



Take the lead like a Girl Scout Brownie!

Parent Orientation Packet



What are Girl Scouts?

As the preeminent leadership development organization for girls, Girl Scouts help build girls of **COURAGE**, **CONFIDENCE**, and **CHARACTER** who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts is a volunteer-led organization where adults volunteer their time to create a cooperative learning experience for girls with hands-on, girl-led activities.

If you took the time to look up Girl Scouts in the dictionary, you might find this definition — Girl Scout (noun): a member of a scouting program of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for girls in grades kindergarten through 12th grade. At Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline, we believe that “Girl Scouts” is actually a **VERB**!



Girl Scout

/gərl·skout/ **verb**

1. Being a Girl Scout is something you **DO**, and it is an **EXPERIENCE** that no girl should miss!

As a girl in 2nd or 3rd grade, your daughter would be a Brownie Girl Scout! So what are you waiting for? Find out what your daughter can **DO**!

What do Girl Scouts do?

As a Brownie Girl Scout, your daughter would have the opportunity to have **FUN**, make new friends, travel to exciting places, enjoy council programs, experience outdoor activities and learn new life skills. Don't forget how much she will love selling Girl Scout cookies! The opportunities are endless in Girl Scouting! Girls earn badges and awards as they learn and live by the Girl Scout Promise & Law.

Your daughter would have the opportunity to learn leadership skills and experience what it means to have the confidence in herself and her abilities to provide community service to others in need. She will learn the value of giving back and paying it forward!

Girl Scout volunteers use a three-part approach in building leadership skills in girls. This approach is called “The Three Keys of Leadership.”

- First, girls **DISCOVER** their special skills, talents and interests.
- Second, girls **CONNECT** with others, learning how to team up, solve conflicts and have healthy relationships.
- Finally, girls **TAKE ACTION** to make the world a better place.

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 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.



What are the costs?

The basic costs of Girl Scouts for you and your daughter include:

1. Annual Girl Scout membership fee: **\$32** for girls and **\$25** for adults.
2. Troop dues: Troop dues are determined by the needs of the girls in the troop and average between **\$15-30** per membership year.
3. Uniform: A uniform is not required. However, Girl Scouts is a uniform organization. We highly recommend that parents purchase a Brownie vest or sash for their daughters' earned Girl Scout awards and pins. A complete uniform is optional. Visit www.girlscoutshop.com for pricing. Uniform details will be discussed in your Troop Parent Meeting.
4. Handbooks, Badges & Awards: Some troops expect each girl to purchase her own Journey books, Brownie Girl's Guide, badges, pins and awards. Visit www.girlscoutshop.com for pricing.
5. Financial assistance is available. Contact our customer care team at info@gsvsc.org to request a form.

There may be additional costs for events, travel and camping. Council-sponsored product sale fundraisers are designed to minimize troop dues and costs to parents and offer girls the opportunity to Earn & Learn. Girls are encouraged to participate in the Fall Product Sale (September–November) and the Cookie Sale (January–March).

Ready to join?

Start here: gsvsc.org/join

What Brownies Do*

**Choose a Journey
and earn the awards**



* Remember to add in trips, outdoor adventures, the cookie sale and more! See ideas in all the girl's books.

**Want to earn
more Badges? Add
the Badge sets**

Brownie Quest



WOW! Wonders of Water



A World of Girls



**Use them all with
The Girl's Guide to
Girl Scouting**



Showing you're a Brownie

girl scouts
of virginia skyline



Place your
Journey
awards above
your badges.

Place your first Journey
awards at the bottom of
your vest. As you earn
additional Journey awards,
work your way up.

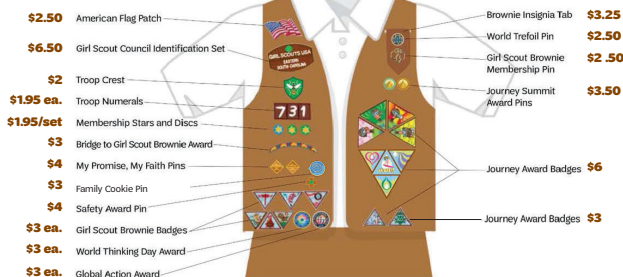
If your Journey awards
and badges don't fit on
the front of your vest or
sash, you can wear them
on the back.

Vests, \$20.50

Choose from:
Small (6-8)
Medium (10-12)
Large (14-16)
Plus Small (8 ½)
Plus Medium (10 ½ - 12 ½)
Plus Large (14 ½ - 16 ½)

Sashes, \$9

Choose from:
Regular
Extra Long



Get your gear!

Brownie uniform essentials:

The Skyline Shop

3663 Peters Creek Rd., NW, Roanoke

540-777-5100 • info@gsvsc.org

Shop online anytime:
girlscoutshop.com

Skyline Shop hours:

Call (540-777-5136) or email
(skylineshop@gsvsc.org) for the latest
shop hours.

Dollars generated from your GSVSC Skyline
Shop purchases provide programs and services
for our local girls. Thank you for your support!

* Prices may differ

My daughter can't wait to join! What are our options?

The troop experience is especially popular with girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade. As a volunteer-led organization, troop availability depends on adults volunteering to start and lead troops. Being a Girl Scout member does not guarantee a troop for your daughter.

To guarantee her a troop, you can volunteer to start a new troop!

Start a troop!

What does it take to start a troop? The desire to make a difference in the life of your daughter and other girls her age! To start a troop, you will need two unrelated adult volunteers to serve as co-leaders and a minimum of 5 girls. No prior Girl Scout experience is necessary to become a troop co-leader! Free Girl Scout training is provided to all volunteers, and most can be done online at your convenience.



New to your community or not sure where to start? Your Girl Scout service unit has local Girl Scout volunteers and council staff ready to help you organize a new troop. You can talk to your friends, neighbors, and parents of your daughter's friends about teaming up with you to lead a new Girl Scout troop. Ask them if their daughters, nieces, or granddaughters are interested in joining. Dads are welcome to be Girl Scout co-leaders, too!

The recommended size for troops is at least 10 girls. Girl Scout troops should be large enough to provide a cooperative learning environment and small enough to allow for the development of individual girls. Recommended troop sizes are as follows:

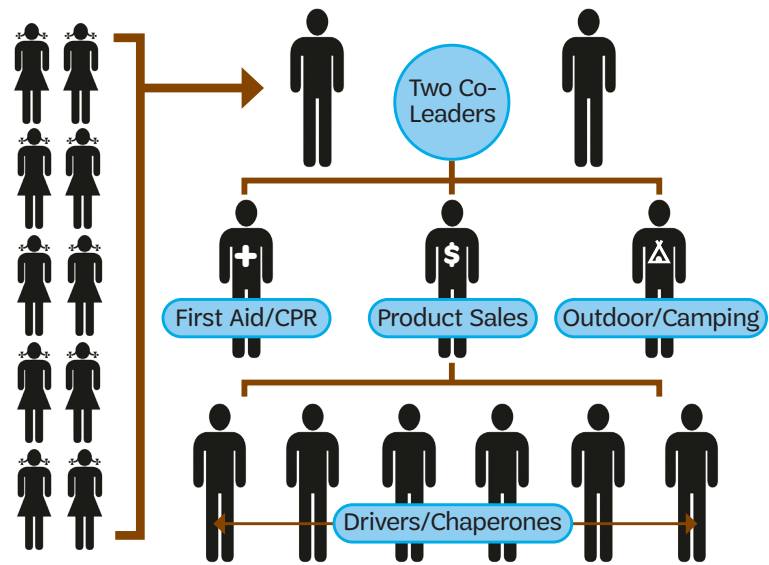
- Girl Scout Daisies, Kindergarten & 1st grade: 10-12 girls
- Girl Scout Brownies, 2nd & 3rd grade: 10-20 girls
- Girl Scout Juniors, 4th & 5th grade: 10-25 girls
- Girl Scout Cadettes, 6th, 7th & 8th grade: 10-25 girls
- Girl Scout Seniors, 9th & 10th grade: 10-30 girls
- Girl Scout Ambassadors, 11th & 12th grade: 10-30 girls

When, where, and how often should our troop meet?

WHEN: Troop meetings are based around the volunteers' family and work schedules. Many troop co-leaders work full-time and/or have full-time family commitments. The benefits of being a troop co-leader: you can create a routine troop schedule that works for you and your family!

WHERE: Troops can meet at local schools, libraries, churches, community centers, etc.

HOW OFTEN: Most Brownie troops meet twice a month. To get started, we recommend "new" troops host meetings at least once a month and incorporate exciting field trips that enhance the Girl Scout experience.



What are the top 5 benefits of being a troop co-leader?

1. Make memories with your daughter and all of her new friends
2. Be a role model in your community
3. Opportunities for fun and friendship
4. Expand your personal resume and local network
5. Go on exciting trips and adventures

Is the troop life not your style? Become a Juliette!

Visit gsvsc.org/juliettes for more information.

Not everyone can set aside time to start a troop, or maybe you couldn't find a troop to join that fits yours or your daughter's schedule. Juliette Girl Scouts are registered girl members, in grades K-12, who are not affiliated with a troop and complete Girl Scouts activities with the guidance of a parent/guardian. They participate in a way that fits their schedule, attending events and participating in activities that meet their needs and interests.



THERE IS POWER IN EVERY

G.I.R.L.

Unleash it at Girl Scouts.

A Girl Scout is a G.I.R.L.
(Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™

At Girl Scouts, girls *discover* who they are, where their talents lie, and what they care the most about. They *connect* with people in their communities. And they take *action* to change the world. Through our program, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, girls develop a **strong sense of self, display positive values**, and **seek challenges**. They learn from setbacks, form **healthy relationships**, and identify and **solve problems in their communities** — unleashing their inner G.I.R.L. every step of the way.

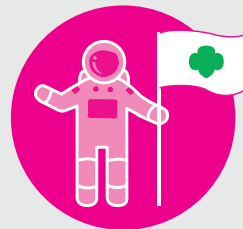
How can she find the power of G.I.R.L. in her?

Girl Scouts teaches girls to empower themselves by engaging in girl-led, collaborative, and hands-on experiences. Guided by supportive adults who help girls pursue their goals, girls participate in a variety of fun and challenging activities. Here, a girl will:

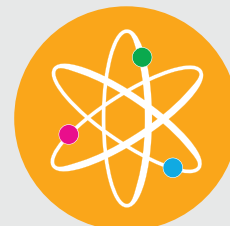
- Engage in healthy activities!
- Find her entrepreneurial spirit and learn financial literacy!
- Explore the great outdoors!
- Participate in hands-on STEM skill-building!
- Connect with girls around the world!
- Take on meaningful community service projects!

Did you know?

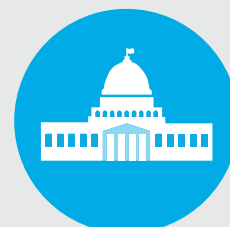
Girl Scouts are prepared for a lifetime of leadership.



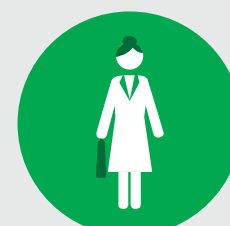
90%
OF ALL FEMALE
U.S. ASTRONAUTS



80%
OF ALL FEMALE
TECH LEADERS



76%
OF FEMALE
U.S. SENATORS



100%
OF FEMALE
U.S. SECRETARIES
OF STATE



gsvsc

How do we join?

First, go to: www.gsvsc.org.

If you are signing up your daughter, click **"Become a Girl Scout."** If you'd like to be a registered adult Girl Scout or a volunteer, then click **"Volunteer Today."** From here you'll be able to register yourself first and then add your daughter to the troop.

Once you complete the first page of the girl or adult online registration form, click **"Continue."** From here you will be able to search for troop opportunities near you and select a Girl Scout troop that is convenient for you and your daughter. Take a moment to view the current troop opportunities in your neighborhood. If you do not see any nearby troops, expand the zip code radius to 5–10 miles. Some troops already have a set meeting time and location, though many will determine meeting times closer to the start of the membership year.

Have any questions or need help in registering?

Our customer care team is here to help! Contact our team by e-mail at info@gsvsc.org or by phone at 540-777-5100.

gsvsc.org/join

Ready for more fun?

Check out the GSVSC calendar online to see the fun to come! Girl Scout summer camps, jamborees, STEM programs, Scout nights, special trips, and other fun events can be found on our website; in our programs publication, *The Sky's the Limit*; on the council's Facebook page; and on your local service unit's Facebook page. You can register for these activities online through eBiz at www.gsvsc.org (click on eBiz in the upper right corner to register for events).

[gsvsc.org/
calendar](http://gsvsc.org/calendar)

Parent Participation

As a registered adult Girl Scout member, there are many ways you can help out the troop. You can volunteer for any of these troop positions: **Troop Co-Leader, First Aid/CPR, Driver/Chaperone, Product Sales (Fall & Cookie), or Outdoor/Camping.** It takes a village to make sure girls have the opportunity to join Girl Scouts in the 36 counties our council serves! Actually, it takes a Girl Scout volunteer team! In addition to the positions listed above, there are many key volunteer team positions that may be available in your service unit. Please contact your council staff member for more information about volunteering in your service unit!

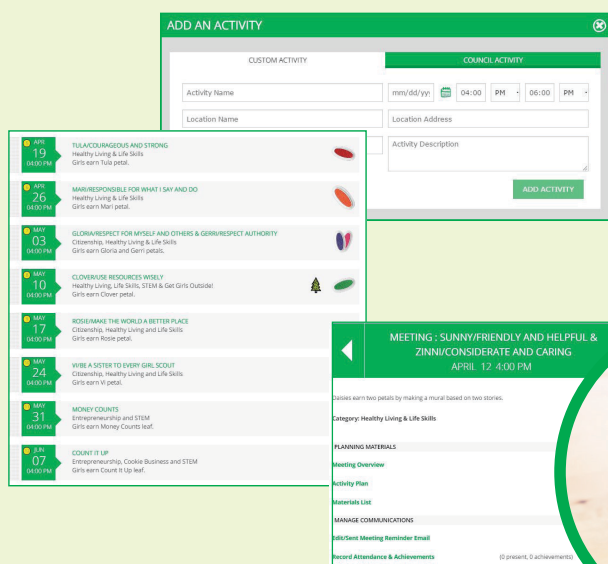
[gsvsc.org/volunteer
resources](http://gsvsc.org/volunteerresources)

The Volunteer Toolkit: Your Digital Troop Assistant!

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) gives you program content and other resources to manage your troop planning all year long—and keep it going smoothly!

You can:

- Access Journey and petal and badge troop meeting plans
- See step-by-step activity guides for each troop meeting
- View and edit your troop roster
- Manage renewals for both girls and adults
- Email parents with a single click
- Share troop meeting activities with parents
- Record troop finances and girls' meeting attendance
- Log girls' petal/badge and Journey achievements
- Add events and your own troop activities



Fully customizable, the Volunteer Toolkit is digitally responsive so you can plan and prepare practically anywhere.



What volunteers are saying:

"I like that there are **meeting plans and schedules to follow**. I also like being able to **keep track of the patches my girls earn**. The 'my troop' feature that allows me to **email all of the parents at once is great, too—I use that a lot.**"

**WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT?
JUST SIGN IN AT WWW.GSVSC.ORG, CLICK MY GS AND CHECK IT OUT!**

The Volunteer Toolkit contains program and meeting plans for K-5 (Daisy, Brownie, Junior and K-5 multi-level). Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador troops have access to features including the troop roster, troop finances, national resources, and all K-5 program content (if needed for working with younger troops).



**Keep track of your notes
and contacts here!**
