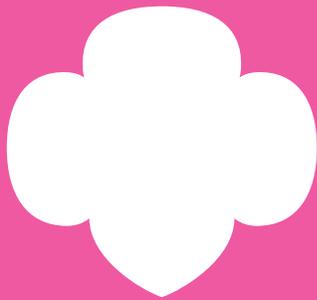


Family Packet

GSEP MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2024



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

4 | GSEP Shops

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! Our business hours are 8am-6pm, Monday through Friday, but you can leave a message and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

www.gsep.org | 215-564-2030 | [f @GirlScoutsEPenn](https://www.facebook.com/GirlScoutsEPenn) | [@GirlScoutsEPenn](https://www.instagram.com/GirlScoutsEPenn) | [@GirlScoutsEPenn](https://twitter.com/GirlScoutsEPenn)

 /GSEP Cookies |  /GSEP Fall Product Program |  /GSEP Shops

Notes from Kim



Dear Girl Scout Families,

Welcome (or welcome back!) to another year full of exciting adventures, shared experiences, and hands-on fun.

At Girl Scouts, activities are girl-led, giving girls opportunities to explore leadership roles. Girl Scouting is also hands-on, and girls learn by doing in a cooperative environment. It's what makes Girl Scouts truly unique—our program is designed by, with, and for girls.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) is what girls do and how they do it. When girls participate in the GSLE, they experience five measurable leadership benefits or outcomes that will fuel their success. Through the GSLE, every Girl Scout 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

Research shows that the courage, confidence, and character girls develop as Girl Scouts stay with them throughout their lives. Check out “How GSEP Delivers Girl Programs” on page 9 for more information about how Girl Scouts inspires a lifetime of leadership.

Volunteers and families are key to bringing the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to life. We encourage you to get involved and witness the growth your girl will make during this year of Girl Scouting...you may be surprised how much the Girl Scouting community will mean to you. In addition to helping with troop activities, we offer many programs throughout the year that are open to the whole family. The Program Guide (included in this mailing or online) has more details.

Girl Scouts have fun learning new skills, earning badges, and testing their abilities—and it's our community of shared values that makes us a must for your family. We look forward to experiencing the friendship, adventure, and discovery of Girl Scouts with you this year.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

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



Welcome new Girl Scouts to GSEP Shops!

The GSEP Shops have everything you need to begin your Girl Scout journey.

Our shops are open for all Girl Scouts and their families, not just Troop Leaders. Get started with your new uniform and handbooks, and then discover all the cool swag to help you “Press Play” on having fun! More information including FAQ’s are on other side.

Check out the new uniforms & apparel!



Shop Locations

Jane Seltzer

2020 Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, PA 19152

Shelly Ridge

330 Manor Road
Miquon, PA 19444

Valley Forge

100 Juliette Low Way
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Mobile Pop-Up Shop

Serving Mountain House and other locations. Visit gsep.org/shops for hours and sites.

Ask about My GS Kit!



FREE Girl Scout bag

with purchase of \$60 (must include vest or sash, handbook and insignia).



FREE patch

for Girl Scouts who visit our shops and recite the Promise and Law!

Contact us!

Phone: 215.564.2030

Email: shop@gsep.org

TeamApp: For shop information and promotions (see back for details).

Did You Know? Council Shops carry unique items you won't find at the Online Shop! Check out our selections of craft supplies, camp gear and items hand made by the Fashion Patrol! “Shop” by often to see what’s new!

2023–2024 Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2023

02-04	Labor Day weekend: All Shops and Regional Locations Closed
30	Bronze Award Submission Deadline (for 2022-23 5th graders)
30	Silver Award Project Reflection Deadline (for 2022-23 8th graders)
30	Gold Award Final Report Deadline (for Class of 2023)

OCTOBER 2023

10	Fall Delegate Council Meeting
11	Take the Lead Girl Scout Application Deadline
12	Fall Product Program Starts
14	SUCM Cookie Program Training
15	Girl Scout Says Application Deadline
17	Golf for Girl Scouts Fundraising Event
20-22	Fall Leadership Weekend
25	Gluten Free Orders Due by Troops
31	Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday!

NOVEMBER 2023

01	Destinations (GSUSA) Early Submission Application Due (rolling thereafter till full)
01	2024 Trips Announced on girlscouts.org
07	Election Day
07	Troop Initial Orders Open in Smart Cookies
08	Volunteer Awards
12	Fall Product Program Ends
23-26	Thanksgiving: All Shops and Regional Locations Closed
27	Initial Order Home Delivery Deadline

DECEMBER 2023

01	Scholarship Applications Available
01	Troop Initial Order Closes in Smart Cookies
15	Summer Camp 2024 Go Live Date
23-01	Winter Break: All Shops and Regional Locations Closed

JANUARY 2024

05-14	Initial Order Pick Up and Home Deliveries
15	MLK Day: All Shops and Regional Locations Closed
18	Cookie Program Begins
18	Applications Due for Girl Advisors/Girl Delegates for GY24-25
31	Older Girl Scholarship Applications Due

FEBRUARY 2024

16-18	National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend
19	Presidents Day: All Shops and Regional Locations Closed
22	World Thinking Day

MARCH 2024

TBD	Spring Delegate Council Meeting
05	Take the Lead Greater Philadelphia
10	Last Day of Cookie Program
10-16	Girl Scout Week
30	All Shops Closed
30	Gold Proposal Submission Deadline (for Class of 2024)

APRIL 2024

03	Take the Lead Berks County
14	Women's Leadership Summit
19-20	Collector's Meet
23	Take the Lead Lehigh Valley

MAY 2024

TBD	Highest Awards Ceremonies
01	Silver Award Proposal Deadline (for 2023-24 8th graders)
04	GSEP's Annual Meeting
25-27	Memorial Day: All Shops and Regional Locations Closed

JUNE 2024

17	Camp Begins!
19	Juneteenth: All Shops and Regional Locations Closed

JULY 2024

04	Independence Day: All Shops and Regional Locations Closed; GSEP Overnight Camps Open
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AUGUST 2024

TBD	GSEP Kick-off!
TBD	Adult Camping Weekend
31-02	Labor Day Weekend: All Shops and Regional Locations Closed

SEPTEMBER 2024

TBD	Fall Delegate Council Meeting
30	Bronze Award Submission Deadline (for 2023-24 5th graders)
30	Silver Award Project Reflection Deadline (for 2023-24 8th graders)
30	Gold Award Final Report Deadline (for Class of 2024)

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.



DAISIES
K - 1st



BROWNIES
2nd - 3rd



JUNIORS
4th - 5th

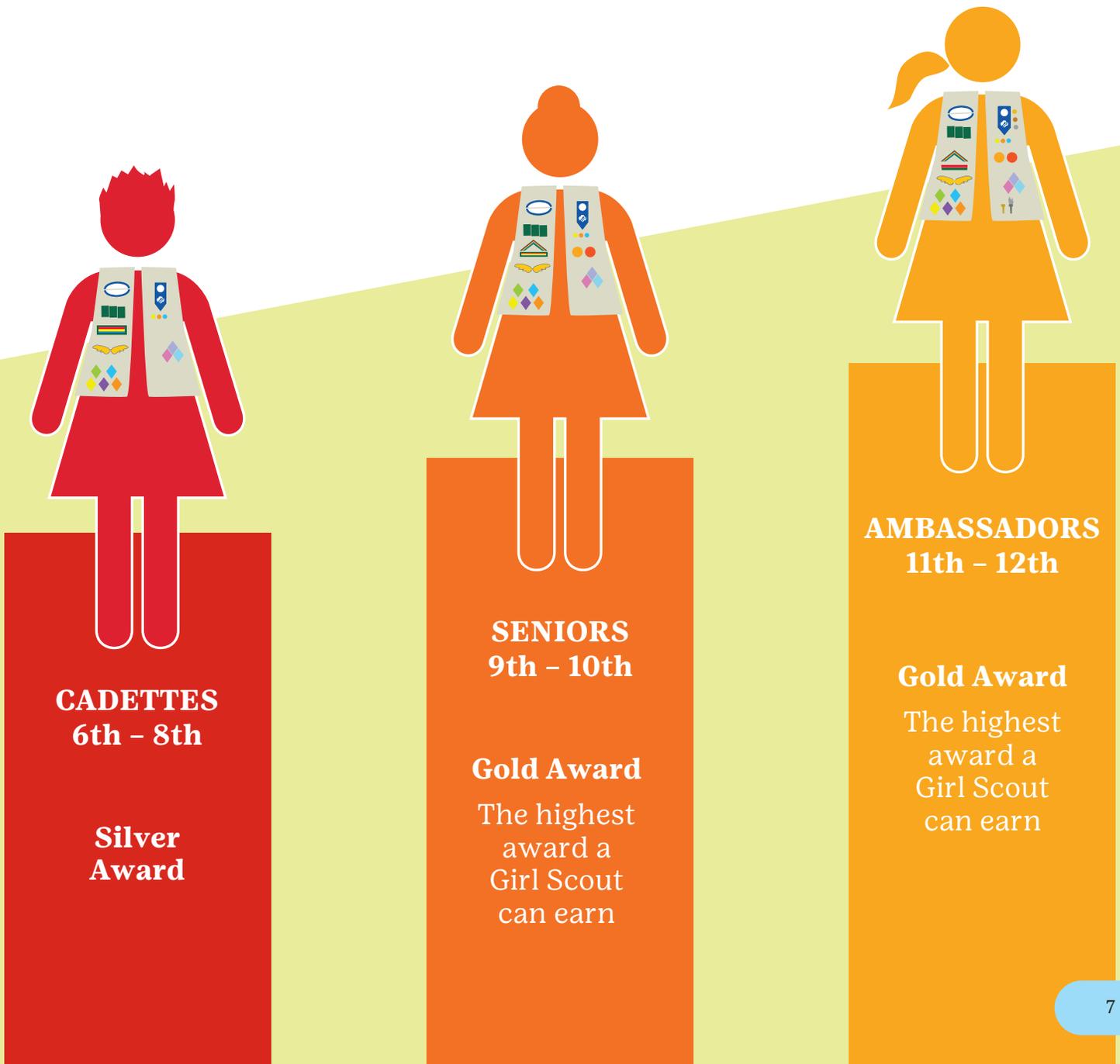
**Bronze
Award**

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, or plan to visit the mobile van, Luella, 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. Send orders to 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/members/for-girl-scouts/uniforms.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. Check out all the badges and awards you can earn using the Girl Scouts online Award and Badge Explorer (girlscouts.org/badgeexplorer).

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 programmatic pillars, that will 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.

In an all-girl environment Girl Scouts has three girl led processes:

Learn by doing

Cooperative learning

Girl led

The Result? A Lifetime of Leadership!



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.



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.



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.



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.

Spark Programs & 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 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.

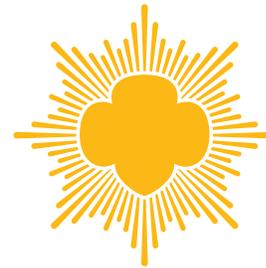
Highest Awards



BRONZE AWARD



SILVER AWARD



GOLD AWARD

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 to learn more.

The Individual Girl Experience: 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, look for emails to stay up to date on cool events your Girl Scout can attend... and even some for the whole family. Reach out to memberservices@gsep.org for guidance and support.

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.

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. Register as an adult member to lend a helping hand (see page 13). 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!

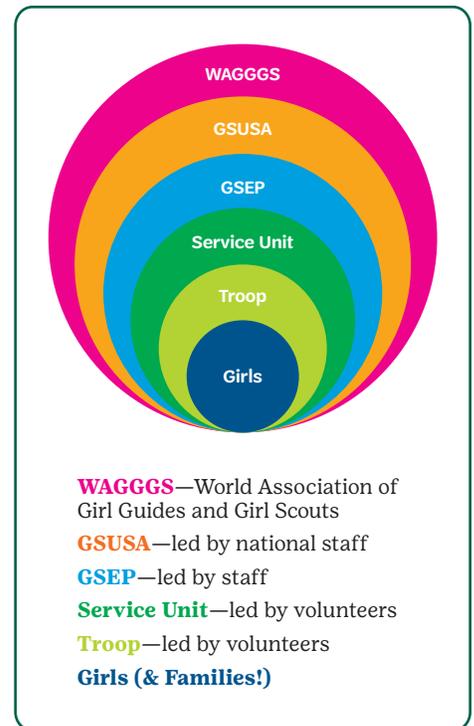
Who are Girl Scout troop leaders? Leaders are VOLUNTEERS! Leaders are busy women and men just like you. Leaders are parents, grandparents, neighbors, and college students who give their time unselfishly. Many volunteers are needed—a minimum of two registered, unrelated and cleared (background check)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

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 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, take risks, 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 and sign up as an adult member
- Support the council sponsored Product Program sales, which help your girl earn funds to fuel her Girl Scouts experience, and 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 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. 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

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!

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 2024 Cookie Program begins January 18, and runs through March 10.

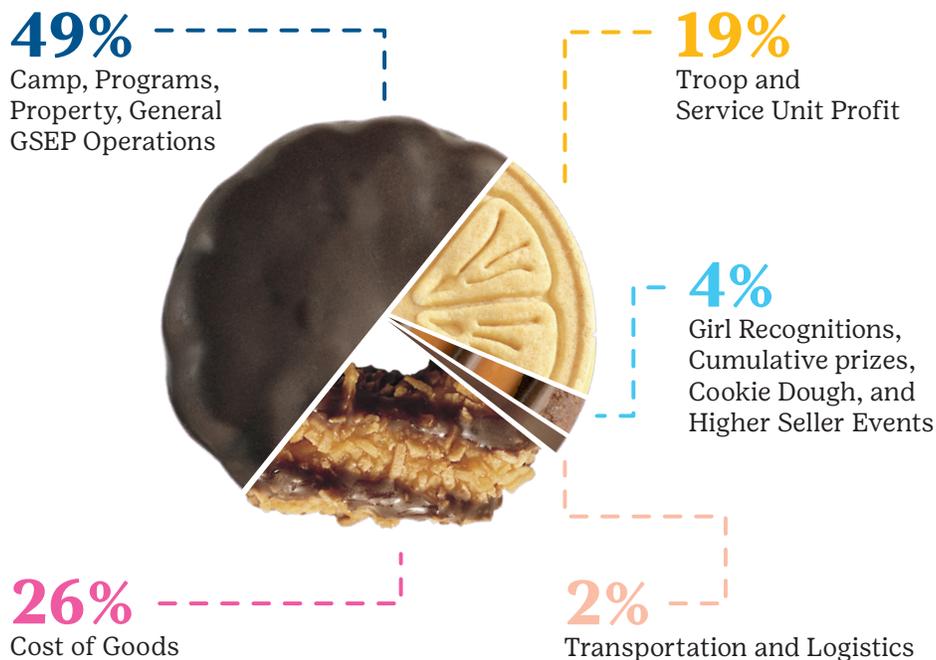
Each troop volunteer team will communicate the troop sale guidelines to families in advance of the sale. The profit from the Cookie Program stays within Girl Scouts of Eastern PA—a portion stays with the troop, and the rest helps to pay for the cookies and fund membership financial aid, girl programs, 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 12 through November 12. Troops will have the option to participate in this high proceed program, and girls can design an avatar of their very own likeness. Girls can 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 her 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 Eastern Pennsylvania!



YOUR ROLE AS A GSEP 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

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

Volunteer with the Cookie Program

Follow guidelines set by council and your troop leader

Accept financial responsibility for purchased products

Celebrate with her when she accomplishes a goal!

COSTS & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Register as a member—girl and adult! YOU! 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
 - 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.

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)

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 their 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). Visit www.gsep.org/volunteer-recognition for more information.
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 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: Girl Scouts of the USA, headquartered 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: Bronze. Silver. Gold. 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 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.

Overnight 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 is available. Busing is available at some camps.

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.

Service Unit (or SU for short): A Service Unit is a geographical region of troops 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 team, who lead troop leaders in the Service Unit. They are 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 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.

Our Council Footprint

7 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



9 Counties

Berks
Bucks
Carbon
Chester
Delaware
Lehigh
Montgomery
Northampton
Philadelphia

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.

