

## GSUSA Your First Troop Meeting

### Course Topic & Resource Outline

Completion Time: Approx. 20 minutes

- Lay the Foundation
  - Six Girl Scout Program Levels: Daisy (K-1), Brownie (2-3), Junior (4-5), Cadette (6-8), Senior (9-10), Ambassador (11-12)
  - Resource Pack: Bookmark pages for your use: [Council Finder](#), [Uniform Guides](#), [Award and Badge Explorer](#), [Volunteer Toolkit](#), [Girl Scout Shop](#), [Badge Booklets & Handbooks](#), and [Activity Zone](#)
  - Organizational Structure:
    - Girl Scouts
    - Troops
    - Service Units
    - Councils
    - GSUSA
  - What Girl Scouts do: earn badges and awards, celebrate traditions, complete community service projects, take part in outdoor experiences, sell cookies, attend field trips and council events
  - The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE): girl-led, learning by doing, & cooperative learning
- Recommended Meeting Structure
  - Established meeting space: tables and chairs, open area for activities, restrooms
  - Examples of meeting spaces: schools, churches, community centers, covered park pavilions. Can consider coffee shops or book stores for older girls based on interest
- Troop Field Trips
  - Recommended outings by program level:
    - Daisies: most time spent at meeting space with guests coming to visit
    - Brownies/Juniors: 3-4 field trips
    - Cadettes, Seniors, & Ambassadors: approximately half of meetings spent outside of their usual meeting space
- Pre-First Meeting Checklist
  - Take your trainings
  - Meeting logistics
  - Meeting location
  - Schedule a Parent/Caregiver Meeting
  - Email parents/caregivers

<https://gssofsi.sharepoint.com/sites/GSofSIShares/Operations/Shared Documents/Volunteer Resources/gsLearn/gsLearn Courses/Your First Troop Meeting/GSUSA Your First Troop Meeting.docx>

- Ensure troop members are registered
  - Get to know your resources
- Elements of a Troop Meeting
  - Start up
  - Opening
  - Troop Planning
  - Main Activity
  - Cleanup
  - Closing
  - Troop Business
- Post-First Meeting Follow-up: A Well-Rounded Year
  - 3-5 badges per year or higher award/journey
  - 1 community service or Take Action project
  - 1 outdoor activity or overnight camping
  - Participate in the Girl Scout Cookie program
  - 1 field trip or Girl Scout event
  - 1-2 Girl Scout celebrations
  - Bridging ceremony at the end of the year
- Volunteer Toolkit- video demonstration on how to use pre-selected tracks to set up your year plan