

Family Guide

October 2026-September 2027

girlscouts
of eastern
pennsylvania

*Building girls of courage, confidence and
character who make the world a better place.*



Welcome to Girl Scouts! This guide provides an overview of the Girl Scout program and a peek into the amazing year ahead for you and your Girl Scout!

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What is Girl Scouts?

Girl Scouts has been building girls of courage, confidence, and character for over 113 years. Girl Scouts is a movement built to ensure girls have the support and an inclusive, safe space to find their passions, push their limits, and create a community.

When girls participate in Girl Scouts, they benefit in 5 important ways:



Strong Sense of Self

Girls have confidence in themselves and their abilities, forming positive identities.



Positive Values

Girls act ethically, honestly, and responsibly, and show concern for others.



Challenge Seeking

Girls take appropriate risks, try things even if they might fail, and learn from mistakes.



Healthy Relationships

Girls develop and maintain healthy relationships by communicating their feelings directly and resolving conflicts constructively.



Community Problem Solving

Girls desire to contribute to the world in purposeful and meaningful ways, learn how to identify problems in the community, and create “action plans” to solve them.

Part of the reason Girl Scouts become such amazing leaders is because our programs are designed to empower and engage girls. All of our activities, meetings and experiences are...

Girl-Led

Girls shape their experience.

Cooperative Learning

Together, girls build meaning and understanding.

Learning by Doing

Girls try it all and figure things out from successes and failures.

What do Girl Scouts do?

Throughout the year, we strive to ensure every Girl Scout experiences our Foundational Girl Scout Activities while exploring our four program pillars: STEM, Outdoors, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship.



**Badges,
Patches, &
Awards**



**Outdoor &
Camping**



**Product
Program**



**Community
Service &
Take Action**



**Field Trips
& Girl Scout
Events**



Traditions

Discover all that Girl Scouts Has to Offer

Join or Start a Troop

A Girl Scout troop is a community of girls often creating life-long friendships. Troops usually meet twice a month for 45-90 minutes and go on a couple of trips a year. It's a great activity alongside sports, dance and other more intensive experiences.

Attend Events

Sign up individually or as a Troop for the dates and programs that work with your schedule and interests. Girl Scout events happen in all the counties and areas we serve with activities ranging from outdoor experiences to pool parties to unique opportunities like a slumber party on at the Crayola Factory.

Go to Summer Camp

GSEP's seven summer camps offer a variety of activities with weekly themes for all interests and include day and overnight options for girls entering K-12th grades.

Earn Awards and Gain Leadership Opportunities

As Girl Scouts grow, they have an increasing number of opportunities to earn awards and practice leadership. Girls can earn Service Bars, Leadership Awards, scholarships and other recognitions. These are notable accomplishments that girls can leverage in high school and college applications, job interviews, and more.

Growing Up a Girl Scout

TRADITIONS: Girl Scout traditions like ceremonies, songs and games connect past, present and future, linking generations of Girl Scouts with a shared purpose.

PATCHES: In addition to badges, girls receive patches for participating in special events, learning skills or achieving specific accomplishments.



Check out all the possible badges Girl Scouts can earn!



PETALS: Daisies earn their petals by learning and practicing the promise and law.

BADGES: Girls earn badges as they learn new skills and tackle challenges. Badges allow girls to show off all that they have accomplished through their years of Girl Scouting.

BRONZE AWARD: Juniors can earn the Bronze award by working with their troop to plan and carry out a project that makes a lasting impact on her community.



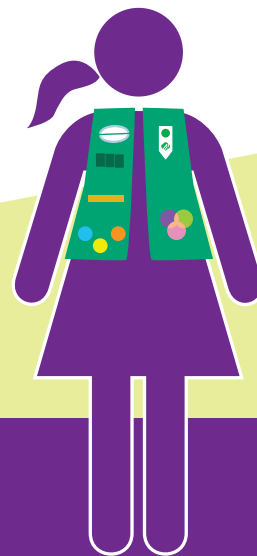
DAISIES
K - 1st

Fun and
Friendship



BROWNIES
2nd - 3rd

Try and
Explore



JUNIORS
4th - 5th

Discover
and Lead

**Bronze
Award**

LEADERSHIP AWARDS: In addition to the Highest Awards, starting in 4th grade, girls have the opportunity to earn awards for personal leadership, peer leadership, teaching leadership and community advocacy.

SERVICE BARS: Starting as Cadettes, girls can earn recognitions by volunteering for a community organization or for Girl Scouts.

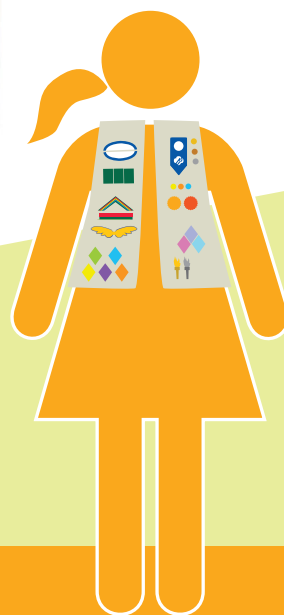


SILVER AWARD:

Cadettes pair up or go solo to lead a project that solves a problem they care about to earn the Silver Award.

GOLD AWARD:

The highest honor in Girl Scouts, Seniors and Ambassadors lead a big, lasting project that tackles an important issue and creates sustainable change.



CADETTES
6th – 8th

Go. See. Do.

**Silver
Award**

SENIORS
9th – 10th

Advocacy
and Action

Gold Award

AMBASSADORS
11th – 12th

Future
and Fun

Trifecta Award

Girl Scout Year at a Glance

Every girl's year in Girl Scouts can look different and can change over the course of her experience in the program. Check out an example of a year of Brownies below!

September

- Join and meet your troop
- Attend family meeting and sign up to volunteer
- Girls have their first Girl Scout troop meeting and start to create a community
- Get set up with your uniform

November

- Girls earn their second badge STEM: Create and Innovate
- Girls attend a local GSEP program focused on crafting and earn a Crafting Patch!

October

- Girls help decide the scope of activities and badges for the year
- Girls earn their first badge Life Skills: Outdoor Art Creator
- Girls celebrate Juliette Gordon Low's birthday (the founder of Girl Scouts)
- Girls participate in Fall Product Program to raise money for the troop activities



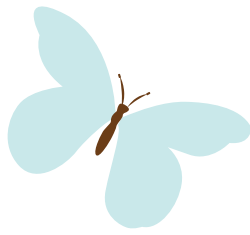
December

- Girls earn the Resilient, Ready, Strong Patch
- Girls participate in a community service program – sending holiday notes to a local senior center
- Families and girls learn about the cookie program!



You can see sample yearlong plans for other grade levels here:





January

- Girls earn their third badge
Entrepreneurship: My Cookie Customers



March

- Girls celebrate the end of the Cookie Program and plan how to use their proceeds.
- Girls earn their fifth badge
Life Skills: Girl Scout Way
- Girls use their cookie proceeds to visit a local museum

May

- Girls plan and go on an outdoor adventure at a local state park.
- Girls reflect on their year and set goals for their next year of Girl Scouting.



February

- Girls earn their fourth badge
STEM: Home Scientist
- Girls do their first Cookie Booth!
- Girl participate in a World Thinking Day activity with their Service Unit – learning about the global influence of Girl Leadership

April

- Girls earn their sixth badge
Outdoors: Eco Friend

June

- Girls have a Bridging Ceremony and invite friends and family to celebrate their year of accomplishments in Girl Scouts
- Girls attend Girl Scout Summer Camp!



Joining a Troop Committee

Troops need the support of adult volunteers like you to provide a quality Girl Scouts Leadership Experience. Parents/caregivers, adult family members, Girl Scout Alums, and community members who want to help are all welcome. When you're involved in the Troop Committee, you get to share in your Girl Scout's adventures!

Troop Co-Leaders (minimum 2)

- Schedule & plan troop meetings
- Help girls have fun with purpose
- Communicate with parents/caregivers
- Oversee troop treasury transactions
- Manage troop safety

Product Sales Manager (1-2)

- Support successful Fall Product & Cookie Programs for the troop
- Help Girl Scouts set & achieve goals
- Communicate with parents/caregivers
- Manage product inventory
- Schedule cookie booths



Troop Treasurer (1)

- Become primary signer on troop bank account
- Manage troop bank account
- Complete & submit annual financial report to GSEP

Troop Helpers

- Chaperone outings & field trips
- Assist during troop meetings
- Supervise at cookie booths

All volunteers must become a Girl Scout adult member and submit up to date criminal background checks and clearances in order to participate and support the Girl Scout program. Learn more about volunteering with Girl Scouts at gsep.org.



Starting a New Troop

Many Girl Scout troops begin because a parent, caregiver, or community member notices there isn't a troop available for girls in their area. You do not need previous Girl Scout experience. GSEP provides training, resources, and support to help you get started.

Option 1: Girls First

A group of girls expresses interest in joining Girl Scouts. GSEP helps identify parents, caregivers, or community members who may be interested in leading the troop.

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What Is Needed to Start a Troop?

A troop typically needs:

- Two approved adult volunteers
- A meeting location
- Completion of required registration and training steps

GSEP staff will guide you through each step.

What Support Will I Receive?

When you start a troop, GSEP will help with:

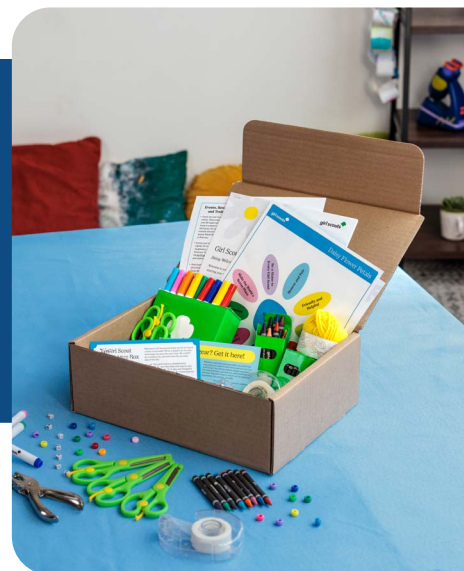
- Volunteer onboarding and training
- Getting girls registered into your troop
- Access to troop year plans and program materials
- Ongoing coaching and support from staff and local volunteers

Lead with Confidence

New Daisy (K–1) or Brownie (2–3) leaders can receive monthly ***Girl Scout Experience Boxes***—delivered to their door! Each box includes simple scripts, easy instructions, and ready-to-use supplies for fun, stress-free meetings. Start with a Welcome Box, followed by up to seven themed boxes, depending on when the troop begins.

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How do I get started?

Complete our “I Want To Be a Girl Scout Troop leader” form and someone will reach out with next steps!



Scan here for the form!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the membership year?

The Girl Scout membership year is October 1–September 30. Members can join any point during the membership year. Current members can renew for the next membership year beginning in the spring.

What age can girl become a Girl Scout?

Girls can join Girl Scouts starting in the spring before they enter kindergarten and continue through 12th grade. Each spring/summer, new girls can purchase a special Extended Year Membership, which allows girls to begin participating right away and continue through the entire following membership year at a discounted rate.

How much does a Girl Scout membership cost?

This membership year, the Girl Scout membership fee is **\$25 for youth members** and **\$30 for adult members**. Financial assistance is available to ensure every girl can participate, and troop leaders receive a complimentary membership. Additional costs may include uniforms, troop dues, activities, and trips. Many troops use proceeds from the Girl Scout Cookie Program and other approved money-earning activities to help offset costs.

How do I find existing troops?

Visit **mygs.girlscouts.org** and select **“Find a Troop.”** You can search by zip code and grade level to explore available troops in your area. If you don’t see a troop that is the right fit, don’t worry—new troops are forming all the time. Contact us and we can help connect you with available opportunities or support the formation of a new troop in your community.

How does Girl Scouts prioritize safety?

The safety and well-being of girls is our highest priority. All volunteers complete state mandated clearances and receive training appropriate to their role. Girl Scouts follows nationally developed safety standards and activity guidelines, including requirements for adult supervision, transportation, overnight trips, outdoor activities, and emergency preparedness.

How do I learn more?

Visit our website at **gsep.org** or contact Member Services at **memberservices@gsep.org**, (215) 564-2030.



Girl Scout Shops!

GSEP shops are open for all Girl Scouts and their families, not just Troop Leaders. Get started with your new uniform, handbooks, and cool Girl Scout swag. When you shop at a GSEP shop, you are directly supporting your local council. GSEP troops are tax exempt at our shops on all troop purchases.

Shop Locations

Shelly Ridge

(215) 840-7953

330 Manor Rd. Miquon, PA 19444

Valley Forge

(445) 866-6768

100 Juliette Low Way
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Jane Seltzer

(267) 965-6179

2020 Rhawn St.
Philadelphia, PA 19152

Luella - Mobile Shop

Various Locations

Uniforms

You can order uniforms, badges and insignia from a council store online by filling out our jot form here. You can choose to have your items shipped (Free shipping above \$100) or ready for store pick up.



Scan for the Jotform!

Daisy Uniform



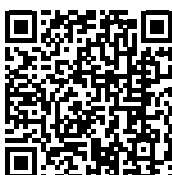
Brownie Uniform



Shop Online

Visit www.girlscoutshop.com, the national organization's online shop. Be advised this online shop charges sales tax and shipping on all orders. GSEP's council shops cannot provide customer service on GSUSA online orders.

*For more information
for the shop:*



Financial Aid

Families who would like to request a one time \$25 shop certificate for uniform components can fill out the form at www.gsep.org/shopcertificate. After their first cookie sale, Girl Scouts can use Cookie Dough earned through Cookie Season toward new uniform purchases when visiting a GSEP Shop. Just mention your Cookie Dough to the associate for assistance.

About Our Council Footprint



Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP) is part of the national Girl Scouts organization (GSUSA) and movement. Our council serves girls and volunteers across our nine-county footprint in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Girl Scout volunteers in our council are organized into local Service Units. Each Service Unit is led by dedicated and experienced volunteers who provide support, guidance, resources and opportunities to Girl Scouts and volunteers in their area. Our council is also supported by a team of committed staff members who ensure our volunteers have all the resources they need to be successful.

Welcome to our GSEP community!

7 Sites

1. Camp Shelly Ridge

Miquon, PA 19444
*Headquarters and
Retail Shop*

2. Jane Seltzer

Philadelphia, PA 19152
Retail Shop

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
Retail Shop

7. Camp Wood Haven

Pine Grove, PA 17963



9 Counties

Berks	Lehigh
Bucks	Montgomery
Carbon	Northampton
Chester	Philadelphia
Delaware	

4 Overnight Camps

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

3 Day Camps

Camp Mountain House
Camp Shelly Ridge
Camp Valley Forge

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.

**Members may substitute for the word God in
accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.*

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.