girl scouts of greater atlanta

2010-2011

Parent's Guide to Girl Scouting

The Girl Scout Promise and Law are shared by every member of Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Promise is the way Girl Scouts agree to act every day toward one another and other people, and the Law outlines a way to act towards one another and the world.

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.

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.

** An individual member may use the word or words for "God" that best reflect her own spiritual beliefs.*

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Why is Girl Scouts a Good Investment of My Daughter's Time?

When Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for a local Girl Scout meeting on March 12, 1912, her goal was to bring all girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air. Girl Scouts hiked, played basketball, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid.

Today, Girl Scouts has a membership of more than 3.3 million girls and adults, and over 50 million women in the United States are Girl Scout alumnae. You belong to this powerful network!

Why Girl Scouts? Girl Scouts understands that girls have unique needs that are best met in a program designed specifically for them and delivered in an all-girl setting. *Research tells us that a girl's leadership blooms when she's among other girls, away from school pressures, social cliques and boys.* In a place where she can be herself and take on new challenges. ***Where activities are girl-led. Where each girl learns by doing. Where learning is cooperative, not competitive.*** Where adults mentor girls and model skills, behaviors, relationships and careers that girls can emulate. Girl Scouts has developed an exciting model that meets every one of these needs—it's called the ***Girl Scout Leadership Experience*** (GSLE). Everything girls do in Girl Scouting is infused with the GSLE, which shows girls how to ***discover*** who they are and what they stand for, ***connect*** with vibrant and diverse peers in their own neighborhoods and around the globe and together ***take action*** to make a difference in the world. Even better, they inspire and advocate for others along the way!

The GSLE identifies 15 exciting outcomes/ benefits for girls, all of which propel girls toward becoming the exceptional women they were born to be! In order for your community— indeed, for the world—to be at peace and work cooperatively, you recognize that tomorrow's leaders require mentoring. Girl Scouts, and the powerful model that is the GSLE, offers girls the tools they need to be successful leaders now and throughout their lives. Please visit our web site to learn more about GSLE or ask your troop leader to review the 15 measurable outcomes that will be applicable to your daughter's grade level.

Your daughter's responsibility to her troop

- Attend meetings and outings
- Fulfill obligation of dues and know that permission slips are signed by a parent or guardian
- Complete any missed activities
- Pass along important information to parents or leaders
- Treat each member of the troop as a sister
- Respect sister Girl Scouts
- Respect troop leaders and troop parents
- Participate in the meetings
- Conduct herself in a safe manner
- Listen to others in the troop and show respect for what they are saying

Pathways



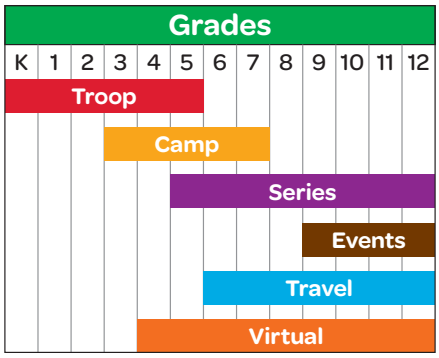
Girls today have many opportunities for activities. As parents, you may sometimes feel that your daughter is overloaded with school requirements, sports, family and religious activities and question whether she should be involved in Girl Scouts or any other organization.

Girl Scouts understands the pressures that today's girls face. ***Pathways*** is a description of the six different avenues that lead into Girl Scouting:

- Troop
- Camp
- Series
- Events
- Travel
- Virtual*



Most girls in grades K-5 still participate in biweekly or monthly troop meetings, however, there are many options for girls. They may choose to take part in just Girl Scout camp activities, travel opportunities, special events geared to a specific interest such as college preparedness, photography or ecology just to name a few. Your daughter may also belong to Girl Scouts as an individual and not be a part of a troop, enjoy activities that interest her as a Girl Scout Juliette.



** Virtual Pathway is currently under development by GSUSA.*

So you and your daughter decide which is best for her, which meets your schedule and allows her to enjoy the benefits of being involved in an all-girl organization with the mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place!

What will my daughter do in Girl Scouts?

Girl Scouts enjoy a variety of activities that are fun, educational and safe. All activities reflect our core values as outlined in the Girl Scout Law and are flexible and adaptable to meet the needs and interests of all girls with grade-level appropriate guidelines.

Make New Friends—She'll interact with girls in her school, place of worship or community.

Service Projects—Troops usually plan a variety of service projects to benefit their local community. This project is chosen by the girls in the girl-led environment of Girl Scouts, with grade-level appropriate guidance from adults.

Camping—Troops may choose to plan a picnic, hike or camp at one of our 8 camp properties. Many service units and/or troops plan family camping for the entire family to participate, Dads and Daughters and Mom and Me special events.

Badges—Girls will learn many new skills in a variety of areas, including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), nutrition/fitness, ecology, criminal justice, forensic science, financial literacy and much more!

Trips—Many troops plan field trips, camping trips, overnight trips and even trips abroad. Older troops may retain troop proceeds over a period of several years for a great trip to Our Chalet in Switzerland or the Girl Scout Lodge in England. Trips to New York to see a Broadway play or a trip to Florida Keys to swim with the dolphins! There are as many opportunities as your daughter and her troop work to make happen!

Ceremonies—Special events are used to celebrate major transitions, such as bridging to another level (i.e. Daisy bridging to Brownies) or earning Girl Scout Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. Flag ceremonies may be incorporated into other ceremonies or at the beginning of each meeting, teaching girls respect for the flag, what it stands for and how to handle it. Your daughter's troop will be sharing a special part of Girl Scout history and can create their own special memories.

"Girl Scouts has given me opportunities that I never dreamed possible"

Morgan C., 2009 Girl Scouts of USA National Young Woman of Distinction and Girl Scout Gold Awardee

About Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc.

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc. is the premier leadership development organization for girls, serving over 41,000 girls with almost 18,000 adult members in 34 counties in the greater metropolitan Atlanta area, northwest Georgia and Polk County, TN.

For more information on how to join, volunteer or donate to Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc. call 770-702-9100, 800-771-4046, or visit www.gsgatl.org.

For information on the national organization, visit Girl Scouts of the USA's Web site at www.girlscouts.org.



Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc.
5601 North Allen Road • Mableton, Georgia 30126

United Way
Community Partner

Who Pays for What?

Troop Funds—are earned by the troop and are the property of the troop and not individual members. Girls, with guidance from adults, decide how the troop funds are used for activities and programs. Leaders are required to keep financial records and share with parents regularly.

Cost for Membership • $12— Every girl and adult with the troop will pay $12 for the annual membership fee. This goes directly to Girl Scouts of the USA for program development and activity insurance. None of this fee is retained by Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta.

Troop Dues—Many troops have a one-time start up fee of up to $10 to assist with material/ refreshment expenses. Additional troop dues of $0.50 to $2.00 per meeting are allowed. The troop dues are set by each individual troop. In addition, each girl is asked to pay up to $5 for Service Unit dues. Field trips and other activities may require an additional fee to be paid for participation. Permission forms are required.

Troop Money Earning Opportunities— All troops are eligible and are encouraged to participate in the two council-sponsored financial literacy programs for girls: Fall Product Program and the Girl Scout Cookie Program. The Fall Product Program (September- October) is a boost to troops needing funds for fall activities before the proceeds from the Girl Scout Cookie Program (January-March) are attained. Parent involvement is necessary for each troop's success! Ask how you can help!

Financial Assistance—Assistance is available to help all who want to participate in the Girl Scout program. Assistance is available for membership registration fees, uniform components, council-sponsored events, council-approved day camps and resident camp. Funds are limited. Check with your leader, service unit director or call GSGATL (770-702-9100) for more information.

girl scouts cookie program

What do you need to know to get started?

Who will be the leader/co-leader for my daughter's troop? You will be given this information at the parents' meeting at the beginning of the Girl Scout year (usually August but troops start up throughout the fall and spring). A regular day and time for troop meetings will also be discussed. You will also be given your troop number, a necessary piece of information to have when registering for events or activities. You may be asked to volunteer. The troop leader will explain other ways that parents can support their daughter's troop.

Troop Leader:_____

Telephone:_____

Troop Co-Leader: _____

Telephone:_____

Troop #: _____

Meeting: Day_____

Time_____

Place _____

Girl Scout badge & sash store

Does my daughter have to wear a uniform? Uniforms are not required; we recommend that girls have a sash or a vest to display their awards, badges and patches. Troops may decide which pieces of the uniform they wish to use or make their own t-shirts for group trips/events; others may allow each individual girl to decide which type of uniform to wear. Check with your troop leader before you go shopping. You may shop the Girl Scout Badge & Sash Store online at www.gsgatl.org or at any of the four regional locations (Cumming, Dalton, Griffin and Mableton). Please contact us at 770-702-9500 for more information.

How will my daughter learn about Girl Scouts and the program? By September 2011, all Girl Scout troops will be using the Journey series: ***It's Your Planet, Love it!***; ***It's Your World, Change It!*** and ***It's Your Story, Tell it!*** along with the ***Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*** (to be released in 9/2011). Use of the Journeys series—grade level specific— insures that your daughter is participating in a national, consistent program aimed at developing leadership skills for today and for the future.



What program level will my daughter be?

Girl Scout Daisy — grades K–1

Girl Scout Brownie — grades 2–3

Girl Scout Junior — grades 4–5

Girl Scout Cadette — grades 6–8

Girl Scout Senior — grades 9–10

Girl Scout Ambassador — grades 11-12

To ensure the best experience for your daughter, Girl Scout programming is divided by grade levels. Some troops may be multi-level, with girls in more than one grade/program level making up a troop. Troop leaders will be attentive to promoting activities that are age appropriate for all girls involved.

Parent's Responsibility to the Troop

- Please see that your daughter arrives and is picked up on time for all meetings and outings
- Help your daughter fulfill her troop responsibilities (dues, permission slips, snack, uniforms, etc.)
- Be supportive of your daughter in her Girl Scout endeavors; help her complete any missed activities
- Please notify leaders ahead of time if your daughter will not be able to attend a meeting/activity
- Check with the leader for any important news or paperwork that needs to be completed
- Assist the troop leaders during meetings/activities as needed
- Give feedback to the troop leader about your daughter's experience
- Consider volunteering with the Fall Product Program, the Girl Scout Cookie Program, to chaperone events or serve on a troop committee
- If issues arise, please discuss this privately with the leader, not in front of the girls
- Help the troop leaders establish and maintain a positive environment in the troop by talking with your daughter in a positive manner and setting a good example
- Let your daughter know that you consider her participation in Girl Scouting to be important and special
- Attend parent meetings, group activities and special ceremonies

volunteers

Our volunteers are vitally important to the sustainability of the Girl Scout Movement, insuring the continued success of Girl Scouts as we approach our 100th Anniversary and beyond! Your troop leader is paid in a currency that is far greater than dollars and cents! Smiles, hugs and laughter! The sense of satisfaction in knowing she is making a difference in the lives of the girls she spends time with; nurtures and encourages. Please remember her on ***Leader Appreciation Day***, observed yearly on April 22. Perhaps you could send a card; your daughter could make a drawing; a homemade treat; donate to Girl Scouts in her name; nominate her for a council volunteer award (see your service unit director for forms) or thank her in a letter to the editor of your local community paper.

Why are Parents Asked to Contribute Financial Support to GSGATL?

ANNUAL FUND

While the membership fee for your daughter to join Girl Scouts is just $12 a year, the cost for Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta (GSGATL) to provide programming for your daughter and each of our 41,000 girls is $325 annually. Donations to the ***Annual Fund Campaign*** help ***Share Her Annual Real Expenses (SHARE)*** and bridge this significant gap between dues and actual program costs. All donations stay right here with GSGATL to benefit girls within your service unit and throughout our 34-county jurisdiction. We hope every Girl Scout family will make a donation at a level that is meaningful to them.

There are several ways for parents to give:

- Complete the bottom portion of the membership form and return to the troop leader with your donation.
- Online at gsgatl.org/donate
- Automatic monthly credit card charges
- By mail: GSGATL; 5601 N. Allen Road; Mableton, GA 30126 (Be sure to indicate your troop number on the check).

What does the Annual Fund support?

- Financial Assistance
- Volunteer Background Checks
- Program Development
- Maintenance of five ACA Accredited camp facilities
- Volunteer training & recruitment
- Nearly 300 programs ranging from veterinary science to criminal justice
- Girl Scout Gold Award scholarships

What is the operating budget?

The operating budget for 2010 was about $20 million; roughly $6.5 million was related to the Girl Scout Cookie Program, with nearly 1/2 of that purchasing cookies and paying related expenses.

What is the fundraising goal for 2010-2011?

$1.2 million for all sources, including parents, corporations, foundations, community organizations and individuals.

My daughter is in a troop and I give her money for what she needs. Why do you need more?

The money given to your daughter supports her specific troop activities. The additional donations assist in paying for services provided by the council such as training volunteers and maintaining safe campsites.

What is the cost to raise $1 and what percentage of the budget is spent on administration?

GAGATL spends 89¢ of every $1 on programmatic services for girls. GSGATL's administrative cost is 7%, with a 4% cost to raise a $1.* This is less than 1/2 of the national standard (15% and 10% respectively).

**Based on 2009 audited financial statement.*

Why doesn't Girl Scouts just charge the actual cost?

If we were to charge actual costs of $325 per year, it would be cost-prohibitive for many families. The cost is subsidized to remain affordable and accessible to most. All parents are asked to make a financial donation appropriate for their family, over and above their generous gifts of time and talent. No girl will be denied Girl Scout membership because her family does not choose to participate.

I buy Girl Scout Cookies. Isn't that enough?

Girl Scouts cannot rely on proceeds from the Fall Product Program and the Girl Scout Cookie Program to provide quality programs and to serve its members. Although the income from these efforts helps to support indirect expenses such as insurance, occupancy and taxes, it is not enough to fully underwrite over 300 programs, 8 camp properties, a 34-county membership support team and the trainings and resources needed by the nearly 18,000 adult volunteers.

Girl Scouts gives **every girl** access to life-changing experiences that **inspire her** to **do something big**.