

Introduction to Girl Scouting



Girl Scouts®

Welcome to Girl Scouting! Thank you for giving of your time and energy to help girls discover the fun and adventure of Girl Scouts. The Introduction to Girl Scouting Home Study Course will give you a better understanding of the organization and the principles in which we work.

You may complete this training individually or with other Girl Scout Leaders and volunteers. If more than one person does this study course with you, each of you must submit the answers to the questionnaire booklet separately. Additional copies are available if needed. You will need a copy of the *Safety-Wise* book and access to the *Council Policies and Standards* available at www.gssofsi.org to complete this course.

To ensure that you receive credit for completing this course, please fill out the information on this page, along with the answers to the questions, and send it to:

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (GSSI)
Attn: Volunteer Development Manager
#4 Ginger Creek Parkway
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
Fax: 618-692-0685

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Troop #: _____

If you have questions regarding this course, please contact:

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Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-692-0692 / 800-345-6858 x142
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The foundation of Girl Scout values is the Promise and Law. Everyone who becomes a Girl Scout must make the Promise. Please take a moment to read them.

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.

One part of the Girl Scout Law states "I will do my best to be honest and fair". How do you think a leader could be a role model for this behavior.

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?

Give one example of how you would encourage girls to implement the Girl Scout Law for use in their life.

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.



Juliette Gordon-Low Commemorative Stamp
1948

Girl Scouting has 3 keys to leadership. These keys describe the ways girls grow and develop through their Girl Scout experiences.

Here are the keys and their measurable outcomes:

Leadership Keys	Outcome Measure
Discover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Girls develop a strong sense of self• Girls develop positive values• Girls gain practical life skills• Girls seek challenges in the world• Girls develop critical thinking
Connect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Girls develop healthy relationships• Girls promote cooperation and team building• Girls can resolve conflicts• Girls advance diversity in a multicultural world• Girls feel connected to their communities, locally and globally
Take Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Girls can identify community needs• Girls are resourceful problem solvers• Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally• Girls educate and inspire others to act• Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world

Girls grow and develop through real-life experiences. The activities they do in Girl Scouting provide many opportunities for them to learn new skills and to develop as leaders.

Think about the 3 keys to leadership when choosing your activities with your girls.

Name 3 activities you could do with your girls that each relate to a key.

1)

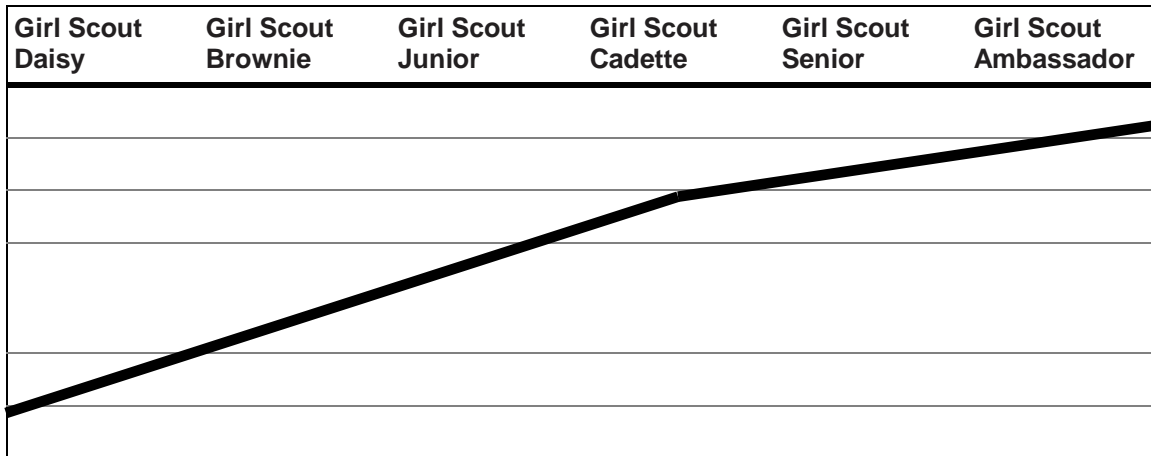
2)

3)



Progression in Girl Scouting refers to the way adults can work together with the girls to ensure that activities are Girl-Led, Learning by Doing, and Cooperative Learning experiences. Girls and their leaders/advisors should work as partners in planning and decision-making. At an earlier age, the adult role is more predominant. Asking the girls what they would like to do, but doing most of the planning, and initiating of activities. As the girls grow older, the activities, decision making, and planning responsibilities should shift. The girl role is more predominant, where as, the adult may make helpful suggestions and be available to offer assistance.

This graph shows the shift in Girl/Adult responsibilities:



What Girl Scout grade level are your girls? _____

Keeping in mind the approached outlined above, how would you do the following:

- 1) Planning best use of meeting time.

- 2) Plan an event.

- 3) Keep track of dues and other record keeping.

Girl Scouting has always been known for its emphasis on high-quality and safe program activities for girls. The standards for these activities are established by GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA and published in *Safety-Wise*. A copy of this book was given to each troop accompanying the New Leader Orientation when the troop was started.

The answer hunt game has 16 questions and will give you a sample of the kinds of topics covered in *Safety-Wise*. Look at each statement and answer if it is True or False. Use your copy of *Safety-Wise* to find the answers.

***Safety-Wise* Answer Hunt Game**

- 1) It is recommended that written approval be obtained from parents or guardians before girls participate in all or part of a contemporary sensitive issues event. (Pp. 40, 67-68)
- 2) Girl Scouts may campaign in their role as Girl Scouts for someone running for president of the United States. (P. 77)
- 3) Girls and adults work in partnership in making decisions and planning. (Pp. 23-24,68)
- 4) Every Girl Scout must ensure that the varying religious opinions and practices of the membership are respected when planning and conducting activities. (P. 71)
- 5) Any money left in the troop treasury at the end of the troop year can be kept by the Girl Scout leader as a "bonus" for all the hard work she or he did. (P. 74)
- 6) A First Aider is only required if we go camping. (P. 36)
- 7) Girls should have a health examination each time they participate in a special activity, such as resident camping. (Pp. 39, 35)
- 8) It's okay for there to be only one adult leader with no assistant leader in a Junior Girl Scout troop. (P. 69)

- 9) A girl shall not be denied admission to any troop because of race, color, ethnicity, creed, national origin, or socioeconomic status. (P. 71)
- 10) Girl Scouts, in their Girl Scout capacities, may not solicit money for other organizations. (P. 76)
- 11) Brownie Girl Scouts should participate in archery. (P. 95)
- 12) It is appropriate for a troop planning a trip to England to contact that country's Girl Guide association office directly for help with its travel plans. (P. 59)
- 13) The following activities, among others, are not permitted in the Girl Scout program: hang gliding, trampolining, parasailing. (P. 80)
- 14) Only people with complete Girl Scout uniforms may participate in Girl Scout activities. (P. 68)
- 15) The selling of Girl Scout cookies should be assumed by adults. (P. 75)
- 16) Girl Scout leaders should spend most of their time getting girls to earn as many recognitions as possible. (P. 67)

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- Now that you have had time to look at Safety-Wise, what are some of the major considerations you should look at to ensure the safety and well-being of the girls in your troop or group?



The following questions refer to the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois *Council Policies and Standards*. A policy is an accepted rule and binding upon all members of the organization. A standard is a recommended practice and/or guideline to help insure high-quality program and uniformity throughout the council. Program standards and activity checkpoints in Safety-Wise are also adopted as policies and standards of Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois.

- 1) Financial assistance is available for girls and adults who would not otherwise be able to participate in the Girl Scout program.

True or False: A parent would like to help out as a co-leader but cannot afford the national membership registration. She can apply for financial assistance to cover the fee.

True or False: A 4th grade girl that has participated as a Brownie and received a sash through financial aid can now apply for a Junior vest.

- 2) All money earning projects must be approved by the Service Unit Director before being conducted.

True or False: Since our troop wasn't interested in selling cookies, we can have some bake sales to earn money for the troop.

True or False: One of our mom's is a Pampered Chef consultant and offered to host a party for the troop to earn money. I told her I appreciate it but the troop cannot support other products and companies to earn money.

True or False: Since troops cannot solicit financial support from business we put together a list of supplies we could use and distributed it to businesses asking for gifts-in-kind.

- 3) Troop checking accounts must be maintained to reflect money earned/acquired/donated in the name of Girl Scouts.

True or False: Since I use a debit card for my personal transactions, I thought it would be best to get a debit card for the troop account as well.

True or False: Checks written on the troop checking account must have two signatures.

- 4) When traveling with girls, safety is always the priority. Refer to council policies and Safety-Wise when planning outings and trips.

True or False: We are planning a trip to Chicago this summer but we're only staying 2 nights so we do not need an extended trip permit.

True or False: If a parent drops off a 6 year old for a field trip with no booster seat, it is ok to just use a seat belt.

Diversity...

Girl Scouting is open to all girls who want to be members and who agree to accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law. This means that there is a lot of diversity in our membership.

Diversity relates to what makes a person unique or special—that makes her or him different from anyone else on earth.

List three ways to identify diversity or ways in which a person might be different from someone else.

1)

2)

3)

Pluralism...

Pluralism is a term we use in Girl Scouting to refer to how we treat people. In other words, what we do to make people feel welcome in Girl Scouting.

For each example, write in how you may be able to be more inclusive.

Exp. Troop/Group meetings are on Friday.

Survey the girls and their families to find the best meeting times. Meet on days that are free of religious observances.

Girls must pay all troop dues for the year at the first meeting.

The troop sponsors “Mom/Dad and Me” events.

Girls are expected to wear uniforms and have their own handbook.

more on pluralism

Girls must attend all meetings to take part in special events.

Girls pay their own way for high-cost activities.

Crafts are the only type of activities the troop does during the year.

The troop meets in a church meeting hall.

Girls take turns bringing treats to each meeting.

The following questions refer to forms available on the GSSI website (www.gsofsi.org).

- 1) When planning a troop outing, non-member insurance should be purchased to cover any non-registered attendees (i.e. parents, siblings, etc.) In addition, any non-members present at troop meeting should also be covered by insurance.

This form is located in Troop Forms: Insurance Enrollment - Plan 2

True or False: The cost per event is \$5.00.

Explain:

- 2) A camp application is needed when any camp facility (council-owned or other) is being reserved for use by Girl Scouts.

True or False: This form should be returned to your Service Unit Director.

Explain:

Forms, continued...

- 3) The Troop Financial Report is kept by the troop treasurer and is a detailed account of all the cash received or paid out of the troop treasury.

True or False: You collected troop dues and used the cash to buy craft Supplies, it was never deposited into the troop account so no entry would be made on the financial report.

True or False: The “cash on hand” column refers to both any physical cash the troop may have as well as the balance in the checking account.

- 4) The Parent Permission form is a sample of the information that should be provided to parents when the troop is planning an activity outside of the regular meeting time and place as well as when a sensitive issue is discussed.

True or False: As long as I have a piece of paper with the parent’s signature, that will cover my bases for an event.

True or False: If the troop wants to have a Christmas party at their December meeting, I should send a Parent Permission Form home.

- 5) The same circumstances that require a Parent Permission form also require a Troop Activity Notification Form. This form should be sent to the Service Unit Director as soon as possible.

True or False: If we are attending a SU event, the SUD will know we’re There, so I don’t need to complete a form.

True or False: I turned in a Troop Activity Notification form 2 weeks ago, and our event is this weekend. I guess since I didn’t hear back, we did not get approval.

The following page is an activity to give you an idea of the Girl Scout organization’s structure both within our council and the national and world wide organization. You will see the support that you have and what it means to be a member of Girl Scouts.

While this is important information for you to have as a leader, it is also interesting to share with the girls. If they are interested in learning more about the history of the organization and the world centers be sure to visit www.girlscouts.org for more information.

BIG PICTURE MATCH-UP

1. What is the name of the volunteer administrative team for your Service Unit?
 - a. Delegates / Board of Directors
 - b. 40 ½
 - c. Service Unit Team (SUT)
 - d. Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois
 - e. Service Unit Director
 - f. Membership Development Manager
 - g. Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
 - h. 48
 - i. World Assoc. of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
 - j. Troop Organizer / Consultant (TOC)
2. For what does the acronym “WAGGGS” stand?
3. Who signs camp application, approves Troop outings, asks for a copy of your Annual Report of Detailed Cash Record, and approves Troop Money-Earning sales?
4. When you join Girl Scouts you are a member of what organization?
5. Who is the employed staff person that works directly with your Service Unit?
6. How many counties does Southern Illinois service?
7. Who do you go to when you have a questions about a Troop problem?
8. What is the name of the organization that supplies direct service to your Service Unit and Troop?
9. Who comprises the voting body of GS of Southern Illinois
10. How many Service Units are there in Southern Illinois.

Resources

Websites:

GSSI ~ www.gsofsi.org
GSUSA ~ www.girlscouts.org
www.scoutingweb.com
www.familyfun.com
...many more!



Council Resource Center:

Books
Videos
Activities
Flags
Archives

Service Unit Meeting:

Stay up to date on new information, programs, contacts, and resources by attending your monthly SU meeting. If you are not able to attend, have someone else from the troop attend or at least be sure to contact your SUD to get information.



Think about what you can do to make every girl in your troop or group feel welcome.

Consider the following:

- 1) I can help the girls to appreciate each other as special and unique individuals.
- 2) We can use the Promise and Law to guide our behavior.
- 3) I can help the girls to be sensitive to others' needs when we plan troop or group activities and events.

Thank you for completing the Introduction to Girl Scouting Home Study Course. The next step in your training is to take the appropriate Grade Level Training and/or Leadership Essentials. If you have any questions regarding this or any training, please feel free to call the Volunteer Development Manager at the Corporate Service Center.

**Building Girls of
Courage Confidence Character**