

# Joining Girl Scouts

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Where can my girl learn what it's like to be a Girl Scout?

Our Recruitment Team holds family-friendly events designed to introduce girls to some of the activities they can participate in as a Girl Scout and answer any questions parents might have about the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Because the safety and privacy of our members is paramount, only girls registered in a troop will be able to attend troop meetings. [See our events.](#)

### How can my girl participate in Girl Scouts?

Most girls who join choose to participate in a Girl Scout troop. This is a group of girls, typically the same grade level but sometimes a range of grade levels, who participate in Girl Scout activities together. They usually meet together twice a month for about an hour, and then sometimes have additional activities. All troops are led by two background screened adult volunteers (usually a loved one). [Learn More.](#)

Another option is that girls can choose to participate in Girl Scouts as a Juliette (girls who choose to participate as an individual member rather than in a troop.) Juliettes can participate in special events, earn awards, camp, and even sell Girl Scout Cookies! You can select as many or as few activities that interest you and fit your schedule. [Learn More.](#)

### What is the registration deadline? / When does Girl Scouts start?

Girls Scouts is a year-round program, with troops starting throughout the year. Girls can join at any time, though many of our troops do fill-up during the fall.

### How do I find troops in my area?

[Search the catalog](#) for troops in your area (set the Radius to "5 Miles"). If you don't see a troop in your area, you can register into the "Find Me a Troop" and we'll alert you as troops become available. We start troops throughout the year, and often have new openings.

Each troop sets its own meeting schedule, so our catalog allows you to find one that works well for you! Most commonly, our troops meet twice a month, for about 1 ½ hours each meeting. We also have many troops that meet weekly or monthly. These meetings are usually on a weeknight (Monday – Friday), but there are a small number of troops that meet on the weekends.

### How much does it cost?

Your girl's membership will be \$25 (which will cover her through 9/30/2020). Your membership is also \$25, which will allow you to be an active participant in your girl's Girl Scout experience. Once she gets started, she'll need to purchase a uniform (a vest or sash and insignia). Uniforms cost \$15-\$30. We offer financial assistance for girls' memberships, uniforms, books, camps, and many of our programs.

Additionally, each troop chooses to charge minimal dues each week to cover supplies, or have parents help bring in different materials.

If girls participate in the Sweets and Treats Fall Product Program and the Girl Scout Cookie Program, troops will budget to utilize these funds to cover the supplies and membership fees for the following year. Juliettes who participate in these programs receive council credits that can be used to cover membership fees and uniform costs.

### Is there financial assistance? How do I apply?

We have financial assistance available for girl membership, uniform, and program fees. Acquiring financial assistance for your girl's membership is a no questions asked process, though we do ask applicants to pay a portion of the fee, if they're able. There is a short application for financial assistance for [uniforms and books](#) or program fees.

### What kinds of activities take place in Girl Scouts?

At Girl Scouts, she'll get to choose her own adventure and team up with other girls in an all-girl, girl-led environment to participate in the exciting, hands-on activities that interest her most. Along the way, she'll gain important skills in four areas that form the pillars of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE):

1. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
2. Outdoors
3. Life Skills
4. Entrepreneurship

Because the Girl Scout program is girl-led, the troop activities will vary based on the girls' interests. Girl Scouts still enjoy troop and camp activities, but today they are doing so much more! Girl Scouts offers the best leadership development program for girls. Girls can earn badges in robotics, wilderness training, fitness and nutrition, cyber security, fine arts, environmental stewardship, and more!

In the Girl Scout Cookie Program and the Sweets and Treats Fall Product Program, girls learn five skills that are essential to leadership, to success, and life: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics.

Learn more about the [Girl Scout Leadership Experience](#) or [our council's events and programs](#).

### Why is there not a troop available in my area?

Troop availability is limited by the number of volunteers in the area, and many of our existing troops are already at capacity.

Just like all other volunteer-based organizations, we don't always have enough adult volunteers to meet the needs of our girls. That's why we need committed volunteers (like you!) to be mentors and lead a group of girls.

Our volunteers are parents and loved ones just like you. Many of them work full-time and lead busy lives in addition to dedicating themselves to building the next generation of women leaders. This is why it's important that all parents chip in to help their girls' troop in some way. Being a Girl Scout volunteer is manageable, allows you to take the time to know your girl and her friends, and empowers you to positively influence their futures. Without the support of our parents and volunteers, Girl Scouts would not exist.

### What if we don't want or don't have time to be in a troop?

Being in a Girl Scout troop is not the only way to become a Girl Scout. Girls can also participate independently (not affiliated with a troop) as Juliettes.

If you choose to be a Juliette, you can participate in special events, earn awards, camp, and even sell Girl Scout Cookies! You can select as many or as few activities that interest you and fit your schedule.

### Have another question that's not answered here?

Email us at [join@gswcf.org](mailto:join@gswcf.org) and let us know! Or call us at (813) 281- GIRL (4475). We're here Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.