



Welcome to Girl Scouts and the great adventure of being a Girl Scout troop leader! Thanks to you, girls will learn to listen to their hearts, think on their feet, and raise their voices for what they believe in.

And just as you'll help your girls shine their brightest, we want to help *you* to shine in your new role. With this training, we'll walk you through all the need-to-know details as you begin your troop leader journey with Girl Scouts.

Your Troop Leader Training Path



Volunteer Basic Training Series

1. Welcome to Girl Scouts
2. Logistics and Resources
3. Finance and Safety

Knowledge Check

- A short quiz to test your knowledge
- Links in your email and on our website

©2021 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved. Not for public distribution.

2

Before we dive in, let's briefly go over what you can expect as a new troop leader.

This is the first of three trainings you'll complete **before** you meet with your troop.

This training "Welcome to Girl Scouts" introduces you to Girl Scouts, being a troop leader, what girls do. The second training, "Logistics and Resources" will teach you how to run your troop meetings, and your third training, "Safety and Finances," will walk through how to fund your fun and keep your girls safe.

After completing these three trainings, we will ask you to complete a Knowledge Check. Once you've completed the knowledge check, you will receive an Approval Letter in your email. This email will provide more information about your Service Unit, grade-level training, and additional resources as you get started with your girls.

You – A Girl Scout Leader

What leadership is

- Seeing yourself as a coach who cheers on your troop
- Learning alongside your Girl Scouts
- Encouraging girls to build their skills and take on more responsibilities as they grow

What Leadership is not

- Seeing yourself as a teacher with a planned lesson for each meeting
- Having all of the answers or being perfect for your girls
- Doing things for your girls to stay on schedule

©2021 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved. Not for public distribution.



3

So let's jump in! It all starts with you, the troop leader, so let's start by talking about what it means to lead in Girl Scouts.

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. THANK YOU for being a volunteer!

To be a troop leader is to see yourself as a coach for your girls, not a teacher with a planned lesson. Girl Scouts is where your girls will pursue their passions and discover new ones, so you'll want to cheer on your girls as they learn new things and discover just how much they're capable of.

Leadership is about learning alongside your girls. You won't know the answer to everything, and that's OK! By being honest with your girls, you show them that learning is a lifelong process.

Leadership is encouraging girls to build their skills and take on more troop responsibilities as they grow. No matter their ages, give them age-appropriate

responsibilities and hands-on activities to help them grow their confidence. And as they become more confident, they'll be ready for whatever new challenges come their way.

You – A Girl Scout Leader



The 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.

©2021 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved. Not for public distribution.

4

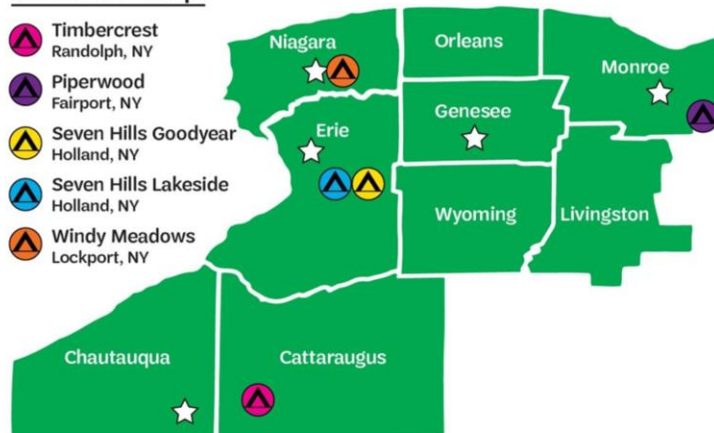
And most importantly, being a troop leader means modeling the Girl Scout Law for your girls. These words, which many troops recite as they begin each troop meeting, are a powerful reminder for girls and adults to grow their ethics along with their leadership skills, to *be* the kind of leaders the world needs today starting today. As a troop leader, you join the world-wide Girl Scout mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Get to know your Girl Scouts of Western New York Council

☆ Girl Scout Office

Girl Scout Camps

- 🏕️ Timbercrest
Randolph, NY
- 🏕️ Piperwood
Fairport, NY
- 🏕️ Seven Hills Goodyear
Holland, NY
- 🏕️ Seven Hills Lakeside
Holland, NY
- 🏕️ Windy Meadows
Lockport, NY



©2021 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved. Not for public distribution.

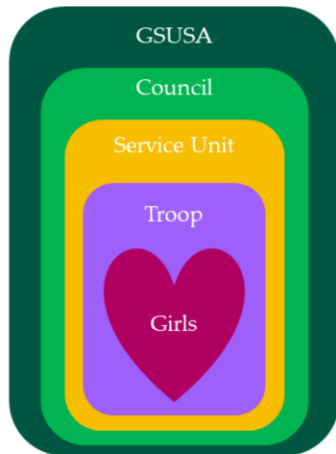


Girl Scouts are everywhere! There are 112 councils throughout the United States and in 90 countries around the world.

Our council is Girl Scouts of Western New York, also known as GSWNY which serves a 9- county region in New York State.

Council Staff work behind the scenes to support volunteers and girls in the Girl Scout mission through a number of departments including the Executive office and Operations, Finance, Product Program, Customer Care, Recruitment, Girl Experience and Volunteer Experience.

Get to know your Service Unit



Your first stop for questions

- Service Unit Manager (SUM)
- SU Finance Consultant
- SU Product Program Manager
- SU Troop Manager
- SU Welcome Specialist

©2021 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved. Not for public distribution.



6

As a new troop leader, you also have a local network of Girl Scout volunteers in your community who will support you — they are your service unit! Our GSWNY Council is divided into Service Units based on neighborhood, school district, geographic area, or county.

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 roles include: SU Finance Consultant, SU Product Program Managers, SU Troop Manager, and SU Welcome Specialist

These great service unit management volunteers will provide you with coaching and hands-on assistance as you move through your first year of leadership and beyond. If you ever have questions or any problems you're stumped to solve, you can always turn to your service unit volunteers for advice.

Service units hold regular meetings, and they're a great opportunity to ask questions and learn from volunteers just like you. Attending regular Service Unit meetings is required for at least one troop leader or troop representative. Service units also hold training sessions ahead of cookie season or host events for all Girl Scout troops in

your community.

We will provide you with detailed information on your specific Service Unit in the approval letter we email you, once you've completed the VTBS and your Knowledge check.

The Girl Scout Leadership experience (GSLE)



What girls do + How they Do it

- Discover
- Connect
- Take Action

Now we'll talk about the Girl Scout Leadership experience, or GSLE. This boils down to what girls do in Girl Scouts, and how they do it

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience provides the foundation for all we do. It is the core of our program and encompasses everything from our Promise and Law to our badges, activities, and Journeys. And at the center of it all are the girls.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience has been purposefully designed to include a variety of fun and challenging activities to help girls learn, grow, and thrive. And at the base of it all are three keys and three processes.

What girls *do* in Girl Scouting all fit within our three keys: **Discover, Connect, and Take Action.**

Discover. When Girl Scouts take part in fun and exciting [badge activities](#), earn a [Girl Scout Journey](#) award, go camping, or attend an amazing Girl Scout program or event, you are helping them *discover* who they are, what they care about, and where their talents lie.

Connect. When Girl Scouts collaborate with others—including the members and

leaders of their troop, Girl Scouts from their local community, or community partners and experts—they *connect* and expand their horizons. This helps them care about, support, inspire, and team up with others both locally and globally.

Take Action. When girls deepen their relationship with the world around them, they're eager to *take action* to improve the local community and the greater global community and make the world a better place.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)



What girls do + **How they do it**

- Girl-led
- Learning by doing
- Cooperative learning

© 2021 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved. Not for public distribution.

8

So how do we *do* it? The Girl Scout Leadership Experience draws on three unique processes— **Girl-led**, **Learning by Doing**, and **Cooperative Learning**—that encourage girls to try new things, write their own stories, and develop the skills and confidence to say, “I know I can do this!”

Girl-led. Girl Scouts take the lead, no matter their age. From selecting the badges they’ll pursue to how they’ll organize an activity; Girl Scouts have the chance to follow their dreams and grow their skills—and gain the confidence that comes with that.

Learning-by-Doing. Hands-on activities are fun for Girl Scouts of any age, but they also help them feel empowered to shape their own experience. Girl Scouts unlock their “I got this” attitude as they discover they can always dust themselves off and try again when things don’t go according to plan.

Cooperative Learning. There’s power in having a tight-knit group of friends who will learn with you, grow with you, and always cheer you on. Girl Scouts see firsthand that teamwork, respect, and collaboration can fuel them through any challenge that comes their way.

What is the Girl Scout Program?



National Program Pillars

- STEM
- Outdoors
- Life skills
- Entrepreneurship

©2021 Girl Scout of the USA. All Rights Reserved. Not for public distribution.

9

[Girl Scouts four Program Pillars](#)—STEM, Life Skills, Outdoors, and Entrepreneurship—form the foundation of the Girl Scout program and work together to build girls’ curiosity, kindness, and can-do spirit. In fact, every aspect of our program, and every Girl Scout adventure, can be traced back to one of our four program pillars.

[STEM](#) (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Girls are naturally curious and have a strong desire to help others. Whether they’re building a robot, developing a video game, or studying the stars, Girl Scouts become better problem-solvers and critical thinkers through STEM and gain the confidence to turn their ideas into breakthrough inventions to help others.

[Life Skills](#). Girl Scouts life skills programming includes a mix of practical skills, tools, and activities that foster positive values in girls like financial literacy, civic engagement, and community service. Skills that help them discover that they have what it takes to raise their voices as community advocates, make smart decisions about their finances, and form strong, healthy relationships—skills that inspire them to accept challenges and overcome obstacles, now and always.

[Outdoors](#). Girl Scouts has been building girls’ outdoor confidence and skills for over

one hundred years through a variety of outdoor adventures like camping and nature focused badges that inspire them to spend time outdoors and develop a lifelong appreciation of nature. An appreciation that sparks girls' desire to take action as environmental stewards in their community and across the globe.

[Entrepreneurship](#). Starting with Girl Scouts iconic Girl Scout Cookie Program and growing to include the Fall Product Program and a series of entrepreneurship badges, this pillar instills and nurtures an entrepreneurial mindset and fuels girls' curiosity and confidence as they learn the essentials of running their own businesses and how to think like entrepreneurs.

Every Girl Scout Experience

- Attend regular meetings
- Earn badges and Girl Scout awards
- Complete Take Action Projects
- Participate in Cookie & Product Programs
- Learn Girl Scout Traditions
- Go on field trips
- Get outdoors

©2021 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved. Not for public distribution.

10

Every troop is unique, but all successful Girl Scout experiences have several things in common. With your guidance and support at regular troop meetings, girls will earn badges and awards, complete Take Action projects to benefit their community, and participate in a wide variety of activities to help them grow and learn.

Some essential Girl Scout experiences also include entrepreneurship programs like the cookie program, exploring the outdoors, and taking part in Girl Scout traditions, like singing songs or holding special ceremonies as girls move from one Girl Scout level to the next.

A graphic with a dark blue background on the left and a light blue background on the right. On the dark blue background is a large green trefoil (three-leaf clover) shape. On the light blue background, the text "Troop leader tip" is centered in a dark serif font. Below it, the text "Step back and let your girls take the lead!" is centered in a smaller, dark sans-serif font. At the bottom left of the dark blue section, there is small white text: "© 2021 Girl Scouts of the USA. All rights reserved. Not for public distribution." At the bottom right of the light blue section, there is a small white number "11".

Troop leader tip

Step back and let your girls take the lead!

© 2021 Girl Scouts of the USA. All rights reserved. Not for public distribution.

11

One last tip about following these processes. Girl Scouting **isn't** a to-do list, so please don't feel that checking activities off a list is more important than tuning in to what interests girls and sparks their imaginations.

Projects don't have to come out perfectly—in fact, it's a valuable learning experience when they don't—Girl Scouts don't have to fill their vests and sashes with badges. What matters most is the fun and learning that takes place as they make experiences their own, so don't be afraid to [step back and let your girls take the lead](#).



Where can Girl Scouts take your girls?

Although program elements—like outdoor expeditions and entrepreneurial ventures—align across all grade levels, Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies won't be doing the same activities as Seniors and Ambassadors. But with your support, they'll get there! By building on the knowledge and skills they gain year after year, your girls' confidence will grow by leaps and bounds and they'll be eager to take those next steps.

And it's not just what girls do as they move from one Girl Scout level to the next. It's about who they become in the process. In Girl Scouts, girls develop a strong sense of self, seek challenges, demonstrate positive values, build healthy relationships, and learn how to solve problems in their community. These attitudes and skills are essential to their happiness and well-being, of course, but they also help your girls become the leaders they were born to be.

Your Troop Leader Training Path

- 1. Welcome to Girl Scouts**
2. Logistics and Resources
3. Finance and Safety

Knowledge Check

- A short quiz to test your knowledge
- Links in your email and on our website

©2021 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved. Not for public distribution.

13

Thank you for completing this “Welcome to Girl Scouts” training module.

If you haven't yet, you will need to complete two additional brief trainings, Logistics and resources, and Finances and Safety Then please take the Knowledge Check online to receive credit for completing the Volunteer Basic Training Series. Once you have taken the knowledge check, you will receive an Approval Letter in your email. This email will provide more information about your Service Unit, grade-level training, and additional resources as you get started with your girls.

Thank you for being a troop leader! We are so excited for you to start this great adventure!