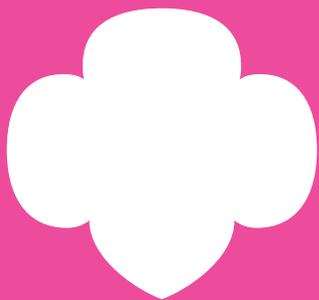


# Family Packet

GSEP MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2023



Welcome to your family's  
super-fun, go-to guide to  
getting the most out of  
this year in Girl Scouts!

Keep this  
handy tool  
at your  
fingertips!

2 About My Troop

3 Camps & Offices Map

5 This Year in Girl Scouts

6 Growing Up a Girl Scout

8 Girl Programs

10 Troop Experience

12 Girl Scout Cookies & Finances

13 Your Role as a GSEP Family

14 Celebrating Volunteers

# About My Troop

Keep all the important information about your troop here for easy reference.

## GIRL SCOUT INFORMATION

Girl Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl Scout Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

## TROOP INFORMATION

Troop Co-Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop Co-Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop Cookie Manager Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop Meeting Place or Virtual: \_\_\_\_\_

In-Person troop meeting place: \_\_\_\_\_

Virtual Meeting Link: \_\_\_\_\_

My Role: \_\_\_\_\_

## GSEP IS HERE TO HELP!

If you have a question, just call us at 215-564-2030 or email at [memberservices@gsep.org](mailto:memberservices@gsep.org)! Our business hours are 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Monday through Friday but you can leave a message and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.



## Seven Sites

1. Camp Shelly Ridge: Miquon, PA 19444 (Headquarters)
2. Jane Seltzer: Philadelphia, PA 19152
3. Camp Laughing Waters: Gilbertsville, PA 19525
4. Camp Mountain House: Allentown, PA 18103
5. Camp Mosey Wood: White Haven, PA 18661
6. Camp Valley Forge: Valley Forge, PA 19481
7. Camp Wood Haven: Pine Grove, PA 17963

## Nine Counties

Berks  
 Bucks  
 Carbon  
 Chester  
 Delaware  
 Lehigh  
 Montgomery  
 Northampton  
 Philadelphia

## 3 Day Camps

Camp Mountain House  
 Camp Shelly Ridge  
 Camp Valley Forge

## 4 Resident Camps

Camp Laughing Waters  
 Camp Mosey Wood  
 Camp Shelly Ridge  
 Camp Wood Haven

# notes from Kim

Dear Families,

Welcome (or welcome back!) to another great year of Girl Scouting! We're so glad that you've chosen to spend your time with us.

At Girl Scouts, girls grow through girl-led experiences, skill-building opportunities, service projects, spending time in the outdoors, participating in traditions (and selling cookies!) in a safe, inclusive environment supported by committed and engaged volunteers.

By participating in fun activities through the Girl Scouts Leadership Experience (GSLE), Girl Scouts discover more about themselves, connect with other people, and take action individually and collectively to make the world a better place. The GSLE has five outcomes that are proven to help girls thrive now and in the future. Every girl who participates in the GSLE and follows the Girl Scout Promise and Law is empowered to:

1. Develop a strong sense of self
2. Display positive values
3. Seek challenges and learn from setbacks
4. Form and maintain healthy relationships
5. Identify and solve problems in the community

Girl Scouts relies on amazing volunteers who lead troops, plan trips, help manage cookie sales, and pass down their knowledge to new Girl Scout families. We encourage you to get involved alongside your girl, and we offer many activities throughout the year that the whole family can join. Be sure to check out the Program Guide, included in this mailing and online at [gsep.org/programs](http://gsep.org/programs).

We have so much in store for your girl – and the whole family – this year. No matter where your Girl Scout journey takes you this year, you're sure to enjoy the adventure.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Kim E. Fraites-Dow  
CEO, Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania



# calendar

## October 2022

01	The Girl Scout Membership Year Begins
07-09	Fall Leadership Weekend
15	Service Unit Cookie Program Training
25	Gluten Free Orders Due by Troop
31	Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday 🍀
TBD	Take the Lead 2023 Girl Role Registration
Oct 13 - Nov 13	Fall Product Program

## November 2022

07	Troop Initial Cookie Orders Open in ABC Smart Cookies
15	Scholarship Applications Open
TBD	Volunteer Awards Ceremony
23-24	Thanksgiving: All Shops & Regional Locations Closed
28	Deadline for Troop Cookie Home Delivery Requests

## December 2022

02	Troop Initial Orders Close in ABC Smart Cookies
Dec 24 - Jan 01	All Shops and Regional Locations Closed

## January 2023

06-15	Cookie Initial Order Pick-Up and Home Deliveries
16	GSEP MLK Day of Service
19	Cookie Program Begins
22	Women's Leadership Summit
31	Scholarship Applications Deadline
TBD	MY24 Girl Delegate & Advisor to the Board Applications Due
TBD	Service Unit Camporee Lottery Opens for Fall 2023 (tentative)
TBD	Round 1 GSUSA Destination Applications Due

## February 2023

18-19	National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend
22	World Thinking Day
TBD	GSUSA Destinations Begin Rolling Admission



All programs, events, and dates are subject to change based on potentially evolving COVID-19 pandemic regulations. Please visit the events calendar on our website for a full and updated list of our council-wide events.

## March 2023 Women's History Month

TBD	Spring Renewal Registration Begins
TBD	Take the Lead Greater Philadelphia
12-18	Girl Scout Week
12	Last day of Cookie Program
22	Spring Delegate Council Meeting
TBD	Gold Award Proposal Deadline for Current 12th Graders

## April 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Month

TBD	Take the Lead Berks County
TBD	Take the Lead Lehigh Valley
22	Girl Scout Leader Day
TBD	Outdoor Skills Sampler

## May 2023

01	Silver Award Proposal Deadline for Current 8th Graders
06	Annual Meeting
29	Memorial Day: All Shops and Regional Locations Closed
TBD	Silver Award Ceremony
TBD	Gold Award Ceremony

## June 2023

19	Juneteenth - All Shops & Regional Locations Closed
TBD	Spring Renewal Registration Ends
TBD	Camp Begins

## July 2023

04	All Shops & Regional Locations Closed GSEP Summer Camps Open
18-20	56th National Council Session in Orlando, FL
20-22	Phenom in Orlando, FL

## August 2023

TBD	Adult Camping Weekend
TBD	Fall Kickoff
TBD	Nominations for Volunteer Awards Due

## September 2023

04	Labor Day: All Shops & Regional Locations Closed
TBD	Gold Award Final Report Deadline for Current 12th Graders
30	Silver Award Reflection Deadline for Current 8th Graders
30	Bronze Award Deadline for Troop Leaders to Register Current 5th Graders
TBD	Delegate Training
TBD	Fall Delegate Council Meeting

# GROWING UP A GIRL SCOUT

You want to see her  
become confident, strong  
and ready to succeed.

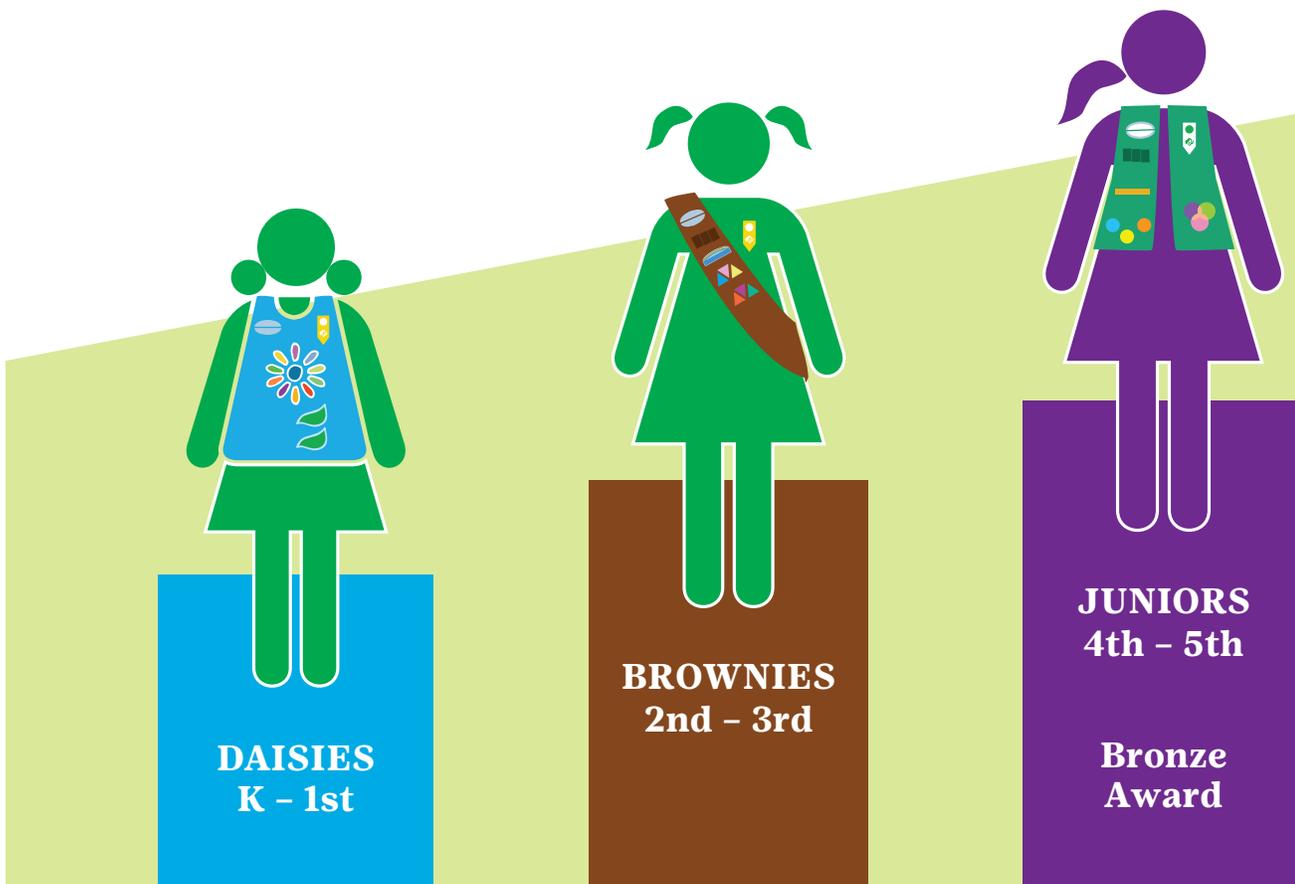
## WHAT GIRL SCOUTS IS ALL ABOUT...

Whether building robots, making new friends, riding horses, traveling, or just having fun, she will find her place here. From troop meetings and activities to summer camps and council programs, so many opportunities both virtual and in person abound in Girl Scouts.

**GIRL INSPIRED.** Everything your Girl Scout does—whether it’s climbing mountains, making her voice heard, or designing new technology – has been created and tested by girls.

**BECOMING TOMORROW’S LEADERS.** Your girl will develop a strong sense of self, demonstrate positive values, seek challenges, solve significant problems in her community, and establish healthy relationships. These aren’t just good qualities—they’re leadership skills that will last for a lifetime.

**3-2-1...ACTION!** She’s Got This! At Girl Scouts, “Can I?” turns into “I will!” as your girl transforms her ideas into action, turns her questions into adventures, and grows her confidence through practice. And when she’s part of the largest network of girls and women in the world, there’s no limit to what she can accomplish.

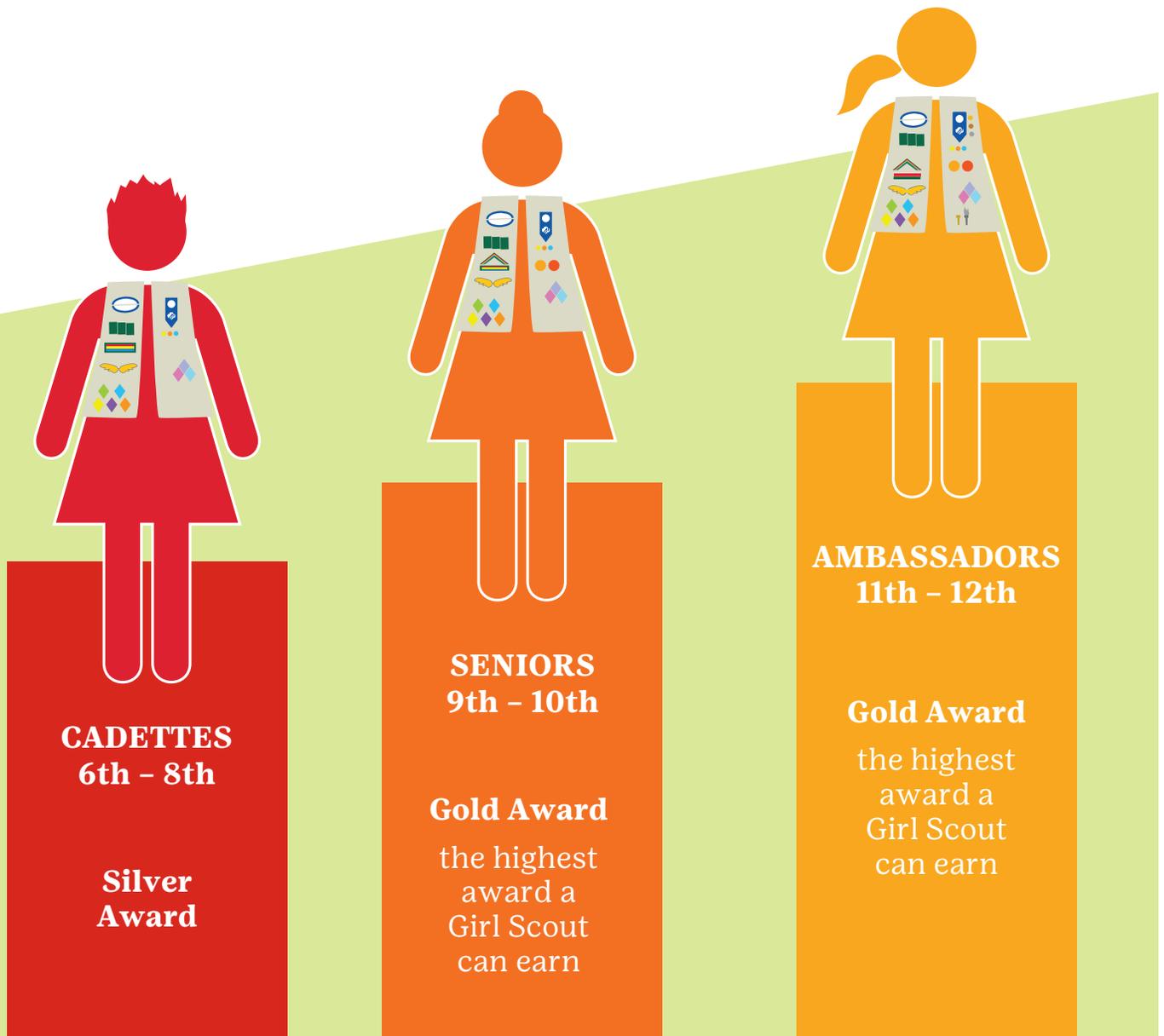


## UNIFORMS AND BADGE/PATCH PLACEMENT

For more than a century, Girl Scouts have proudly worn distinctive uniforms that symbolize the high ideals for which Girl Scouting stands. Girl Scouts at each level wear one required element (tunic, sash, or vest) to display official pins, badges, and fun patches. Talk to your troop leader to ask which sash/vest, insignia, and pins to purchase. In general, badges and insignia pins are displayed on the front of the uniform and fun patches are displayed on the back. Daisy Girl Scouts have the option of a tunic instead of a sash. All other levels use the same vest or sash but in different colors based on the grade level.

GSEP offers multiple ways to shop for your Girl Scout. You can visit one of our locations (listed on the Council Map, page 3), order online at [www.gsep.org](http://www.gsep.org), or plan to visit the mobile shop at many council functions. Any of these ways will give you the opportunity to browse shop offerings, uniforms, books, awards, Girl Scout gifts, and other Girl Scout items! Find fillable pdf order forms on the shops page at [www.gsep.org](http://www.gsep.org). Send orders to [shop@gsep.org](mailto:shop@gsep.org) for mobile shops, curbside pickup or shipping from council. We ask for two business days to prepare your order for pickup.

For a picture example, and more detailed information about uniforms and badge placement, visit: [www.girlscouts.org/en/our-program/uniforms/where-to-place.html](http://www.girlscouts.org/en/our-program/uniforms/where-to-place.html)



# How GSEP Delivers Girl Programs

## OUR PROGRAM

At Girl Scouts, your girl will prepare for a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure in a safe, no-limits place designed for and by girls!!

How? Through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience— a collection of engaging, challenging, and fun activities like earning badges, camping, going on awesome trips, selling cookies, exploring science, getting outdoors, and doing community service projects.

At Girl Scouts, she'll get to lead her own adventure (it's her world!) and team up with other girls in an all-girl environment to choose the exciting, hands-on activities that interest her most. Along the way, she'll gain important skills in four areas that form the foundation of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. At Girl Scouts she will:

### **Discover: A strong sense of self.**

Find out who she is, what she cares about, and what her talents are.

### **Connect: Value the power of diversity.**

Collaborate with people, to learn from others and expand her horizons.

### **Take Action: Individually & collectively.**

Do something to make the world a better place.

**DISCOVER**

+

**CONNECT**

+

**TAKE ACTION**

=

**LEADERSHIP**

In an all-girl environment we have three girl led processes:

**Learn by doing**

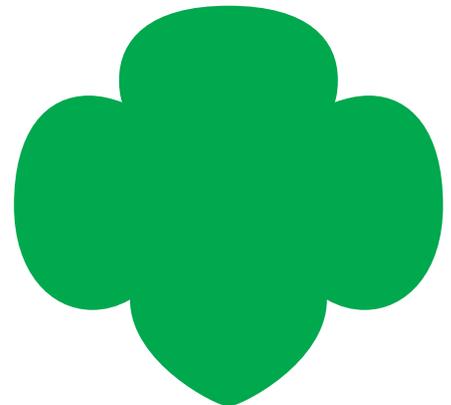
**Cooperative learning**

**Girl led**

The Result? A Lifetime of Leadership!

In fact, being a Girl Scout helps girls thrive in five key ways. At Girl Scouts, she will:

- Develop a strong sense of self
- Display positive values
- Seek challenges and learns from setbacks
- Form and maintain healthy relationships
- Learn to identify and solve problems in her community





## GOLD AWARD



## SILVER AWARD



## BRONZE AWARD

### Highest Awards

**Bronze. Silver. Gold.** These represent the highest honors a Girl Scout can earn. Girls in 4th and 5th grade (Junior level) earn the Bronze; 6th, 7th, and 8th graders (Cadette level) earn Silver; and girls in 9th grade and up (Senior and Ambassador levels) earn Gold.

All three awards give your Girl Scout the chance to do big things while supporting an issue they care about. Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awardees address the root cause of an issue, and come up with sustainable, long-lasting solutions. They might plant a community garden at a school or inspire others to eat healthy foods for their Bronze, advocate for animal rights for Silver, or build a career network that encourages girls to become scientists and engineers for Gold. Whatever they choose, they'll inspire others...and change the world for the better.

Visit [gsep.org/highestawards](https://gsep.org/highestawards) to learn more.

### Spark Programs and Magazine

GSEP publishes Spark magazine once yearly. The magazine is mailed to all members in late Summer along with this Family Packet, and can also be picked up from any GSEP location.

Make sure to look for the digital Program Guide in your email inbox and on the [gsep.org](https://gsep.org) website. This fall, GSEP has a fantastic lineup of both in-person and virtual programs and events planned! Each month GSEP will spotlight one of the GSUSA Program Pillars: STEM, Life Skills, Outdoors, and Entrepreneurship. Look for the icon next to each program/event listing. And get ready to explore all the fun and exciting activities our Girl Experience staff have designed especially for you!

GSEP has something for everyone! Consider the Spark Program Guide your menu of Girl Scout opportunities! Looking for family activities, badge-earning workshops, journey programs, partner programs? GSEP has you covered. Whether you want a full weekend experience, a day program, or just a few hours--there is something for every Girl Scout.

Registering for programs and events is easier than ever! **GS Events** is a new platform that you will have access to right from your **MyGS** account. That's right--one login for all of your Girl Scout membership and event registration needs!

Look for **GS Events** instructions and tips on [gsep.org](https://gsep.org).

## CALLING ALL JULIETTES!

A Juliette, or individually registered Girl Scout (IRG), has the same Girl Scout experience as any other girl —outdoor adventures, hands-on STEM experiments, life skills training, and entrepreneurship like our Cookie Program, with the support of a Girl Scout volunteer - she simply does it all without being in a troop setting. If you're a Juliette family, reach out to [memberservices@gsep.org](mailto:memberservices@gsep.org) for guidance, support, and to stay up to date on cool events your Girl Scout can attend... and even some for the whole family.

# The Troop Experience

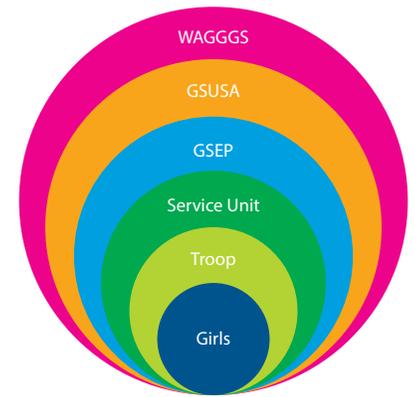
## GIRL SCOUT SUPPORT

### How is Your Girl Scout's Troop Experience Supported?

A team of staff and volunteers provide girls with local support, learning opportunities, and advice. Volunteers and staff work together to ensure high quality troop experiences for girls.

As a family, you'll have the most contact with your troop leader and their volunteer committee – often made up of caregivers like you! The troop leader reports to their Girl Scout Service Unit, led by a Service Unit Manager or Co-Managers. Service Units are made up of experienced Girl Scout volunteers in a local area, usually defined by zip codes.

Each Service Unit works closely with their GSEP Community Engagement Specialist. If you have questions or concerns, you should always go to your troop leader first, who can then enlist the help of other Girl Scout volunteers in the Service Unit. If additional support is needed, please contact member services.



**WAGGGS** – World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts  
**GSUSA**  
**GSEP** – led by staff  
**Service Unit** – led by volunteers  
**Troop** – led by volunteers  
**Girls (& Families!)**

## ENGAGE AS A VOLUNTEER

Families are an essential part of the troop experience! Many hands make light work, and the role is more fun when it's shared. Girl Scout volunteers make a difference in the lives of girls, in the success of families, and in the growth of communities. The strength of Girl Scouting rests on the shoulders of adult volunteers who are committed to helping today's girls become tomorrow's leaders.

As a volunteer, you'll introduce girls to new experiences that show them they've got this!

Who are Girl Scout troop leaders? Leaders are VOLUNTEERS! Leaders are busy women and men just like you. Leaders are parents, grandparents, neighbors, and college students who give their time unselfishly. Many volunteers are needed—a minimum of two registered, unrelated and cleared (background check) Girl Scout adults, one of whom must be female, must be present at every troop meeting.

## MAKE HER TROOP YEAR MEMORABLE

You will want to know all about your Girl Scout's troop. Take note of her leader's name, contact information, and troop number. You should also know the day, time, and location of troop meetings (in-person or virtual). Use the form at the front of this booklet (pg 2) to capture this information. Remember, it is your responsibility to bring your daughter to and from meetings (if in-person), and to pick her up on time.

Below are some ways you can be involved with the troop. Each adult needs to be a registered Girl Scout member, have completed the background clearance process, and take any trainings required for the position they choose. Learn more on our website about volunteer training.

Consider this the ultimate cheat sheet to being an all-star Girl Scout supporter – no matter how busy you may be! When you step up, you're enhancing the troop experience and modeling leadership for your girl. She'll be prouder than ever to call you hers.

### In 15 minutes a week, you could...

Organize and manage the calendar for troop snacks or carpools. Keeping track of who's contributing what and when will make meetings go smoothly for everyone.

### In 30 minutes a week, you could...

Manage troop communications. This can mean anything from texting other families to confirm meeting dates, to maintaining the troop's social media account or being in charge of a phone tree.

Share photos or videos of troop meetings and events virtually, or when it is safe to meet in person. Make sure the troop has signed council photo releases before snapping and sharing images.

### In 1-2 hours a week, you could...

Lead part of a troop meeting or guide the girls through earning a specific badge. You can introduce the girls to a topic that you specialize in or explore a new activity and learn alongside the troop.

### In 2-3 hours a week during cookie season, you could...

Organize cookie sales and keep track of cookie orders. You'll be playing a key part in the Girl Scout Cookie Program, which raises funds for troop activities and teaches girls important leadership skills.

## TROOP RESPONSIBILITIES

### Leader's Troop Responsibility

- Follow the Girl Scout Promise & Law
- Let girls lead – ensure girls of every age take an active and grade-appropriate role in deciding the what, where, when, why, and how of what they do
- Create an inclusive environment where girls and families feel welcome
- Provide a well-rounded and safe program following Girl Scout guidelines
- Listen to and respect every participant and serve as a role model
- Use volunteer resources such as the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)
- Stay connected to the Service Unit and/or GSEP

### Girl's Troop Responsibility

- Follow the Girl Scout Promise & Law
- Treat fellow Girl Scouts as her sisters
- Attend and participate in meetings and outings
- Respect troop leaders, volunteers, and family members
- Be prepared and conduct herself in a safe manner
- Pass along troop information to caregiver
- Be open to new adventures, have lots of fun, and grow!

### Family's Troop Responsibility

- Make sure your Girl Scout arrives on time for her virtual or in-person meetings
- Help her fulfill GS responsibilities including dues, permission slips, and uniform pieces
- Help her complete any missed activities so she can earn badges
- Be supportive of her Girl Scout endeavors and let her know you consider her Girl Scouting participation to be important and special
- Volunteer!!!
- Support the council sponsored Product Program sales, which philanthropically support GSEP
- Stay in contact with troop leaders and help as needed
- Discuss issues that may arise privately with the leader, not in front of girls
- Talk with your Girl Scout about acceptable behavior and set a positive example
- Attend family meetings and troop ceremonies
- Read all communications from GSEP and your troop leaders and respond in a timely manner to requests

## VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CLEARANCES

Whether this is your first year volunteering or you're a seasoned pro, this opportunity to help girls try new things, build confidence, and make memories that will last a lifetime is one you will never forget. As a Girl Scout volunteer, you will build girls of courage, confidence, and character who will make the world a better place!

Pennsylvania law states that adults applying for or holding an unpaid position as a volunteer with a child care service, a school or a program, activity or service responsible for the child's welfare or having direct volunteer contact with children will need clearances.

At GSEP, the safety of our girls is always our top priority. All volunteers with GSEP are required by law to complete a Background Clearance. For more information regarding the law, please check the website: [www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov](http://www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov). Get started now on the "Ways to Volunteer" page of our website.

### Who needs to complete a Background Clearance?

Any adult who assists with troop meetings or activities, attends camp-outs/camporees, transports or supervises girls, or handles money. Please see the Volunteer CBC Processing Packet on our website for more information: [www.gsep.org/en/for-volunteers/ways-to-volunteer.html](http://www.gsep.org/en/for-volunteers/ways-to-volunteer.html)

**Pro-Tip: Your clearances for school chaperoning will work!**

### Ready to Pitch In?

Contact your girl's troop leader and tell her exactly how you'd like to help or what you can provide. Simply offering "whatever you need" comes with best intentions, but troop leaders are often too busy to assign out roles to family members. Being specific about how you can contribute will be appreciated!

### GSEP IS HERE TO HELP!

If you have a question, just call or email! Our business hours are 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Monday through Friday but you can leave a message and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

**215-564-2030 | [memberservices@gsep.org](mailto:memberservices@gsep.org)**

# PRODUCT PROGRAM

## Troop Money Earning - including famous Girl Scout Cookies!

When your Girl Scout participates in the GSEP Cookie Program, she is not just selling a box of cookies, she is investing in her troop, herself, and the Girl Scout experience in Eastern PA. Nowhere else can a girl earn money to develop business leadership skills, go to camp, and travel the world. By raising money for her troop, she is learning about setting and achieving goals, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. The **Girl Scout Cookie Program** is the largest girl-led business in the world! This makes a difference for your Girl Scout, who will help her troop earn money for new adventures and to change the world, one box of cookies at a time.

All Girl Scouts have the opportunity to participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program. The 2023 Cookie Program begins January 19th, and runs through March 12th.

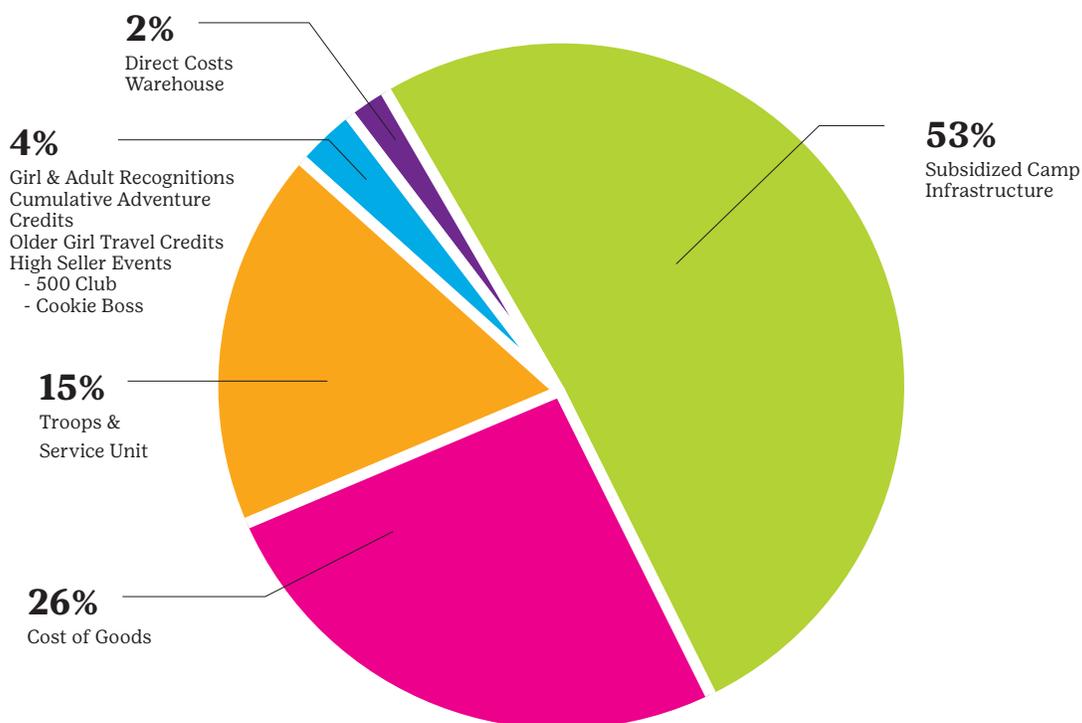
Each troop volunteer team will communicate the troop sale guidelines to families in advance of the sale. The profit from the Cookie Program stays within the council, a portion stays with the troop, and the rest helps to fund membership financial aid, girl programs, and GSEP's beautiful camps and facilities. The troop's proceeds help to fund troop activities, badges, and trips. While the troop as a whole benefits from the collective sales, girls will earn individual incentives or can opt to earn credit toward camp or programs based on what they sell. The more a girl sells, the more the troop earns. Troop cookie proceeds are based on the troop's Per Girl Average (PGA). The PGA is calculated by dividing the total number of packages in the troop's inventory by the number of girls selling.

GSEP partners with M2 Media and Trophy Nut for the Fall Product Program, which runs October 13th through November 13th. Troops will have the option to participate in this high proceed opportunity...

Girls can design an avatar of their very own likeness with enough features to create over 3 billion avatars. The avatars will allow girls to sell nuts and magazines to their neighbors, families, and friends from their own computer or smart phone, with the help of a grownup. Girls will be able to record a personalized video or audio message to send to family and friends, encouraging them to help her reach her goals. Once sent, family and friends will have the option to shop for magazines, nuts, chocolates and even donate to help their favorite Girl Scout reach their goal!

Troops may also do their own supplemental money earning activities, as long as they participate in the Cookie Program. Your troop leader is able to guide the girls to plan activities that are appropriate and approved by council.

## *How The Cookie Crumbles: 100% of product program proceeds stay in our council.*



# Your Role as a GSEP Family

## COSTS & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### Register as a member—girl or adult!

#### What all members share, both girls and adults, are the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Each member also agrees to follow safety guidelines and pay the annual membership fee of \$25.

- Registration is done online at [gsep.org/join](http://gsep.org/join)
- Membership dues are sent by GSEP to GSUSA. No portion of the dues stays with our council. Membership dues may not be transferred to another member and are not refundable.

The basic Girl Scout uniform (including sash, insignia, and pins) costs about \$30 depending on the grade level.

### Financial Assistance

At GSEP we are invested in every girl!

To help welcome every girl and adult member, GSEP offers financial aid for membership, shop, and camp. To learn more, visit our website [gsep.org](http://gsep.org).

### How do troops pay for materials, badges, etc.?

Girl Scout groups are funded by a share of money earned through:

- Council-sponsored product program activities:
  - Girl Scout Fall Nut and Magazine Program
  - Girl Scout Cookie Program
- Group money-earning activities (Council-approved)
- Any dues your troop may charge (This is in addition to the \$25 annual membership fee that goes to the national organization GSUSA)

## YOUR ROLE AS A FAMILY

As a caregiver, you play a very important role in helping girls achieve success in funding their troop goals. Here's how you can support your daughter:

**Talk with your Girl Scout about realistic goal setting and managing money**

**Volunteer with the Cookie Program**

**Accept financial responsibility for purchased products**

**Encourage and help her sell to family, friends, and neighbors**

**Follow guidelines set by council and your troop leader**

**Celebrate with her when she accomplishes a goal!**

# Celebrating Volunteers



Volunteers are truly the heart of Girl Scouts and are the reason girls are changing the world. Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania Volunteers generously donate their time and talent, free of charge, to prepare the country's next generation of female leaders!

GSUSA and Girl Scouts of Eastern PA have designed an awards program as a formal “thank you” to recognize these stand-out volunteers. It is an honor for a volunteer to be recognized among her/his peers and to receive one of these prestigious awards.

As you navigate your family journey in Girl Scouts, you have the opportunity to participate in the awards program, too! As a parent/guardian of a Girl Scout, we invite you to thank the extraordinary volunteers who inspire, motivate, or mentor your daughter! How?

1. Nominate a volunteer who has made an impact on your daughter and/or her troop. Our Adult Recognitions Handbook has all the information you need, including the awards we offer and instructions to submit your nomination(s).
2. Attend the annual Volunteer Awards Celebration to cheer on and congratulate our amazing volunteers.

# GSEP's Frequently Used Girl Scout Terms

**Badge/Badges:** Badges are EARNED when a girl completes a set of requirements or learns a new skill. Badges are worn on the front of the sash or vest.

**Bridging:** When girls transition from one level to the next; individually or as the entire troop. This can be from Daisies to Brownies, all the way through Ambassadors to Adults (see pages 6-7 for levels).

**Buddy System:** A safety practice that groups two or three girls together to keep watch over each other in an activity (for example swimming or hiking). Girls of equal ability should be placed in the same group.

**Camporee:** A Service Unit gathering of Girl Scout troops for a period of camping and common activities. There is generally a common theme at a Girl Scout camporee oriented towards building courage, confidence, character and leadership while having fun.

**Cookies:** Cookies refers to the annual Girl Scout Cookie Program. This quintessential Girl Scout experience helps girls develop five important life skills—goal setting, decision-making, money management, people skills, and business ethics—that will set them up for success beyond anything they can imagine! Cookie proceeds can be used to fund trips, camp, community service projects, and more!

**Day Camp:** We offer three day camps: Mountain House (Allentown), Shelly Ridge (Lafayette Hill), and Valley Forge (Valley Forge) for girls in grades K-12. Extended care and financial aid are available. Busing is available at some camps.

**Destinations:** (Formerly Wider Opportunities) Travel opportunities for girls 11-17. Older girls can use their cookie proceeds to fund Destinations.

**Dunk Bag:** A dunk bag (which is a somewhat misleading but traditional name) is a mesh bag (such as a lingerie bag with a zipper or draw-string closure) large enough for a dinner plate and a few other dishes to slip inside and close.

**Fly-up Ceremony:** The ceremony at which a Brownie Girl Scout receives Brownie Wings from her Brownie leader, makes the Girl Scout Promise, and receives the Girl Scout Pin from her Junior GS “sister” or the Junior GS leader.

**Girl-Led:** The Girl-Led process within the Girl Scout Leadership Experience ensures that girls are engaged and in control of all aspects of their Girl Scout experience.

**GSEP:** Stands for Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania. That’s us!

**Girl Scouts @ Home:** GSEP’s virtual Girl Scouting programming, including: informal gatherings, badge and journey workshops, and other programming where girls come together and connect with sister Girl Scouts through Zoom, Facebook live, and more.

**GSUSA:** The national office of Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), located in New York City.

**Investiture Ceremony:** A special ceremony in which a NEW member makes her Girl Scout Promise, receives her membership pin, and becomes a member of Girl Scouts.

**Highest Awards: Gold. Silver. Bronze.** These represent the highest honors a Girl Scout can earn through sustainable community service.

**Journeys:** Fun and challenging experiences grouped around a theme and spread over a series of sessions. There are three series of Leadership Journeys at each age level: IT’S YOUR WORLD-CHANGE IT!; IT’S YOUR STORY-TELL IT!; IT’S YOUR PLANET-LOVE IT!

**Member Services:** Serves as your first point of contact for general questions and provides an exceptional level of customer service. The Member Services team manages program and membership registration, and helps create and maintain member records. This is your “go to” department for any issues with your MyGS account or the Program/Event Registration System or general questions about a program. You can reach them at [memberservices@gesp.org](mailto:memberservices@gesp.org) or by calling 215-564-2030.

**Mess Kit:** Reusable dishes and utensils that fit in a dunk bag for meals on camping or other trips.

**Patches:** Patches, sometimes called “Fun Patches,” are GIVEN when a girl participates in an event or experience. Patches are worn on the back of the sash or vest.

**Resident Camp:** We offer four overnight (resident) camps, including Laughing Waters (Gilbertsville), Mosey Wood (White Haven), Shelly Ridge (Lafayette Hill), and Wood Haven (Pine Grove), for girls in grades 1-12. Financial aid and busing are available at some camps.

**Service Unit (or SU for short):** A service unit is a geographical region of volunteers led by a volunteer Service Unit Manager. Each Service Unit works closely with a team of GSEP staff to serve the girls in your region.

**Sit-upon:** Simple lightweight pad or cushion the girls make to “sit-upon” anytime they end up sitting on the hard ground.

**SUM:** A SUM is a service unit Manager. A SUM leads a Service Unit. S/he is a volunteer who dedicates time to bettering the lives of girls and the adults who serve them.

**SWAPS:** Stands for “Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere.” SWAPS were incorporated into Girl Scouting/Guiding as a way to introduce one Girl Scout to another. Girl Scout SWAPS are a long-standing tradition and while they’re easy and inexpensive to make, they really allow girls to express their creativity and make new friends.

**Trefoil:** International symbol of Girl Guides and Girl Scouting. The trefoil represents the three parts of the Girl Scout promise.

**Volunteer Toolkit (VTK):** A digital resource that supports troop leaders and co-leaders, making the process of running a troop easier and more efficient. The VTK also gives access to families to see the troop calendar.

## THE 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.

## 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.

