

We have an exciting new program for girls to join!

The "Trefoil Troop" is a way for your daughter to participate in Girl Scouting by mail. The program is great for girls who are unable to join a traditional troop because of either time, a traditional troop setting is not convenient for your daughter, or there are no troops open in your area. You may also to join the Trefoil Troop as a supplement to your traditional troop.

Trefoil Troop Frequently Asked Questions: *(also see bottom of page for important links)*

What is a Trefoil Troop?

A Trefoil Troop is a group of girls who are unable to join a traditional troop for a variety of reasons. The girls participate in girl scouting through the mail. They will have a troop number that will connect them to other girls in their Trefoil Troop. There are no meetings, although girls have the option of working together to complete awards. Once your daughter is a member, she will be given the opportunity to earn badges appropriate to her Girl Scouting Level. She will also be sent a Program Catalog where you can sign her up to participate in Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois events and activities. The girls in this program can choose their activity level and work on Girl Scouting in their spare time.

How much does it cost to join?

Trefoil troop membership costs \$30 per year, which includes:

- National Membership Dues (Value: \$12.00)
- Membership Star (Pin and Disk)
- 4 Packets (Instructions/Supplies/Postage)
- 4 Themed Newsletters
- Trefoil Troop Event

You will have the option to purchase the Trefoil Troop Uniform Supplement at a special discounted rate. Prices for uniforms vary by Girl Scout Level.

If you are already in a traditional troop, you might be interested in the Supplemental Membership. The Supplemental Membership to the Trefoil Troop costs \$20 and that would include: 4 Packets, 4 Themed Newsletters, and the Trefoil Troop Event.

What comes in an activity packet?

Each activity packet contains materials and explanations to complete a Girl Scout Petal, Try-It, or Badge. For example, if your daughter were making a marionette to complete a badge requirement, she would receive materials such as the cardboard and beads as well as the pattern and instructions on how to put the marionette together. However, she would have to supply the glue, scissors, and markers herself. The packet will also include an Award Completion Card, which needs to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned in order for her to receive her award. The awards (Petals, Try-Its, or Badges) are sent in the mail, along with a congratulatory certificate for completing the badge requirements.

How often will the activity packets and newsletters be mailed?

The activity packets will be mailed in October, January, April, and July. If you join after October, you will receive all four packets on a different schedule. The newsletters will be sent in November/December, February/March, May/June, and July/August.

Can my daughter earn awards (Try-Its or Badges) outside of the ones that come in the activity packet?

Yes. Your daughter may earn badges on her own. You may purchase the Brownie Girl Scout Try-It book, the Junior Girl Scout or Cadette Handbook through our council shop which lists all of the possible awards to earn. For Girl Scout Daisies, through the Trefoil Troop, your daughter will earn all of her Girl Scout Daisy Petals. She will have the option to earn additional fun patches. Actually, Girl Scouts of any age are welcome to earn Girl Scout fun patches. These are not official awards and they are worn on the back of the sash or vest.

If she completes the requirements for an extra award (badge), you are responsible for providing all of the materials for the activities; as well as paying for the award(s). If you are unsure how much an award cost, please contact Chelsey at 618-692-0692 x124 or cbanaskavich@gsfsi.org.

Who can help my daughter with program activities?

Adult Mentor: A parent or special adult in your daughter's life who is willing to help her with Girl Scout program activities

Friends: Your daughter may work together with friends who are also in the Trefoil Troop

Council Staff: Individuals are available to assist by answering questions, or helping with program ideas through the council office. Chelsey Banaskavich, Membership Development Manager, can be reached at cbanaskavich@gsfsi.org, or at (618) 692-0692.

What types of awards can my daughter earn?

Girl Scout Daisies (grades K-1st) earn all of the Daisy petals. Check out the program link for Daisy opportunities.

Girl Scout Brownies (grades 2nd-3rd) earn Try-Its. Information about Try-Its and how to earn them can be found in the book, Try-Its for Girl Scout Brownies, available in the River Bluffs Girl Scout Council Shop. The Girl Scout Brownie handbook can also be found in our store and contains additional activity ideas.

Girl Scout Juniors (grades 4th-5th) earn Girl Scout Junior Badges, Girl Scout Junior Signs, Girl Scout Junior Aide Award, the Girl Scout Junior Leadership Awards, and the Girl Scout Junior Bronze Awards. Information about these awards can be found in the Girl Scout Junior Badges Book and the Girl Scout Junior Handbook, both available through our shop.

Girl Scout Cadettes (grades 6th-8th) earn IP's. The girls have tried the activity as a Brownie, have expanded their understanding of the subject or topic as a Junior, and now they show their interest through exploring deeper into an area of study. If you are just joining Girl Scouts at this level don't worry, it is never too late to be a Girl Scout.

Girl Scout Journeys

The Girl Scouts are launching a brand new Girl Scout Leadership Experience! Each Girl Scout grade level—including the new highest level, Ambassadors—will have the opportunity this fall to enjoy its own unique journey from the It's Your World—Change It! or It's Your Planet—Love It! series. In these premier journeys of the New Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Taking Action has a starring role. Each journey unfolds through a

sequence of activities and discussions that add up to one giant adventure. These books are available through our council shop for an additional fee.

What sort of Girl Scout programs can my daughter do through her Trefoil Troop Membership?

Your daughter will receive a Program Catalog in the mail. This publication can also be found online at www.gssofsi.org . You may sign her up for any upcoming programs offered for her age. Some programs, however, may require an adult chaperone. Please inquire before attending.

How do I sign my daughter up for the Trefoil Troop?

- Print a Girl Registration Form (or request a copy from the Council)
- Send the registration along with a \$30 check or financial aid form to the following address: Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (Attn: Chelsey) 4 Ginger Creek Parkway Glen Carbon, IL 62034.
- When your registration is received and processed, your daughter will receive her first packet shortly with a welcome note.

If you have questions or would like more information before joining, please contact: Chelsey Banaskavich, Membership Development Manager, at cbanaskavich@gssofsi.org or by phone at (618)692-0692 x124.

Please visit the **Forms & Publications** section of the website for registration and financial assistance forms.

The **Programs** section of the website lists all of the great programs available with Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois.