

GIRL SCOUT FAMILY CONNECTION

2020-2021

**Welcome to your family's go-to, easy-to-use guide
for getting the most out of this year in Girl Scouts!
Here's what you'll find inside.**

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What Girl Scouts Is All About

Girl Scouts helps your girl be her best, bravest, boldest self each and every day. The benefits go way beyond the badges and awards she'll earn as recognition of the new skills she's learning. Whether she's finishing a school project, making a new friend, or speaking up for what's right, a Girl Scout faces the world with confidence and optimism.

Her Hopes and Dreams

Right at this moment, there are Girl Scouts learning about our universe, climbing mountains, painting murals, coding robots, feeding the hungry, and even suggesting new laws to make the world a better place. If she can dream it, Girl Scouts can take her there.



Her Growth

There's no need to be perfect in Girl Scouts. This is a community where your girl is seen and unconditionally accepted for exactly who she is today and all that she can be tomorrow. When she feels confident enough to try new things and work through problems, she'll achieve great things.



Her Success

With her group or "troop" of Girl Scout sisters by her side, your girl will aim higher, try harder, and bounce back faster in those moments when she doesn't quite hit her target. Get ready to see her shine like never before.



Girls make the **Girl Scout sign** when saying the Promise. Try it by holding up your right hand like this.

Keep track as your girl levels up through the years!



Daisies
Grades K-1



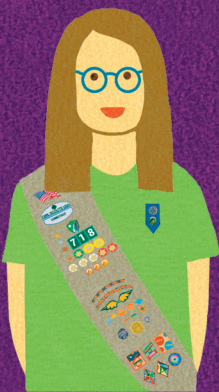
Brownies
Grades 2-3



Juniors
Grades 4-5



Cadettes
Grades 6-8



Seniors
Grades 9-10



Ambassadors
Grades 11-12

We Promise

Girl Scouts' ideals are clearly stated in our Promise and Law, which members of all levels recite. The Girl Scout Family Promise is a commitment your family can make to support your girl and her Girl Scout community as they grow as leaders and make the world a better place.

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.

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.

Girl Scout Family Promise

*On my honor, I will try:
To support my Girl Scout
And her troop,
To help girls lead at all times,
And to always keep it fun!*



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

Get Excited, Girl

Think for a second—what are you curious about? Whatever it is, there's a good chance you can learn about it in Girl Scouts.

Head to [girlscouts.org/badgeexplorer](https://www.girlscouts.org/badgeexplorer) to check out all the cool badges and awards you can earn this year.

“Girl Scouts opened up so many amazing opportunities for me and my family, and I’m proud to see this legacy live on in families like yours. There’s so much to look forward to in the year ahead, including 24 new badge experiences in STEM, life skills, and entrepreneurship that offer new challenges, adventures, and great opportunities to learn, grow, and serve your community—all while having tons of fun!”

—**Sylvia Acevedo**
CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA

Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Creating change, finding your path, leading, learning and imagining what's next: There's always more to explore with Girl Scouts. Here's how to connect:

- www.comgirlscouts.org
- @comgirlscouts on Facebook
- @girlscoutsofva on Instagram
- @GSCofVa on Twitter
- 804-746-0590
- 800-4SCOUT4 toll-free
- gshelper@comgirlscouts.org



Fixing Up Your Uniform

Your insignia—flag patch, council name patches, and troop numbers—go on the front of your tunic, sash, or vest, starting at the top. As you earn badges and Journey awards, put them on the front (or have your family help you!), starting at the bottom, to show all the skills you’ve learned. On a vest, insignia and badges go on the right-hand side, Journey awards on the left. On a sash, put badges below Journey awards. Fun patches from experiences and trips always go on the back. Need more help? Check out [girlscouts.org/placement](https://www.girlscouts.org/placement).

Head to www.girlscoutshop.com/COMMONWEALTH-OF-VIRGINIA-COUNCIL for all your uniform essentials and accessories.

Scout!

Dream Big! Use this space to write or draw the things you want to do this year in Girl Scouts.

Go for the Girl Scout Gold Award

Who is a Gold Award Girl Scout? She's driven, passionate, and optimistic. She's the leader of tomorrow today. She's an amazing candidate for colleges, scholarships, and exciting careers. Essentially? She's you—either today or in a few years! Learn what girls of all levels can achieve at [girlscouts.org/highest-awards](https://www.girlscouts.org/highest-awards).

Seniors and Ambassadors can earn the **Girl Scout Gold Award** by tackling community problems while driving lasting change in their neighborhoods and beyond. Reach out to your local Girl Scout council to get started on your path to the Gold Award.



Cadettes can get ready for Gold Award success by earning the **Girl Scout Silver Award**. You'll research an issue you care about, make a plan, then take action to improve your community.

Juniors can prep for the Gold Award by first earning the **Girl Scout Bronze Award**. You'll team up with other girls to learn about an issue and work together to make a difference in your town.

Daisies and Brownies can practice the skills they'll need to become Gold Award Girl Scouts by learning about the world and the importance of taking action to make it better.

Your Talents Can Help Her Shine

You don't have to be an official troop leader to make a big difference in your girl's success. Just as her unique personality and strengths shine in Girl Scouts—yours can, too!

If you can handle spreadsheets in your sleep...

Organize cookie booths and track orders during cookie season for two to three hours per week. You'll be supporting the Girl Scout Cookie Program, which raises funds for troop activities and teaches important leadership skills.

If you'd be lost without your planner...

Organize and manage the troop snack or carpool calendar in as little as 15 minutes each week. Keeping track of who's doing what will make meetings and trips go smoothly for everyone.

If you're always on social...

Manage troop communications in as few as 30 minutes each week. That might mean sending texts about meeting dates, running the troop's social media, or being in charge of a phone tree.

If you've got an artistic eye...

Take photos or videos at troop meetings and other Girl Scout events in as few as 45 minutes each week. Be sure everyone's signed council photo releases before sharing images!

If you're curious about our world (who isn't?!)...

Lead part of a meeting, or guide Girl Scouts as they earn a badge. You can introduce girls to a topic you already know a bit about or try something totally new and learn alongside the troop.

Make It Happen

Tell her troop leader exactly how you'd like to help. Offering "whatever you need" is nice, but troop leaders are often too busy to think up or assign roles to family members. Being specific about how you can contribute will be 100% appreciated!



Want to give her the ultimate Girl Scout experience? Invest in her future and make every moment a shared memory by becoming an adult member at [girlscouts.org/join](https://www.girlscouts.org/join).

The Most Valuable Lessons

Even when the world can seem upside down, Girl Scouts stays rooted in what's right. In fact, the simple, positive values your family holds dear are spelled out in the Girl Scout Law. Read on to learn what some of these laws mean to us and how you can reinforce them at home.



Be Honest

Your girl may hide the truth to avoid getting in trouble or because she doesn't want to disappoint you. Let her know that while there may be consequences for less-than-awesome behavior, being honest shows integrity—something everyone can respect.

Be Fair

Instead of complaining and getting mad when something's unfair, encourage your girl to find ways to improve those situations and make them better for everyone. Positive change starts with her!

Be Friendly and Helpful

Knowing when and how to ask for help is a strength, not a weakness. Remind your girl that we all have different abilities and strengths, and that when we come together to help one another, there's no limit to what we can accomplish.

Be Considerate and Caring

Learning how to listen is just as important as learning how to speak up. Help her practice asking questions and checking that she understands what others are saying during conversations. Truly hearing what people have to say will expand her horizons.



Be Courageous and Strong

Did you know nearly half of girls say they aren't allowed to fail? Stop that thinking in its tracks by celebrating times when she's brave enough to try something new or work at something she's not great at. She'll start to build the courage and resilience it takes to be a success.

Be Responsible for What She Says and Does

Resist the urge to bail her out when she's forgotten her homework at home or overpromised something to a friend. Learning lessons about responsibility when she's young will help her with everything from earning respect at work to keeping meaningful friendships when she's older.



Her life can be complicated—raising her doesn't have to be. Check out Raising Awesome Girls at [girlscouts.org/raising-girls](https://www.girlscouts.org/raising-girls) for the latest tips and insight into her world.

Your Year in

Check out important dates, then fill in with troop meetings



October

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

10/31: Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday 

10/3: Outdoor art badges at Camp Pamunkey Ridge

10/7-21: When Words Hurt patch series (virtual)

10/10: Meals badges at Camp Pamunkey Ridge

10/15-29: Be a Friend First patch series (virtual)

November

11/11: Veterans Day

11/19: Women's Entrepreneurship Day

11/1-30: 19th Amendment Centennial subscription box

11/7: Dance Party for Juliette Low's Birthday (virtual)

11/11: Step-by-Step With Salamander online activity

11/14: Civics badges at Camp Pamunkey Ridge

February

2/22: World Thinking Day 

2/25: Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

2/19-21: National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend 

2/1-28: Robot Revolution subscription box

2/1-28: Badge Video Library (online)

2/20: Storytelling Weekend at Camp Pamunkey Ridge

March

Women's History Month 

3/7-13: Girl Scout Week

3/7-13: Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith

3/1-31: Girl Scout Party subscription box

3/1-31: Badge Video Library (online)

3/1-31: Other events pending/TBA

June

6/12: National Get Outdoors Day

6/1-30: Badge Video Library (online)

6/1-30: Other events pending/TBA

6/19: Juneteenth

July

7/4: Independence Day 

7/1-31: Badge Video Library (online)

7/1-31: Other events pending/TBA



Juliette Gordon Low opened doors for millions of girls when

she founded Girl Scouts. Think together as a family about who you could invite to join you on your Girl Scout adventures.



Is your girl nervous about booth sales? Help her come up

with questions customers might ask—like which cookie she loves best—then practice answering so she feels prepared.



Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in 150 countries celebrate

World Thinking Day by coming up with ways to improve the lives of girls near and far.



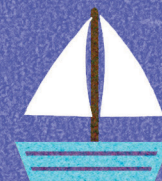
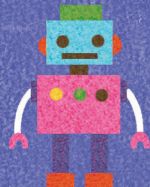
Girl Scouts was founded on March 12, 1912, and because

there's no party like a Girl Scout party, we like to celebrate all week long! Check with your council for family activities and events.

Head to www.comgirlscouts.org to stay up-to-date on family and troop opportunities all year long.

Girl Scouts

and council events you can attend as a family or with her troop.



December

12/6-13: Computer Science Education Week

12/1-31: Badge Video Library (online)

January

1/18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/1-31: Who Runs the World? subscription box

1/1-31: Badge Video Library (online)

1/16: First Aid Weekend at Camp Pamunkey Ridge

April

National Volunteer Month

4/22: Girl Scout Leader's Day 

4/1-30: Badge Video Library (online)

4/1-30: Other events pending/TBA

May

National Bridging Week 

5/1: Membership Renewal Opens

5/1-31: Nature Is Calling subscription box

5/1-31: Badge Video Library (online)

5/1-31: Other events pending/TBA

August

8/10: National S'mores Day 

8/1-31: Badge Video Library (online)

8/1-31: Other events pending/TBA

September

9/11-12: Girl Scouts Love State Parks

9/15-10/15: Hispanic Heritage Month

9/1-30: Badge Video Library (online)

9/1-30: Other events pending/TBA



Troop leaders volunteer their time, talent, and energy to

Girl Scouts just because they care. Help your girl decide on a special way to thank her troop leaders.



Bridging is when a girl moves up from one level of Girl Scouts to

the next. It's a celebration of her achievements and a way to look forward to all that awaits her.



Girl Scouts have been making s'mores for almost 100 years!

Make some of these tasty treats at home, and see if you can improve on the classic graham cracker, marshmallow, and chocolate recipe.

What *other* days are important to your family? Make this calendar your own by adding dates that you celebrate together every year!

Max Out



Look Around for STEM Surprises

Whether she wants to be an architect, a chef, or a fashion designer, the worlds of STEM will be important in your girl's future. And while every Girl Scout has the chance to try her hand at STEM with her troop, she'll be even more prepared for success when you make STEM learning a part of your everyday routine.

Not sure where to start? Taking care of a household plant or pet can spark her interest in life sciences, following a family recipe will get her into the coding mindset, playing with building blocks can teach her about engineering, and dividing up a pizza equally among your family is a way to practice math. The world of STEM is all around you—check out [GirlsLeadSTEM.com](https://www.girlsleadstem.com) for even more fun!

With so many demands on your time, every minute you get to spend focused on your girl is truly precious. Borrow these simple ideas to take family time to the next level and give everyone a taste of the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects; outdoor fun; business know-how; and life skills that your girl is getting through Girl Scouts.

Heading Out Is In

Believe it or not, spending time outside can help your daughter do better in school, improve everyone's mood, and give you a better night's sleep. Your Girl Scout will likely have outdoor adventures with her troop (ask your council about camp availability and options!), but studies show the more time she spends out in the open, the better.

And there's no need to go all out to get the benefits of being outside. Biking or walking in your neighborhood, moving dinner to a picnic table, shooting hoops in the driveway, climbing a tree, or even just birdwatching from your front porch or steps are simple ways to shake things up and work some fresh air into your time together.



Family Time

Make It Her Business

All Girl Scouts can learn how to set goals and manage money like entrepreneurs through the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Here's how you and your family can make those lessons stick.

Before She Starts Selling Cookies

Talk together about the kinds of goals you make for yourself and as a family. How do you stay focused as you work toward them? What are some challenges you've faced, and how does it feel to succeed?


When Cookie Season Starts

Girl Scout Cookies can be sold in person and online. Ask her troop leader when the paper order forms will be ready, how to help your girl customize her cookie website, when her troop will hold a cookie booth sale, and when the deadline is for all orders. Go over these dates with your girl, and help her keep track of them on a shared family calendar.

After Cookie Season Closes

Ask her what she liked about being a cookie boss and if she wishes she'd done anything differently. What is she proud of? Keep her thoughts in a notebook she can learn from next time.

Learn all you can do to support her cookie business and help her earn the Cookie Family Entrepreneur pin at [girlscouts.org/entrepreneurfamily](https://www.girlscouts.org/entrepreneurfamily).



Talk It Over

Being able to speak up and express her views clearly is a life skill that will help her shine at school, in her friendships and relationships, and in her future career. Your girl will get plenty of practice testing this and other life skills with her Girl Scout troop, but it's mainly at home with her family that she's learning to communicate. The easiest way to make sure she knows her opinions matter? Ask about her thoughts and feelings, and take time to listen to and understand her views—especially when you don't see eye-to-eye. By avoiding the “because I said so” argument and explaining your own feelings and reasons, you'll be teaching her healthy ways to work through disagreements and getting to know each other a little better in the meantime, too. Win-win.



My Girl Scout Memories

There's nothing else quite like Girl Scouting, and you'll want to remember every minute of it! When you take a cool trip, learn something new, earn a badge or award, or do one of the activities from this booklet with your family, mark it down here so you'll never forget this incredible year.

I did...

I loved...



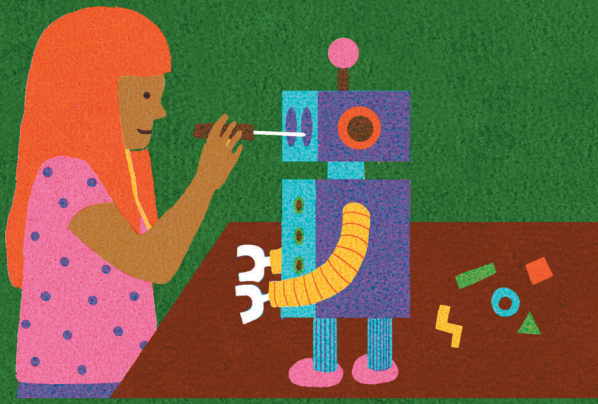
My Girl Scout Support Crew

When someone helps you on your Girl Scout adventures this year, add their name here with a note about what they did. You might want to include any guest speakers who spoke to your troop; the shop owner who let you set up a cookie booth outside her store; and, of course, your troop leaders! At the end of the year, check the list and send thank-you notes to all your amazing supporters.

I learned...



Want a special place to keep track of even more Girl Scout moments? Check out the official Girl Scout Memory Books at girlscouts.org/memory.



Set Her Up for Success

You want a brighter, better tomorrow for your girl—and that's exactly what we want, too. When you stick with Girl Scouts and allow us to work hand-in-hand with your family, you're investing in her future and preparing her to thrive.

Although all members benefit from being a Girl Scout, studies show girls who participate in the program for three or more years are significantly more likely to:

- Achieve higher education levels and income
- Feel satisfied with their lives
- Practice leadership
- Be civically engaged
- Have healthy relationships
- Have a positive sense of self

What more could you want for your girl? Invite her friends to join the adventure this year—it's never too late!—then in the spring, secure her spot for the 2021–22 Girl Scout year. Head to [girlscouts.org/join](https://www.girlscouts.org/join) for more info on girl and adult memberships.



Keep the Fun Going with Girl Scouts at Home

Troop meetings are awesome, but why let the good times stop there? We've handpicked the most engaging and inspiring Girl Scout activities for you and your girl to try out at home—and brought them to life like never before. Head to [girlscouts.org/athome](https://www.girlscouts.org/athome) to check out our free video tutorials for standalone projects, or work on earning a badge from virtually anywhere.





Discover More

Beyond uniform essentials, there's a whole world of Girl Scouting to explore at your local council store. Consider our staff your support team when it comes to finding the right badge booklet, making her smile with a sweet gift, or staying updated on community and family events. Find us at the address on the back cover, or check out girlscoutshop.com.

Just for Juliettes!

A Juliette, or individually registered Girl Scout, has the same Girl Scout experience as other girls, just without being in a troop. If you're a Juliette family, connect with your council for guidance, for support, and to stay up-to-date on exciting events the whole family can attend.



We're Here for You!

Family helps family, and you're part of ours! Whether you have questions about your girl's troop experiences or are going through a rough time on a more personal level, Girl Scouts is here to support you and your girl through the years. Never hesitate to reach out.

Girl Scouts of the USA National Headquarters

420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018

✉ girlscouts.org/contact

📷 [instagram.com/girlscouts](https://www.instagram.com/girlscouts)

📘 [facebook.com/GirlScoutsUSA](https://www.facebook.com/GirlScoutsUSA)

🐦 twitter.com/girlscouts

☎ 800-478-7248

For all the latest Girl Scout family resources, check out
girlscouts.org/family



Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Creating change, finding
your path, leading, learning
and imagining what's next:
There's always more to
explore with Girl Scouts.

Girl Scouts of the
Commonwealth of Virginia
covers 30 counties and six
cities in central Virginia.
Here's how to connect with
our council:

Council office and shop

4900 Augusta Ave., Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23230

✉ gshelper@comgirlscouts.org

📘 [@comgirlscouts](https://www.facebook.com/comgirlscouts)

📷 [@girlscoutsofva](https://www.instagram.com/girlscoutsofva)

🐦 [@GSCofVa](https://twitter.com/GSCofVa)

☎ 804-746-0590/800-4SCOUT4

All About My Troop

Fill in the details of your girl's troop and keep this handy all year long!

Troop number: _____

Troop co-leader phone/email: _____

Troop co-leader phone/email: _____

Troop co-leader phone/email: _____

Meeting place: _____

We meet at _____ on _____, every _____ week/s.
[FILL IN TIME] [FILL IN DAY] [FILL IN NUMBER]

The girls in the troop are:

Important cookie dates:

Our family is helping out by:

Other important information:

