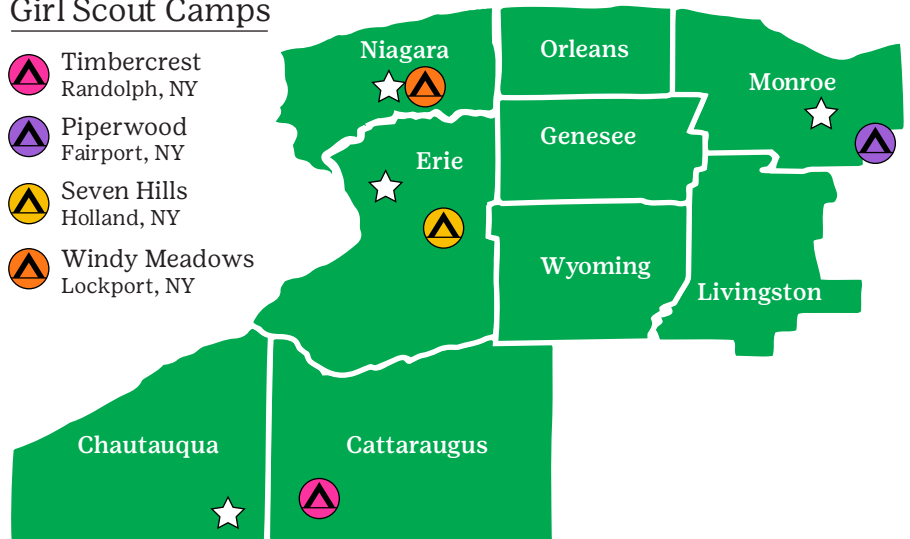
Our Council Map

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

