

Junior Girl Scout Program

Self-Paced Home Study



Name

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Girl Scouts – Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Inc.

Girl Scouts – Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Inc.

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Junior Girl Scout Program Self-Paced Home Study

Welcome! Welcome to the exciting world of Junior Girl Scouting! We hope your interest in sharing new experiences with today’s girls will lead to many exciting adventures and personal growth for you and the girls in your troop.

Your Role as a Leader For girls reaching out to touch, understand and affect their world, you are a friend, a guide, advisor and partner. The strength of this partnership will give you, as well as the girls, a lifelong enthusiasm for living, learning and growing. You make the Girl Scout program a vital part of your community.

Purpose This self-paced home study course is designed to give you basic information you will need as a new Junior Girl Scout leader.

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Your Experience + Our Resources It would be wonderful if you could learn how to become a leader by reading a book, but in reality you will likely learn the most from your direct experiences with the girls. You are bringing your personal skills and love of children to the program, which will serve as a foundation on which to build...but always remember, you are not alone! There are many resource people available to you through your Community, Neighborhood, Area Teams, and the Girl Scout Service Center. Recommended reading throughout this home study course will help you build upon that foundation.



Reflections Throughout this course you will have the opportunity to reflect upon what you’ve read and understood. When you come across the Reflection activities, write down your thoughts and ideas. You’ll be turning your Home Study course in to the council; and after your training is recorded, it will be returned to you to keep for your personal reference.



Self Checks Throughout this course are several “self-checks” that you must complete before submitting your Junior Girl Scout Program course to the Council. If you need more room to write your responses, please attach additional paper.

Credit for Training You will receive credit for training upon completing the registration form (located at the end of this course) and submitting it to the Council, Attention: Adult Development Consultant, along with your completed Junior Girl Scout Program course. You will then receive a training card, materials from the classroom course, and your completed course.

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Resources – Required

Wherever you see the “book” image, you should refer to the following resources that you’ll need to complete the Junior Girl Scout Program Self-Paced Home Study:

- * Junior Girl Scout Leader Guide Book
- * Safety Wise
- Junior Girl Scout Handbook
- Junior Girl Scout Badge Book



Resources – Additional

Additional resources for leaders and the resources appropriate for Junior Girl Scouts to use are found on page 61 in the Junior Girl Scout Leader Guide Book and the Arizona Cactus-Pine Leader Resource Guide. The Leader Resource Guide is available through your Neighborhood or for purchase in the Council Shop.

*** Resources – en Español**

* Resources marked with an asterisk (*) are available in Spanish.



Reflection

Here’s your first opportunity to reflect on what you’ve read so far!

List five resources and describe how they can be used in your Junior Girl Scout Program.

Girl Scout Promise and Law

Foundation

The foundation of Girl Scout values is the Promise and Law. Everyone who becomes a Girl Scout must make the Promise. In the Promise the word “God” is subject to individual interpretation and encompasses a very wide range of spiritual beliefs. It is important for you – and your Junior Girl Scouts – to understand that serving God in a way that is compatible with individual beliefs is the most important thing. It is okay for a girl to replace the word “God” with whatever word her spiritual beliefs dictate. Take a moment to read the Promise and Law.

The 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.

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The 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.



*Junior Girl Scout
Leader Guide*
p 7
Review these resources to find helpful and fun activities for you and the girls to gain a better understanding of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

*Junior Girl Scout
Handbook*
pp 6 – 7

Values-Based Organization

Girl Scouts is a values-based organization. Having a strong value system adds meaning and purpose to life.

When Juliette Gordon Low started the Girl Scout movement in the United States in 1912, she wanted to build an organization that would provide exciting opportunities for girls within the framework of a positive values-based movement. Today these values are expressed in the Girl Scout Promise and Law and continue to be the force that unites Girl Scouts nationwide.

Girl Scouting promotes the development of values. Through program activities and events, Girl Scouting encourages girls to apply and strengthen values learned at home, school, and through religious instruction. Girl Scout activities and events also help girls appreciate the importance of values in their individual lives.

Girl Scouts recognizes that the family is the primary educator when it comes to teaching values. The job of adults in Girl Scouting is to supplement and reinforce those values in an informal, educational setting.



Reflection

The Promise and Law are strong statements about what we believe are important values for girls to learn. Which words in the Promise and Law are most important to you and why?

Four Program Goals

Introduction Girl Scouting has four program goals, each of which describes the ways that girls grow and develop through their Girl Scout experiences.

These goals form the foundation upon which all Girl Scout initiatives are based. They address the developmental, educational, emotional, and social needs and interests of girls.

The Four Program Goals

Girls will...

1. Develop to their full potential.
2. Relate to others with increased understanding, skill, and respect.
3. Develop values that guide actions and provide the foundation for sound decision-making.
4. Contribute to the improvement of society through the use of their abilities and leadership skills while working in cooperation with others.



*Junior Girl Scout
Leader Guide
pp 6 – 7*

*Safety Wise
p 63*

Read more about the four program goals and how Girl Scout program is designed to meet the specific needs of this age group.



Reflection

Think about the girls you will work with. For each of the four program goals write a question and list an activity that will help you measure the girls' development in those areas.

Working with Junior Girl Scouts

Introduction When you work with a group of Junior Girl Scouts, it's crucial to consider each girl as a unique individual with her own talents, gifts, personality, growth rate, intelligence, strengths, and weaknesses. At the same time, it's helpful to be aware of traits that generally characterize girls of this age.

Studies have shown that at about age 11, many girls start to lose self-esteem and feel less confident about their abilities and ideas. Thus, they are less likely to say what is on their minds. This is a critical time for girls, and a time when Girl Scouting can help girls maintain and strengthen their self-esteem.

The Junior Girl Scout is also more aware of herself as an individual. In turn, she may be more self-conscious and wonder how others see her. She strives for recognition, compares herself to others, reaches to achieve, develops her relationships, and deepens her sense of self-worth. It is important for her to learn that she is of value to her peer group, and is a skilled and unique person.



*Junior Girl Scout
Leader Guide
pp 50 – 53*

For more information on working with Junior Girl Scouts



Reflection In your mind describe the girls in your troop. Then write down 3 – 4 of those characteristics.

What qualities in girls do you most value? Which qualities in girls do you least value?

List characteristics you need to know more about – or those which could become problematic.

Do you think you consistently reward the behavior you most value? How might you need to change your reaction to some behaviors in girls? You may discover that your values about girls' behaviors and qualities differ from theirs. How will you respond to those differences as you work with the girls and their adult partners?

Conflict Resolution

Conflicts Happen Conflicts will occur in your troop or group from time to time. Arguments may surface around minor issues such as whose turn it is to clean up after an activity, or major issues such as how to spend troop or group money. Girls might be more likely to argue if they are tired or bored, or have recently experienced a problem at home or school. Sometimes, older girls might make fun of younger girls in mixed-age level troops or a clique may form that excludes some girls.

When disagreements arise over issues that affect values or goals, it becomes particularly important to come up with a solution in which both participants win. This is good conflict resolution. Aim at recognizing the problem and shifting the focus from the people to possible solutions.

If you have established positive and open lines of communication, then you have already made tremendous strides toward avoiding conflicts in your Junior Girl Scout troop or group.

Techniques for Resolution Following are some conflict resolution techniques. Always consider the situation and the girls before moving ahead.

Mediation Each girl has a chance to tell her side of the story. Interruption is not permitted. The girl identifies the problem and what has happened. Each girl suggests some solutions. Together the girls try to choose one.

Active Listening You or a member of your troop or group restates or paraphrases what each person involved in the conflict has said. You could use phrases such as “This is what I heard you say...” or “You are saying that...” or whatever sounds most natural to you. These phrases can help you discover the reason for the conflict. Then you move ahead with a resolution.

Time to Work it Out This technique is most suitable when you know the girls are capable of resolving the conflict on their own. You ask the girls to go off by themselves for a set period of time. When the time has expired, the girls return with their agreed-upon solution.

Role Reversal Seeing another person’s point of view is the focus of this technique. Ask each person involved in the conflict to state the point of view of the other person.

Skillful Listening The way in which you and the girls listen and speak to each other is important for resolving conflicts. Listening is a skill. Do you:

- Look at a girl when she is speaking to you?
- Listen actively so that a girl knows you have heard what she said?
- Wait to give a girl a chance to answer?
- Avoid interrupting her?
- Use body language and facial expressions that agree with what you are saying?
- Help girls understand that putdowns are not allowed in the troop or group meeting?



Reflection The girls arrive at the meeting, already arguing about where to go on the next field trip. What technique will you use to help them come to a resolution so that each girl feels that she had a say in the decision making process?

About Girl Scouting

Juliette Low Girl Scout Founder

There are many books written about Juliette Low. The “Young Patriots” series has a chapter book that is appropriate for Junior level girls, called *Juliette Low – Girl Scout Founder*.

Written by Helen Boyd Higgins and illustrated by Cathy Morrison, this publication is available in the Council Shop and makes a great addition to any Girl Scout meeting.

Leave the girls wondering, “what happened next?” as you share the childhood adventures of the young girl from Savannah, Georgia, who grew up to found the Girl Scouts. Juliette “Daisy” Gordon (Low) would rather climb a tree and ride a horse than learn to dance and sew.

“There’s not one thing I can’t do that boys can,” said Daisy. The organization she created years later proved her words.



*Junior Girl Scout
Handbook*
pp 2 - 5

Learn more about Juliette “Daisy” Low in this resource.

Special Dates in Girl Scouting

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. have four special days that are celebrated all across the nation. Girls often plan events or hold special ceremonies to celebrate these days.

October 31	Juliette Low’s Birthday
February 22	Thinking Day
March 12	Girl Scout Birthday
April 22	Leader’s Day



*Junior Girl Scout
Handbook*
p 12

Use this resource to familiarize yourself with these special dates.



Reflection List two ways you can celebrate each of the special Girl Scout days to make them meaningful and memorable to your girls.

Girl Scout Ways

Special Signs Juliette Low understood how special words and signs help girls feel they are members of a group. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world share special signs: a motto, a slogan, Girl Scout sign, a handshake, and the friendship squeeze. These special signs overcome barriers of language and culture.

Motto & Slogan Girl Scouts and Girl Guides worldwide greet each other in the same way and abide by the same motto. In the many languages spoken by Girl Guides and Girl Scouts the world over, girls say some version of the motto, “Be Prepared.” Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) also have their own slogan: “Do a good turn daily.”

Sign & Handshake The Girl Scout sign is symbolic of the Promise. The girl holds up her right hand with the first three fingers extended – each finger stands for one part of the Promise – and the little finger held down by the thumb. She makes the sign whenever she says the Promise, at her investiture, and when she gives the Girl Scout handshake. The handshake is given with her left hand while she makes the Girl Scout sign with her right hand.



Quiet Sign This is used in meetings and other gatherings to let people know it is time to stop talking. Raising your right hand high into the air makes the quiet sign. As people in the group see the quiet sign, they stop talking and also raise their hand. Once everyone is silent, the meeting continues.

Friendship Circle This stands for an unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world. Girl Scouts and leaders stand in a circle. Each person crosses her right arm over her left and clasps hands with her friends on both sides. Everyone makes a silent wish and a friendship squeeze is passed from hand to hand. Form a friendship circle with the girls in your group and try the friendship squeeze.

All About Junior Girl Scouts

Membership

The membership standards for Junior Girl Scouts are that girls must be ages 8, 9, 10 or 11, or in grades 3, 4, 5 or 6. Any girl who meets or can meet these membership requirements shall not be denied active participation in Girl Scouting because of race, color, ethnicity, creed, disability, national origin, or socioeconomic status.



Safety Wise
p 63

For additional information about membership.

Pluralistic Society

In our pluralistic society, our strengths come from the contribution of a variety of people from different backgrounds, and in Girl Scouts these differences help to make our program unique. Any girl can be a member of the Girl Scout movement.



Safety Wise
p 71

A clear explanation of our pluralistic organization.

Troop Size

Girls participate in groups that permit interaction with individuals from more than one school grade. The group should be large enough to provide experience in self-government and small enough to develop the individual girl. The leader, size of meeting place and how many adult volunteers attend the meetings on a regular schedule, determines troop size.



Safety Wise
p 69 & 72

Review Standards 13 and 20.

Girl/Adult Partnership

A key ingredient in Girl Scouting is the partnership of girls and adults who work together to plan and carry out Girl Scout program. Girl/Adult planning is beneficial to girls in several ways. Girls feel involved and have more opportunity to become responsible and self-reliant. They learn how to plan and make decisions, and they develop leadership and interpersonal skills. Girls also are provided the opportunity to experience a variety of leadership roles in a non-threatening environment.

Meetings

There is no such thing as a “typical” Junior Girl Scout meeting. The length and frequency of meetings depend on the needs and interests of the girls. In general, Junior Girl Scout troops or groups meetings last 60 – 90 minutes and take place once a week or twice a month. But some Junior Girl Scout troops or groups meet once a month for three hours or, when engaged in a project, meet twice a week for two months.

What should you do? Ask the girls! Consider your availability and base your decision about meetings on the projects, ideas, and plans that girls have.



Safety Wise
pp 22 – 25

Review these resources for more detail in planning your Junior Girl Scout meeting.

*Junior Girl Scout
Leader Guide*
pp 36 & 37

Girl Scouts – Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Inc.

Money Junior Girl Scouts are beginning to understand budgeting and group financing. They are capable of deciding whether to spend all their money on a party, to use it toward implementing a service project, or to save it for a future project.

Experiences in Girl Scouting can help girls to learn to manage money wisely. Girls learn to understand and appreciate its value, and develop habits of thrift, honesty, and self-reliance.

Your troop should have a checking account with a council identification number. Balancing the account should be the responsibility of the girls either as part of the troop treasurer's job or as a shared duty among a treasury committee.

At the outset, girls need to understand that this money is the troop's and Girl Scouts' money, not theirs or yours. Keep accurate records of income and expenses. You should never mix your personal funds with Girl Scout money.

Raising money for trips or other major projects should not dominate your troops or groups activities. Ensure that decisions about raising and spending money reflect the needs and interests of all girls, and remember that selling Girl Scout cookies is considered a program activity as well as a way of money earning.



Safety Wise
pp 26 – 30

Review these resources for more information about Junior Girls Scouts and money.

Junior Girl Scout
Leader Guide
pp 24 – 28

Junior Girl Scout
Handbook
pp 26 – 27

Program Planning

Find a simple monthly planning calendar that you can duplicate and use to plan troop activities. At the beginning of the troop or group year, work with the girls to develop tentative plans for the year. Pencil in planning meetings, the names of possible resources and consultants, or any special events the Council has planned. Perhaps the girls would find it interesting to focus on a theme each month or may wish to devote two months to completing a service project. Whatever the case, the planning calendar helps ensure that experiences are varied and encompass the four Girl Scout program goals.



Self Check – What have you learned so far about Junior Girl Scouting?

Review your resources and then write your answers to the following questions here.

1. What grades in school are Junior Girl Scouts?
2. What makes Girl Scout program unique?
3. List three things that may determine the troop size.
4. List four characteristics of a Junior Girl Scout.
5. What is the recommended length of a Junior Girl Scout meeting?
6. List the four special dates in Girl Scouting and explain what they represent.
7. What are the Four Program Goals?
8. What is the Girl Scout motto?
9. Describe the Girl Scout Handshake.
10. List the parts of a Junior Girl Scout meeting and give an example for each part.
11. What Year did Juliette Low start Girl Scouts in the United States?

Uniforms & Insignia

Introduction Uniforms and insignia are available for purchase at the Council Shop. When the uniform is worn, it is important that it be worn properly with the insignia in the correct place.



Find the proper placement of insignia by viewing the “Girl Scout Central” website pages at GSUSA’s site (Girl Scouts of the USA) or review the handbook.

http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gsc_central/insignia/where_to_place/junior/



*Junior Girl Scout
Handbook
p 15*

Uniforms are not a requirement for participation!

From Safety Wise (Standard 11):

“All Girl Scout members should wear the membership pin when participating in Girl Scout activities. Since Girl Scouting is a uniformed organization, girl and adult members should be informed, at the time they become members, that they are entitled to wear the Girl Scout uniform appropriate for their age level. Although the wearing of the uniform is encouraged, “it should be clearly conveyed that the wearing of the uniform is not required for participation in Girl Scouting.”

“Once official, all uniforms are considered so regardless of a change in style.”



*Safety Wise
p 68*

Be sure to review this further so no girl feels left out!

*Junior Girl Scout
Handbook
pp 16 – 17*

Look at the pictures in the Girl Scout Catalog (available at the Council Shop) and the girls’ handbook to see how the uniform should be worn and where to place insignia.

Insignia

Insignia is the umbrella term used to refer to all official items that girls may wear on the uniform.

Some examples are emblems, special identification patches, membership pins, earned awards, and participation patches.

Identification Insignia

Emblems

Introduction Emblems are insignia that denote Girl Scout membership at the national, council, and troop levels.

Brownie Wings Brownie Wings are presented to a last year Brownie Girl Scout at her Fly-Up ceremony when she officially crosses the bridge to become a Junior Girl Scout. A Girl must have been a Brownie Girl Scout to wear “wings” on her Junior Girl Scout uniform.

Membership Pin Your Girl Scout membership pin shows others that you are a member of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Its shape is called a “trefoil” and represents the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

Girl Scouts – Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Inc.

There are two versions of the membership pin. The newer one has three profiles inside the trefoil. The dark and light profiles represent the ethnic diversity (all the different races and ethnic groups) of Girl Scout membership and the equal value placed on all girls.

The older version of the pin has the initials “GS” inside the trefoil along with the American eagle and shield that are part of the Great Seal of the United States of America

GSUSA Identification Strip Identifies you as a member of the Girl Scout movement in the United States of America.

Council Identification Strip Identifies you as a member of your Girl Scout Council.

Membership Star A membership star is presented each year to every girl who has been registered with a Girl Scout troop. A Junior Girl Scout receives a yellow disc behind the membership star. If she was a Brownie Girl Scout, she will have a green disc behind the membership star and if she was a Daisy Girl Scout, she will have a star with a blue disc.

Patrol Leader’s Cord A recognition consisting of two gold cord loops or circles, given to the Patrol Leader during a special ceremony, to wear on her left shoulder. The larger circle symbolizes the whole troop or group while the smaller circle represents the patrol.

Troop Crest In the early days of Girl Scouting, troop crests were used to identify a troop. The rapid growth of the movement soon made numbering necessary, but crests were kept as a symbol of a troop’s goal or main interest. Today, troops should think carefully about the crest they choose. It should have a special meaning to them, one they can pass along to new members each year. The symbol can be used on a troop flag or to mark troop equipment. Every member should know what their crest is and what it means.

A new crest is not chosen every year. Once chosen, a crest is used for the life of the troop. If a girl enters an established troop, she takes the crest of that troop. If an entire troop bridges to the next level and forms a new troop, they may either keep the crest from the previous level or select a new one. If part of a troop bridges and forms a new troop, they too have the same option. The girls remaining behind should keep the old crest unless the focus of the troop has drastically changed from the time the original crest was selected.

There are 24 crests in all, including the blank where troops may embroider their own symbol. If you visit the Council Shop, you’ll find explanations for the other 23 crests.

Troop Numbers Every Girl Scout troop has its own number. The Girl Scout Council assigns the number to your troop.

The World Trefoil Pin The World Trefoil Pin shows that you are part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

Proficiency Awards

Introduction Proficiency awards are a symbol of a girl's growth. Each age level has a recognition system appropriate for the girl's level of development. A Junior Girl Scout takes some responsibility in choosing and planning awards.

Junior Girl Scouts are usually enthusiastic about earning awards, but they will need help getting started and selecting topics. Keep in mind, however, that recognitions should come from troop program, not program from recognitions. Girls who want to take part in activities and not work on awards should not be made to feel guilty or uncomfortable. It doesn't matter whether girls choose to structure their activities according to award requirements or if they follow interests and complete requirements for specific awards later.

Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts The Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts is for girls who were once Brownie Girl Scouts and did special activities before becoming Junior Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout Cookie Sale Activity Pin Your Junior Girl Scout troop gets money for activities in different ways. There are troop dues and also money earning projects like selling Girl Scout Cookies.



*Junior Girl Scout
Leader Guide
p 26*

Find information about earning this pin and using cookie time as an opportunity to teach girls math skills, decision-making and being safe.

Junior Aide Award Junior Girl Scouts are eligible to receive this award by helping Daisy, Brownie or bridging Brownie Girl Scouts.



*Junior Girl Scout
Handbook
p 198 – 199*

For more information on this award.

Junior Girl Scout Badges There are over 100 badges a Junior Girl Scout can earn as symbols of things she has learned or accomplished. Whether she has developed a new interest or has expanded on something she already enjoys, a girl earns a badge for completing activities to the best of her ability. Badges are only one part of the Junior Girl Scout program, and should never serve as the main focus of a girl's experience in Girl Scouting. If the emphasis in your troop or group has become the acquisition of badges, rather than participation in a balance of program activities, it may be time for more creative planning. The quality of program should come first. Stress program over quantity of earned badges.

Junior Girl Scout Leadership Pin Offers the girls the opportunity to develop leadership skills through service to the community.



*Junior Girl Scout
Handbook
p 200*

Describes and outlines the requirements for earning the Junior Girl Scout Leadership Award.

Signs Junior Girl Scout signs are another kind of recognition Junior Girl Scouts can earn. Signs include a wider range of activities than badges and are designed to recognize a girl's broad participation in Girl Scout activities. There are four signs, which are based on the four program goals of Girl Scouting:

- Sign of the Star
- Sign of the Rainbow
- Sign of the Sun
- Sign of the World

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Council Badges Councils develop their own badges to familiarize girls with the area or state in which they live. Review the Leader Resource Guide or ask your Neighborhood Consultant about the requirements.

Our Own Troop's Badges There are many badges to choose from, but you and the girls in your troop might have developed an interest in an activity for which no badge is listed. Or, while you were doing a badge, one of the activities may have been so interesting that you want to work on it more. Maybe you've completed all the badges on the same subject but want to go further. Or, your community might be famous for something unique and you want to learn more about it. That's why Junior Girl Scouts have an Our Own Troop's Badge. As a troop, you decide on the activities, the name, and the symbol of the badge. This badge then becomes special for your troop. To explore the possibilities, contact your Neighborhood Manager or an Area Team Member.

Religious & Other Awards Additional awards earned through requirements determined by religious/other organizations or by GSUSA.

- Girl Scout National Research Pin
- Lifesaving Awards:
 - Bronze Cross
 - Medal of Honor
- Various religious awards earned though your religious affiliation

Safety Award Junior Girl Scouts may earn the Safety Award by completing a number of activities. These activities reinforce the importance of safety in everyday life and in everything we do in Girl Scouting.



Safety Wise
p 11

More information and requirements for this award.

Bronze Award The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn. It shows that a girl has made a promise to help others, to improve her community and world, and to become the best she can be.



Junior Girl Scout Handbook
p 202 – 203

Requirements for this award.

Bridge to Cadettes Prepare to bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts during the last year of Junior Girl Scouts. To earn this award, Junior Girl Scouts perform a Cadette Girl Scout activity.

Participation Patches & Pins

Introduction Participation patches and pins are supplementary insignia whose focus is participation, not prescribed requirements. These insignia are developed at the national or council level.

Special Programs & Special Occasion Patches Girls can earn several patches as they participate in programs that have been developed to recognize special interests or special occasions. Some are council sponsored, others are through GSUSA, and some have specific requirements to complete, while others only require participation. These patches are not official GSUSA insignia and therefore are not worn on the front of the vest or sash.



Leader Resource Guide Find out more about council-sponsored patches.



Reflection What are the most important components to remember in planning a Girl Scout Junior year? And how will you help the girls balance their need to succeed and the need of their parents for their daughter to succeed?



Self-Check – About Girl Scouting

Review your resources and then write your answers to the following questions here.

1. Describe the official Junior Girl Scout uniform.
2. What is the umbrella term for all official items that a girl may wear on her uniform?
3. What does the shape of the membership pin represent?
4. Proficiency awards are a symbol of what?
5. Where can the requirements for the Safety Award be found and what are they?
6. What is the highest award that a Junior Girl Scout can earn?
7. List several supplementary insignia that focus on participation and not on requirements.

Troop Government

Introduction	Girl Scouting has a built-in structure to help leaders sustain their girl/adult partnership and efforts. This structure is traditionally referred to as troop or group government. Troop government has three models: the patrol system, the town meeting, and the executive board.
Patrols	Patrols have been traditional in Girl Scouting because dividing into small groups enables every member to play an active role in the troop's affairs. The responsibilities of the officers can be divided to meet the needs of the troop, small or large. The officers, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Secretary/Scribe and/or Treasurer, stay in office until the whole troop decides to elect new ones or make new patrols. Keep terms of office shorter for younger girls so everyone can have the experience of leadership. The selection of patrols are random or by request.
Patrol Leader	Call girls together, lead discussions, organize patrol to get job done (e.g. service projects, badge activity), represent her patrol at the Court of Awards, report concerns and issues to Court of Honor and leaders, and make sure other officers have completed their tasks.
Assistant Patrol Leader	Assist and/or share any responsibilities of patrol leader and take charge for patrol leader in her absence.
Troop Secretary / Scribe	Take minutes at the Court of Honor and be responsible for all correspondence needed.
Troop Treasurer	Collect dues from patrols and work with troop leader regarding finances.
Committee Chairperson (or any other officer)	The group can agree on any offices they want to have. Write out job responsibilities first and then vote for the officers.
Committee Members	Volunteer to work on the committee or draw lots from a pool of girls who express interest.
Court of Honor	A representative group that makes plans and decisions for the whole troop. Members include the Patrol Leaders, Adult Troop Leaders, Troop Scribe, and Treasurer. The Court of Honor meets for planning when necessary. The functions of the Court of Honor are: suggests plans for patrols to discuss and vote on, asks for ideas and suggestions from patrols, makes decisions for the whole troop, and sets up kaper charts with the troop jobs each patrol will do.
Town Meeting	Similar to the Brownie Girl Scout Ring where everyone participates in decision-making and leadership. All troop members are free to express their individual opinion or suggestions. A discussion moderator may be elected or selected at random. The troop may still have officers they feel are necessary for the smooth operation of the troop (secretary, treasurer, etc.) In general, the whole troop works together to establish a group consensus on issues that effect the troop.

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Executive Board or Steering Committee

The Executive Board or Steering Committee is another representative and democratic government that works with a large group. Officers of the Executive Board are elected by the troop to represent them. Officers might be a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers necessary to carry out troop plans or projects. Their duties would be similar to the officers listed under the patrol system. It is possible that after your girls have worked with the different types of troop government, they will find that many times it is more effective for managing a troop to use two or even three types at the same time. For example, troop business, such as attendance and dues, could be handled in a Patrol System and the Executive Board could handle planning an event. This gives troops variety in their way of work so nothing becomes routine.

Girl Scouts allows many opportunities for girls to practice and hone their leadership skills. Encourage their participation and give the girls a chance to become responsible and self-reliant.



*Junior Girl Scout
Handbook
p 201*

More information about troop government.

*Junior Girl Scout
Leader Guide
pp 32 - 33*



Reflection

Reflect on the different types of troop government and then give an example how each system would be effective with your troop.

Ceremonies

Introduction Ceremonies play an important part in Girl Scouting. They are used to help celebrate special occasions such as welcoming new members to your troop, the presentation of awards, or the Girl Scout birthday. They can be used to open or close a meeting and can be short or long, formal or informal. They may include girls in your troop, other girls in Girl Scouting, Girl Scout leaders or other adults, and special guests like parents/guardians, relatives and friends. They can be held by large groups or small groups, indoors or outdoors, and can include anything you choose.



*Ceremonies in
Girl Scouting*

This Girl Scout publication is an excellent resource for planning any ceremony.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Each Junior Girl Scout meeting should have a definite opening and closing. Girls enjoy repetition and are also more comfortable when they know what to expect. Opening and closing your meetings the same way each time also gives them the sense of having “traditions” at the meeting that unite them.

Many times the opening and closing ceremonies can be the same thing. For example, a meeting could begin with everyone joining hands in a Friendship Circle, singing a song or calling their names – “Kim’ here,” “Henrietta’s here,” etc. When the meeting ends, the same circle could be formed with everyone singing a song or saying, “Goodbye, see you next meeting,” to one another.

Investiture This is a ceremony where registered girls make the Girl Scout Promise for the very first time. It is a special, formal ceremony that symbolizes the beginning of Girl Scouting, and families should be invited to share in this special event. A Junior Girl Scout usually wears her uniform for the first time with her Junior Girl Scout pin pinned to the left side of her uniform over her heart. Working with the troop committee and the girls, you will be able to plan a meaningful and joyous investiture ceremony. If a new girl joins during the year, the troop should hold an investiture ceremony for her.

Girls who were Daisy or Brownie Girl Scouts are rededicated rather than invested.

Rededication A ceremony where Girl Scouts who have already been invested renew their Girl Scout Promise and Law. Many girls do this at the beginning and the end of the troop year.

Bridging A bridging ceremony is held when Girl Scouts “cross the bridge” to the next level in Girl Scouting. Brownie Girl Scouts become Junior Girl Scouts, and Junior Girl Scouts become Cadette Girl Scouts through this process. At the Bridging Ceremony, girls may receive the following insignia and recognition: Bridge to Cadettes and a year membership star.



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Bridging from Juniors to Cadettes involves your learning about the Cadette Girl Scout program so you can help plan and participate in your girls’ bridging ceremony.

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Flag Ceremony A flag ceremony honors the American flag as the symbol of our country. Junior Girl Scouts can do a flag ceremony, recite a favorite song or poem, or recite the Promise. Flag ceremonies encourage flag education and build patriotism in young people as they develop an understanding of proper flag display.

Court Of Awards This ceremony may include one troop/group or several in an area. It is a time to pause and give recognition to the girls and adults who have accomplished something. The ceremony may include the distribution of badges, participation patches, or anything else that girls are eligible to receive as a result of their initiative and their troop/group program activities.

Girl Scouts' Own An inspirational, girl-planned program where girls may express their deepest feelings about something such as the Girl Scout Promise, friendship, nature, or any ideals or values that have meaning for them. This is usually not a religious ceremony. It can occur at any time during the year and may take any form. The girls should choose the purpose and theme, and they should plan and carry out the ceremony. This ceremony should not be a performance for an audience; rather, it is a way for girls to express their feeling on a chosen topic.

Candle Lighting A candle lighting (or flashlight) ceremony helps remind people of the words and meaning of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Service

It means “friendship!” Service is such an important part of Girl Scouting that it cannot be overlooked for Junior Girl Scouts. Service is synonymous with friendship and can occur at every meeting in small ways. Larger service projects can be carried out in partnership with other Junior Girl Scout troops. Service projects for Junior Girl Scouts should be designed with the following suggestions in mind:

Projects should be reasonable and provide an experience that is meaningful to the girls; they should be of short duration, should encourage learning more about Girl Scouting and bridging, and should occur as part of the ongoing troop activities.

Tracking Service Hours The “Inchworm of Service” form, available at the Council Shop, allows you and the girls to keep track of the hours of service performed.



Reflection A Rededication and Court of Awards Ceremony are very important, especially to Junior Girl Scouts. List ideas that you can use to make each meeting special.

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Keeping in mind the age and abilities of your Junior Girl Scouts, list several service projects that may be appropriate and meaningful.

Congratulations!