



New Leader Launch

April Questions

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. Thank You!

Topic 1: End of Year & Celebrations and Preparing for Next Year

1. What is important to celebrate?

- Badge work completion
 - Whether you use the badge planner in MyGS or track badge completion on your own, this is a great time of year to celebrate all that the girls have learned. Ask your SUM whether they are hosting a Court of Awards (for recognition of badges, patches, certificates, high awards, etc.) or consider doing yours at the troop level.
 - Some things to consider are whether or not you have purchased the badges from the GS Store, the size of the celebration, whether you have the capacity to do it, and always think about how caregivers can help. Do we need to buy badges?
- Bridging (if applicable)
 - If the group is bridging to the next level?
 - Is the SU hosting a SU bridging?
 - Will you host your own?
- Superlatives
 - In a perfect world, every Girl Scout will show up to every meeting and activity. The reality is that you will likely find some girls/families dedicated more time to what the troop had planned. Even so, every Girl Scout brings something unique to the group dynamic. Think about how you can recognize each girl's individual strengths or characteristics. How can the girls participate in recognizing their sisters? Think of sayings like: Something that is unique to you is.... or I/we have gratitude for you being a part of this group because... Whatever it is you choose to do, make it special and something that they will hold on to.
- Volunteers

- You carry a significant weight of responsibility as a Troop Leader. We hope that caregivers help in some or many ways. Now that you know more about how the troop runs, consider specific ways more parents can be troop helpers.

2. What is the best way to start planning for next year?

- Troop Health - This can be thought of as the operations of your troop. Is the troop in a place where, if someone had to take over tomorrow, they could easily pick up where you left off? Have you or your co-leader completed the Finance Report, or a Troop Information Update Form that notifies your SU manager or troop consultant of changes happening within the troop? Both forms are available on the gswcf website under the Forms and Documents page, then Troop Leader Resources; [click here to access the page.](#)
- Girl-Led Planning
 - After many meetings and activities, check in with the girls and let that discussion guide some ideas and thoughts for next year. Depending on their program level, they will have input on what to do the next year. If they are bridging to the next level, consider surprising them with ideas of what they can look forward to as they get older.
- Caregiver Meeting
 - During or after the discussion with the girls, it is a good time to meet with the parents to wrap up the year. The first thing to consider is whether they have taken advantage of Early Bird Renewal. You will want to confirm which girls plan to return, even if they do not renew their membership early. The deadline is September 30, but early renewal reserves their space for next year. Ensuring all parents are clear on the bank account status and which items have been charged to the funds thus far. What plans does the troop have for the summer? Some troops take a break while others plan to keep in touch with just a couple of activities together.
- Volunteer Opportunities to Share with Families
 - Troop
 - Are there ways you want the caregivers to help more next year? Can they think of ways they can help? You have the autonomy to say yes or maybe later/soon.
 - Service Unit Team
 - Think about the SUT, what roles need to be filled? Do any of the caregivers possess a strength in one of those roles? Could you invite them to join the SUT? Not sure about the roles; forward this link for more information: <https://www.gswcf.org/en/be-involved/Volunteers/additional-roles.html>.
- Next Year at a Glance (YaaG)
 - Share with the caregivers an overview of what the girls are thinking in terms of next year. Ask if they have any thoughts on how to support the

girls in accomplishing those things. Steer the conversation toward what the girls want.

3. What is the best way to involve the girls in planning for the next year?

- Ask the girls how they feel the year went, and if there are activities that the troop missed?
- Ideas for next year – what are some activities they want to plan for next year?
- Can we take more girls? If your troop does not have the desired number of 12, consider making the troop spots available on the troop catalog. The Troop Information Update (TIU) form allows you to inform the customer care team of your status. Girls in the troop may have buddies who wish to join, and if current girls are not planning to renew, there are now even more spaces to fill.

Topic 2: Daisy's Circle & Proud Girl Scout Supporter

- 1. What is the difference between Proud Girl Scout Supporter and Daisy's Circle?** These are two councils giving options that leaders may hear mentioned when families or community members want to support Girl Scouts. Proud Girl Scout Supporter is a flexible giving option that can be one-time and is promoted in the fall. Daisy's Circle is Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's monthly giving program. Both help support girls across our council, but Daisy's Circle is specifically centered on steady monthly giving.
- 2. Why is it helpful for a brand-new troop leader to know about these campaigns?** Because new leaders get many questions from families, especially in that first year. Sometimes a caregiver wants to help but is not able to co-lead, attend every meeting, or take on a troop role. Knowing these campaigns gives leaders a simple, council-approved answer when someone says, 'I'd love to support Girl Scouts, what can I do?' It helps leaders feel prepared without having to become fundraising experts.
- 3. If someone asks for the quick version, how can leaders explain the difference between the two?** A very easy way to say it is this: Proud Girl Scout Supporter is a flexible gift option that can be one-time, and Daisy's Circle is for monthly giving. If someone likes the idea of setting up an automatic gift and being part of an ongoing circle of support, Daisy's Circle is the better fit. If they want a simple gift option with supporter recognition, Proud Girl Scout Supporter is usually the easier one to share.
- 4. Are there a few details that are especially helpful for leaders to remember?** Yes. For Proud Girl Scout Supporter, the recognition details are helpful: gifts of twenty-five dollars or more receive a patch, and gifts of one hundred dollars or

more receive a magnet. For Daisy's Circle, the easy number to remember is that monthly gifts can start at ten dollars. You can receive a Daisy's Circle pin for \$25 per month and a pin and sticker for \$35 per month. It is designed to make recurring support feel accessible. Leaders do not need to memorize every detail, but those simple markers can help them explain the options clearly.

5. **Do these gifts replace troop dues, product programs, or troop fundraising?** No, they do not. These are optional council-level giving opportunities. Troops still handle their own basics as usual. The message for leaders to share is that these gifts support Girl Scouts broadly across the council. They help strengthen the overall experience for girls through camps, programs, financial assistance, and other leadership opportunities. So, this is not 'instead of' troop basics—it is a way to invest in the larger mission.
6. **If a caregiver, alum, or community member wants to help, what should a leader tell them to do next?** Keep it simple. First, help them choose the fit: Proud Girl Scout Supporter for a flexible gift or Daisy's Circle for monthly giving. Second, point them to the website so they can give directly through the council. Daisy's Circle can also be set up by phone, which is nice for people who prefer to talk to someone. Third, if it is helpful, mention the recognition items tied to each program. And if they want more information than that, direct them to Fund Development instead of trying to answer every question on the spot.
7. **Where should leaders go for more information or direct someone with questions?** The best starting point is the council support page at gswcf.org/support. From there, they can click into Proud Girl Scout Supporter or Daisy's Circle. If someone wants direct help, they can also contact the Fund Development Department. And I think the most important closing reminder for new leaders is this: you do not need to become a fundraising expert. You just need to know these are trusted councils giving options and pointing interested supporters to the right place.
8. **Any final thought you want new leaders to leave with?** Yes—please do not feel like you have to carry every answer by yourself. If someone is interested in supporting Girl Scouts, that is wonderful. Your job is simply to connect them to the right council resource. Keeping it simple, friendly, and clear is more than enough.

Thank you again for volunteering to make a positive impact on the lives of girls! You made it through the first year, and we hope tools like the New Leader Launch made volunteering with Girl Scouts a little less scary and provided timely, relevant information. Please look out for our survey to help us make improvements. Now, take a deep breath and give yourself a BIG pat on the back! YOU DID IT!

**Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need further assistance;
info@gswcf.org.**