



girl scouts
of colorado



GROW A DAISY

help start a troop winter 2018

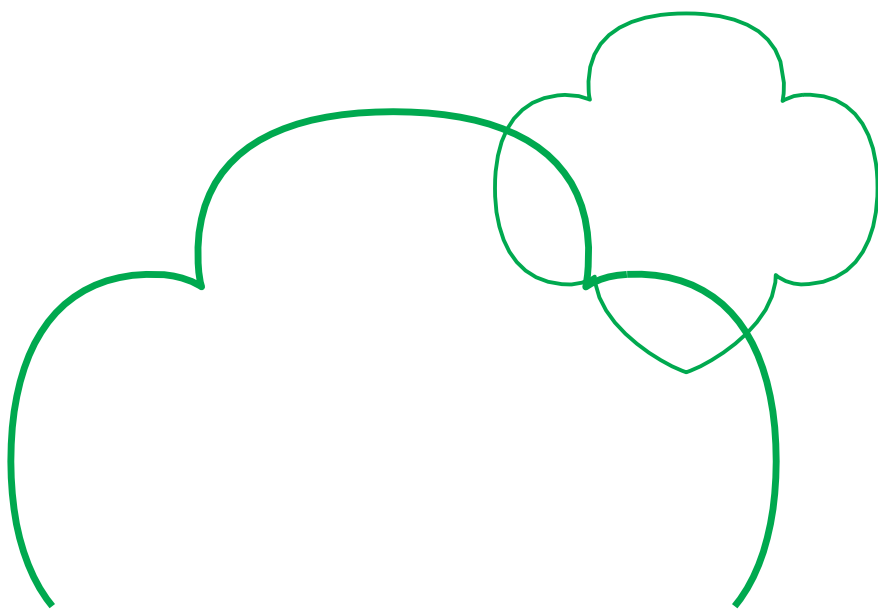
Thank you for helping to bring the excitement of Girl Scouts to new Daisies!

As an older girl Girl Scout troop, you know what Girl Scouting is all about -- how it's helped you build confidence, grow friendships and launched your adventures! Do you remember what it felt like when your troop first got started? Wearing your uniform for the first time and saying The Girl Scout Promise with a group of girls you didn't yet know but soon became your best buds? You've earned badges together, tried new things, gone camping, traveled together and maybe even earned a Highest Award.

Little girls look up to you. This is your chance to meet some great kindergarten and first-grade girls and help get them started on their Girl Scout journey. You'll share your Girl Scout stories, pick a theme, play a game, try a badge activity or age-appropriate science project to give the girls a taste of what being in a troop could be like.

The adults in your troop will talk with the parents about the details of signing up and joining a troop and answer any questions they may have.

The sooner a girl becomes a Girl Scout Daisy, the sooner she'll realize that no matter how young or small she might think she is, there's *nothing* she can't accomplish!



Key messages about Girl Scouts

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

The Girl Scout program is fun with purpose! It is based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law that generations of girls have followed. The Girl Scout program is based on the needs and interests of girls. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience, represented by three keys of leadership—Discover, Connect, and Take Action promotes the Girl Scout Mission:

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place

What Do Girl Scouts Do?

Girl Scouts is a safe, no-limits place where she can be inspired, try new things, take on challenges, build community, and inspire others. She can earn badges, hike and camp, participate in the cookie program, and much more. They improve neighborhoods, protect the planet, design robots, and establish sports clinics... and much, much more. In Girl Scouting the opportunities are endless! Girls, with their troops, will decide what opportunities they want to explore together.

The Girl Scout program starts girls off on a Journey of their choice from the National Leadership Journeys series. They'll earn awards, have fun, and take on projects that change the world.

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



STRONG SENSE OF SELF

Girls have confidence in themselves and their abilities, and form 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.

More than just troop meetings

There are so many things to do with Girl Scouts! Every girl is welcome, and girls can join at any time in the year. Girl Scouts offers different, flexible ways to join and participate.

Join a Troop

Girls form strong bonds by meeting regularly to work on activities decided upon by the group. This is teamwork at its finest, and it's a strong focus in Girl Scouts. Our organization is committed to helping girls to discover more about themselves as well as the world around them. Girl Scouts make a difference in their community and the world and have fun doing it!

Go to Camp

Camp programs encourage girls to develop independence, self-reliance, outdoor skills, problem solving, and community living skills. In an outdoor environment, under the supervision of supportive adults, girls take responsibility for their daily tasks, ranging from keeping a clean living area to preparing dinner in the outdoors. Camp programs build girls' self-confidence and teach them to overcome challenges. If girls are interested in having some amazing adventures in a fun and safe environment, camp is the place to be.

Attend an Event

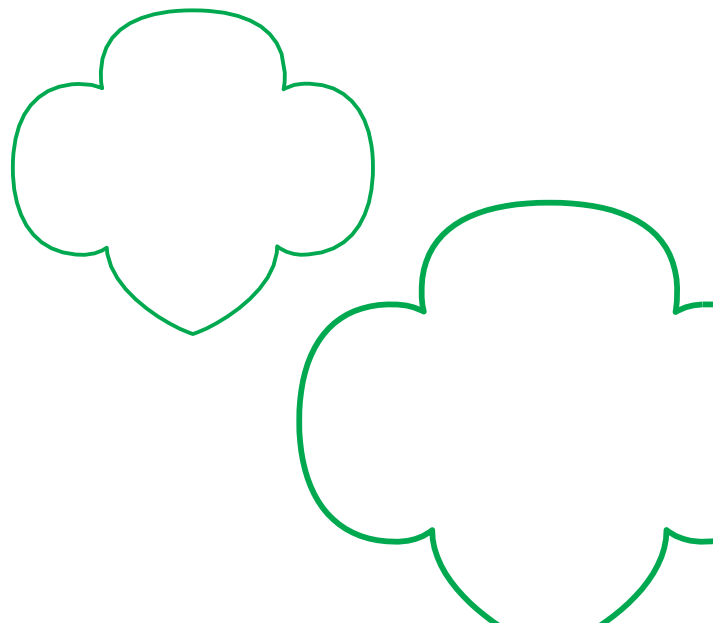
Everything is more fun when you're sharing it with others who have the same interests. Many Service Units put on events from dances, ice cream socials, camping, day camps... the list in which to participate in endless.

Travel

Pack your bags -- Girl Scouts are going places! Perhaps you want to explore the Grand Canyon? Discover Alaska? Try a service project in Costa Rica? Whether it's a trip across town or around the world, the adventure will stay with you forever. When girls see and experience new things, whether locally, nationally or internationally, they have life-changing experiences they won't soon forget.

Discover More

In addition to the Pathways above, Girl Scouts offers programs that any Girl Scout can participate in, including the Girl Scout Cookie Program; badge and patch programs; the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards; scholarships; and community events.



Ideas for your Daisy Recruitment Event

This is your Daisy Recruitment event and you get to decide what you want it to look like. But here are a few ideas to get you started!

- **Teddy Bear Picnic** — Have girls bring their teddy bear and have a tea party! Teach simple first aid using the teddy bear as a “patient”, teach songs, make a hat for the animal, etc. Do an activity related to a Journey.
- **Daisy Low Storyteller** — Tell the Juliette Low story, perhaps in costume character.
- **Giant Show and Tell** — Bring photos and scrapbooks of when you were Daisies, bring your old Daisy tunic and tell the girls about the badges you earned.
- **Try It and Take It** — Do an activity from or related to a Journey or badge with items to take home.
- **Ice Cream Social** — Serve ice cream and a variety of toppings, use Girl Scout Cookies as toppings and teach the girls about being a Cookie Entrepreneur.
- **Tent Talk**— Pitch a tent and try some age-appropriate outdoor skills, play some Girl Scout games and teach them a favorite Girl Scout song.
- **Paperbag Scavenger Hunt** — Send the girls out on a hunt (paired up with older girls) to find Girl Scout-themed objects.
- **Recycled Fun** — Teach the girls how Girl Scouts use resources wisely -- create toilet paper seed starters or plastic bottle chia pets.
- **International Sisterhood** — With World Thinking Day coming up, choose a country and dress in costume and teach the girls a song or craft from that culture.

While you're having fun with the girls, have parents meet separately to learn about Girl Scouts and leadership from your experienced troop leaders. (See page 7 for more details)

Planning for the event

Pick a date, time and place

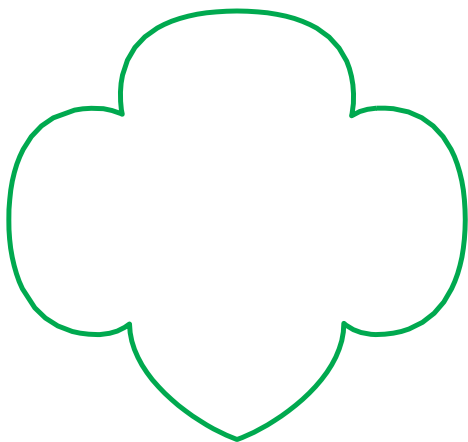
- Make sure it's an appropriate meeting time and does not conflict with other events such as parent-teacher conferences or Girl Scout traditions. You can tack your Daisy event onto an existing event such as a cookie rally, World Thinking Day event or other event for Girl Scouts as long as you work with the planners of that event.

Location of Recruitment Event

- Suggestions: school gym or library, public library, church, large subdivision or apartment complex building, community center, fire department, YMCA (Try to find a space that is free to use.)
- Determine meeting space based on location, space, cost, hours of operation
- Connect with school administrators or person in charge of event location to determine a good time to schedule a Girl Scout recruitment event.
- Reserve a space for a one-hour long recruitment event (ask to set up 30 minutes prior and clean up 30 minutes after)

Promote your event to girls/families

- Ask at your local elementary school if fliers can be handed out to all girls in kindergarten and 1st grade. Full page and half-page fliers are provided with a customizable spot to add the details of your event. You are also welcome to create your own flier.
- Ask a school administrator if there is a weekly email newsletter that goes out to all families where you can advertise your event.
- Sometimes schools are inundated with fliers and you'll have to think creatively about how to reach school-aged families. Look for places in your community where kids/parents congregate -- local library, coffee shop, laundromat, churches, gym, rec center -- and ask if you can post a flier there.
- Use social media -- since this is your community you are probably already connected to various social media groups such as NextDoor or a Facebook parents group. Use the provided social media graphics and language on these sites or on the personal social media accounts of adults in your group.
- Peer-to-peer -- the best ask is almost always from a friend. Reach out to your circles to find families with girls who might be interested in having this amazing Girl Scout experience just like your girl has had!



During the event - speaking to the caregivers

- Describe your Girl Scout volunteer experience, why you got involved and what being a Girl Scout has meant for the girls in your troop.
 - Explain the basics of starting a troop:
 - \$25 membership fee,
 - troops meet on a schedule that works best for them (that could be weekly, bi-monthly or monthly),
 - each troop needs at least two unrelated volunteers to get started,
 - all volunteers are background checked
 - training is provided
 - parents are encouraged to be involved as troop support volunteers
 - troops might have troop dues initially but many troops become self-sustaining through the Girl Scout Product Programs.
 - Offer to mentor those willing to step up into Troop Leadership Team positions.
 - Make sure the volunteers know support is available: the team approach is best when starting a new troop, required trainings and enrichment trainings are available, Service Unit structure, council staff Volunteer Support Specialist, and the Volunteer Toolkit.
 - Timelines: You can start a troop right now! Many families of young children are busy and overwhelmed at the start of the school year, now that you've settled into a routine and the holidays are over it's a perfect time to get going.
 - Interest cards: Collect contact information and any relevant details on provided interest cards.
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- Helpful quotes
 - “At Girl Scouts, we prepare her for a lifetime of leadership, adventure and success. Because Girl Scouts is not an activity – it's an experience!”
 - “Girl Scouts offers exciting programming that gives girls the opportunity to try new things, take risks in a safe environment and earn badges, patches, and awards along the way.”
 - “Girl Scouts is a place where a girl can be inspired to change the world. She practices leadership and her confidence grows. It's a place where 'Can I?' quickly turns to 'I will!' ”
 - “Being a Girl Scout has never been so much fun. Your daughter will explore nature, create masterpieces, care for animals, go to camp, and sell cookies. Together with her friends, she will grow into the resourceful, capable, innovative Girl Scout you know she can be. Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to have good grades, take an active role in decision making and feel hopeful about their future.”

After the event - follow up

- Interest cards
 - Double check the interest cards to be sure they are filled out properly and legibly and you've included any relevant notes on the card. Be sure to return the interest cards to your staff Recruitment Specialist so we can help facilitate getting the troop started.
 - Offer to meet again with caregivers considering volunteering as the Troop Leadership Team. Sitting down with 2 or 3 potential volunteers and telling them how you got your troop started and introducing them to one another can ease their concerns and help get the troop off to a great start.

Assets available to you

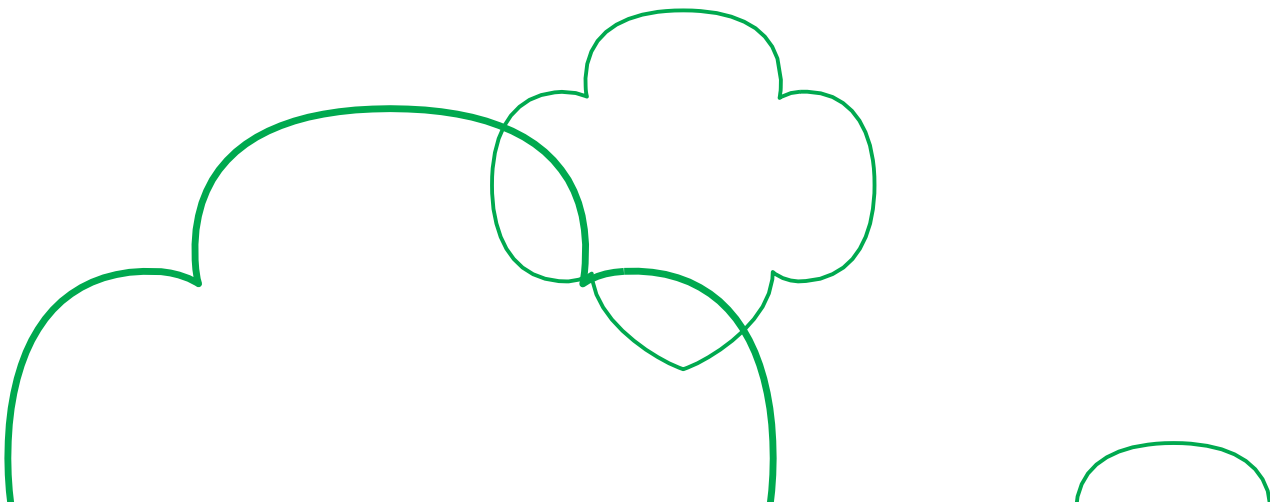


Social media graphics and sample text



Fliers

Visit gscoblog.org/recruitment-resources to download resources. You can also add your event to our recruitment calendar



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are you selling cookies? When are cookie sales?

A: Today we are here to tell people about all of the opportunities in Girl Scouts. We're a lot more than just cookies. Girls will be selling cookies in February through March.

Q. Is there a troop in my area?

A: Girl Scouts are in most communities throughout Colorado; however, not all troops have the capacity for more girls. When you complete an interest card, a staff or volunteer from your area can connect with you to discuss troops you might be able to join or new troops that may be forming soon.

Q. We just moved here from _____, is my membership still good?

A: We can easily transfer your membership from your former council. We just need the name of the person whose membership we are transferring, your previous GS Council, and your previous zip code.

Q. How much does all of this cost?

A: Girl Scout membership is \$25 a year. Other costs are flexible and vary based on the type of experience you choose to have. Girls can participate in money-earning activities such as the annual cookie sale program to learn financial responsibility and help cover costs. Financial assistance is available to families in need.

Q. When, where, and what time are troop meetings?

A. This decision is made by the Troop Leaders and the girls. Locations must meet specific safety standards defined by Girl Scouts of the USA.

Q. What about the uniform?

A. In addition to the Girl Scout membership pin each grade level has a unifying piece – a sash or vest on which to wear Girl Scout insignia. While a uniform is not required for membership, girls enjoy wearing their uniforms to show pride in belonging to worldwide sisterhood. Uniforms are available the Girl Scout shop and online. Financial assistance is available to families in need.

Q: When a girl leaves the troop does she get to keep her cookie money?

A: The cookie money earned is troop property, and not tracked according to who earned what. However if a girl is transferring to another troop, the leaders may come up with an agreement to transfer money to the new troop.

Q. Are the Girl Scouts affiliated with the Boy Scouts?

A. No.

Q. How do I help start a Girl Scout troop/become a leader?

A. The first step is to complete the online application, which includes a background check. A troop can get started after a minimum of two unrelated adults commit to being the troop's leadership team.

Q. Are there costs to being a troop leader?

A. The troop leaders must be members and pay the \$25 national membership fee, as well as contribute at least \$24 toward the cost of the background check.

Battling Excuses to Volunteering:

I don't know anything about Girl Scouts / I was never in Girl Scouts.

- “We have resources that do a great job of teaching the basic Girl Scout values and processes, and amazing volunteers who have great fun supporting each other. You won't be in this alone! You'll be learning right along with the girls, or a few steps ahead of them!”
- “You'll learn a lot as you go! “
- “There is no exact right wayevery troop is different!”

I don't have time.

- “That's why you'll have a whole team of parents to work with! Girl Scouting is all about sharing responsibility and leadership, not doing it all on your own!”
- “The good thing about being a leader is you get to decide when Girl Scouts works for you. You get to set the day of the week and the time! “
- “The girls will give you lots of ideas too.” (Give examples of what troops have done)

I work full time.

- “Most of our troop leaders work too!”
- “Meetings don't have to be after-school. They can be at night, or even on the weekends. You decide!”
- “Don't think of Girl Scouts as a 2nd job—think of it as a fun way to get to be with your daughter.”
- “The good thing about being a leader is that you get to set the time, location, and frequency of meetings to fit YOUR family's schedule! Lots of troops meet in the evenings, or on weekends, weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. It's up to you.”

I'll think about it.

- “I understand. However, we don't want the girls to wait too long. They are excited and we want the troop to get started as soon as possible.”
- “Talk to your daughter's friends' moms, your co-workers, neighbors, women at church, etc. See if any of them would like to be your co-leader.”

I am just not creative.

- “You don't have to be! We provide training to get you started.”
- “The online Volunteer Toolkit makes it really easy to plan your meetings.”
- “We want the girls to be able to decide what they want to do, with your guidance of course.”

I hate camping.

- “Good News--We don't have rules that say you must camp!”
- “Every troop gets to decide what they want to do. If you don't want to camp, you don't camp. If you like traveling, you can take trips throughout the year.”

I can help, but I can't be the leader.

- “I'm sure there are many ways the troop could use your help: Planning meetings, helping with activities, driving, maybe writing a troop newsletter.”
- “Would you consider being a Troop Leadership Team member? Maybe you and one or two other moms or dads could divide up the jobs so it's not so much for one person. One could handle the paperwork, one could plan the meetings, and one could handle the cookie sale. What do you think of that?”
- “Go ahead and complete the volunteer application and we'll work on just how the troop can use your extra set of hands.”

I don't know if I could do it.

- “When we say that “Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character...”, it isn't just the girls who grow! I really think that your example of moving through that uncertainty with courage and developing your OWN confidence is exactly the kind of “character” I'd want them to see modeled.”
- “Girl Scouting is a leadership development program. Girls AND adults learn and grow together!”
- “This is actually a great way to build your own resume. We have great trainings, and resources. We make sure you've got the tools and resources you'll need at every step along the way.”
- “Our curriculum is really easy to use. You can log into the Volunteer Toolkit and use the meetings already planned for you OR customize it and use all your creativity... it's up to you!”

I wouldn't know where to start.

- Simple! We always start with the application and background check. We have a virtual training system with a variety of classes you can take anytime, and we offer in person trainings too. We also pair you with a mentor troop leader who can help walk you through setting up your troop, recruiting more girls, etc.

But I don't have a daughter.

- “Which means you might not even know what a wonderful example you would be to girls out there who might not have the best role models in their own lives?”
- “You don't have to have a girl of your own to be a terrific leader.”
- “We have girls in your area who have just been waiting for someone to step up and be their leader.”
- “You know, I've heard grown women say that their Girl Scout leader was the one person in their life they could count on, and that Girl Scouting saved their lives. You could be that point of stability in the midst of all the challenges of growing up female in this society.”

But I'm a guy! How can I be a Girl Scout Leader?

- “Oh, we SO need dads to step up! And they DO! You would work with a female volunteer to model great respect and values for your girls. We have lots of dads who have discovered how amazing it is to be a Girl Scout Leader. It gives them a wonderful way to connect with their daughters and make sure that those girls have excellent male role models in their lives. “
- “I know lots of dads who are proud, card-carrying Girl Scouts!”
- “I'll bet you have some great skills you could share with girls. What do you enjoy doing? Outdoor activities? Financial management? Construction skills? Auto mechanics? Wouldn't you want your daughter to learn those skills, too?”

But I already did that for my girls, and they're all grown now.

- “Which means you have the core of Girl Scouting already in your bones! Some things may have changed, but the core never will.”
- “You would be an amazing leader to a younger mom who is just starting out. Your skills and experience would be invaluable to her.”