

Junior Grade Level Essentials

(Grades 4-5) | Characteristics of a Junior Girl Scout

| At this level, Girl Scouts... | This means... |
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| Are now able to perceive beyond the here and now | Encourage your troop to find ways to benefit their broader communities now and in the future. |
| Have vivid imaginations, enjoy humor, but can also be critical of themselves | Remind Juniors that everyone makes mistakes, and that's okay! We often learn the most from mistakes |
| Are able to see the "big picture" and are especially interested in fairness | Discuss how to ensure fairness for all by having Juniors develop their own troop guidelines and rules |
| Might be entering puberty and might be sensitive to their changing bodies | Create an environment that acknowledges and celebrates these changes as healthy and normal |
| Are independent and eager to try new things and learn new skills | Encourage your troop to try new things by working on new badges, field trips, and outdoor experiences |

Tips for working with Juniors

- At this age, group dynamics become more complex. Forming different groups for various activities is a great way to get Juniors involved and discourage the formation of cliques.
- Let each individual Junior shine by teaching their fellow troop members cool new skills. Get to know each member of your troop and help them reach their potential and feel positively about themselves.
- Ensure an emotionally safe space for your troop, by listening first before talking. This gives Juniors space to express themselves without being told how they are feeling.
- Never quash Juniors' emotions or tell them what they feel isn't a big deal. Rather, help them understand their feelings and work through the issue.

The Bronze Award

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

Steps you'll take to earn the Girl Scouts Bronze Award:

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

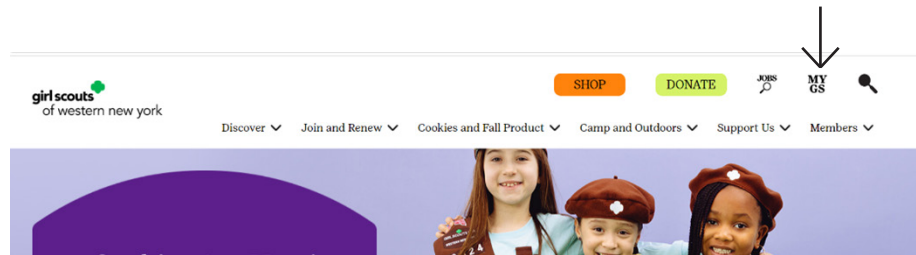


Learn more about the Bronze Award www.gswny.org/bronze

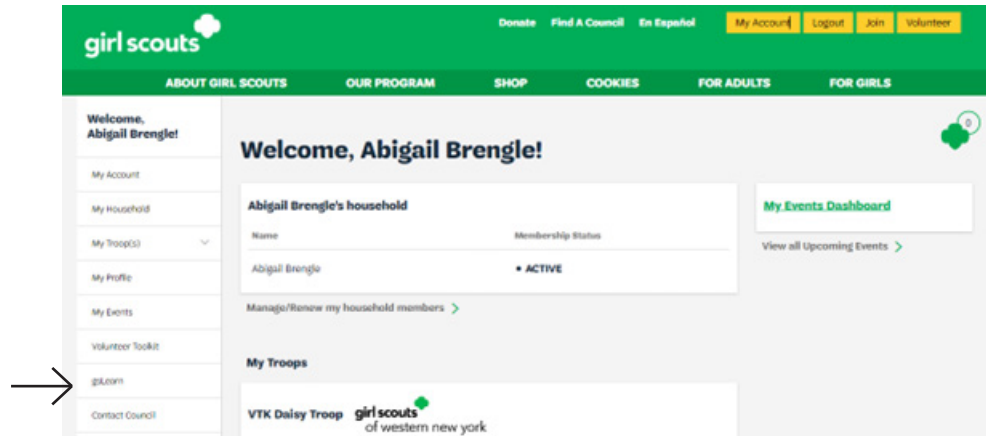
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1. Log on to your MYGS account on gswny.org



2. Once logged in, click on the gsLearn Tab



3. Browse the great courses available to you

