

volunteers



**How
to Become a
Troop Leader or
Co-Leader**

www.gshpa.org





Dear Prospective Leader,

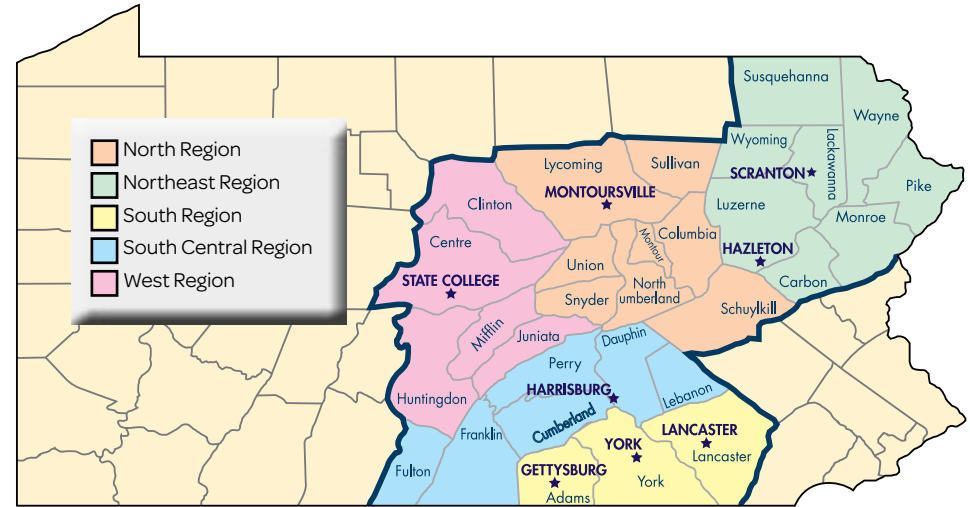
Thank you for your interest in receiving more information about Girl Scout Leadership.

Girl Scouts is the largest volunteer organization for girls in the world! Through Girl Scouts, girls can develop qualities that will serve them all their lives, like leadership, strong values, social conscience and conviction about their own potential and self-worth.

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania is dedicated to providing an accepting and nurturing environment where girls can build character and skills for success in the real world. We offer high-quality programs and flexible ways for girls to participate in Girl Scouting throughout 30 counties we serve in central and northeastern Pennsylvania. With the guidance of caring adults, troops can form and flourish and lead girls on the path to a brighter future.

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania serves more than 27,000 girls and nearly 12,000 adult volunteers who are committed to helping today's girls become tomorrow's leaders.

GSHPA Regions and Service Centers



North Region

(Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, and Union counties)

Montoursville Area

Parkview Center, Suite 1
999 N. Loyalsock Ave.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Northeast Region

(Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties)

Hazleton Area

426 Airport Road
12 Beltway Commons
Hazle Township, PA 18202

Scranton Area

1444 E. Lackawanna Ave.
Suite 222
Olyphant, PA 18447

South Region

(Adams, York and Lancaster counties)

Gettysburg Area

Aspen Lodge at Camp
Happy Valley
Fairfield, PA 17320

Lancaster Area

630 Janet Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601

York Area

1213 Carlisle Road
York, PA 17404

South Central

(Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lebanon and Perry counties)

Harrisburg Area

350 Hale Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17104

West Region

(Centre, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, and Mifflin counties)

State College Area

1040-1 Benner Pike
State College, PA 16801



What it Takes to Be a Troop Leader

Anyone who believes in the principles of Girl Scouts and can serve as a positive role model for girls may apply to be a Girl Scout Leader or Co-Leader. At least one member of the leadership team must be female.

Duties:


- Hold regularly scheduled troop meetings.
- Use Girl Scout program principles as the basis for troop activities.
- Abide by national and council policies and interpret them to girls and adults in a positive way.
- Carry out troop activities to ensure and protect the safety of all participants.
- Attend and participate in service unit* meetings.
- Support and participate in service unit and council activities.
- Keep accurate troop records.
- Keep girls and parents informed of troop finances on a regular basis.
- Attend required council leadership training sessions.

Qualifications:

- Ability and interest to work well with girls ages 5-17 and adults.
- Believe in the mission of the Girl Scout Movement and subscribe to the principles expressed in the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- Be willing to abide by the policies and standards of GSHPA and Girl Scouts of the USA.
- Register as a member of Girl Scouts of the USA.

Girl Scout Grade Levels:

Daisy	Kindergarten - 1st grades
Brownie	2nd - 3rd grades
Junior	4th - 5th grades
Cadette	6th - 8th grades
Senior	9th - 10th grades
Ambassador	11th - 12th grades



Building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

*Service unit volunteers provide direct services to troops within a specific geographical area.

Guiding Principles in Girl Scouting

Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

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.

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.



Girl Scout Activities: Three Keys to Leadership

Discover : Girls understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.

Connect: Girls care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally.

Take Action: Girls act to make the world a better place.

Girl Scout Troop Essentials

Size of Troop

A Girl Scout troop should be small enough to allow for individual development, yet large enough to accommodate group activities. Recommended group sizes are:

Girl Scout Daisies	5 - 15 girls
Girl Scout Brownies	10 - 25 girls
Girl Scout Juniors	10 - 30 girls
Girl Scout Cadettes/ Seniors/Ambassadors	5 - 30 girls

Girl Scouting is a unique opportunity for girls to try new experiences in a safe environment. We want as many girls and adults as possible to have this experience. Adding a few more girls into your troop will help reduce the number of girls on waiting lists.

Meeting Place, Day and Time

There are several factors to consider when choosing a meeting place, day and time: availability of the meeting place, the leader and co-leader's personal schedules, the girls' personal schedules and transportation to and from the meeting. Troops may meet weekly, every other week, or once a month. It is recommended Daisy, Brownie and Junior troops meet more than once a month. Troops may meet directly after school, in the evenings, or on weekends. The actual time spent working with a troop can be as flexible as the adult leadership needs it to be, while still being consistent. Troops meet in schools, churches and public buildings. A good meeting place must conform to health and safety standards, provide drinking water and toilet facilities, be free of fire hazards, be handicapped accessible, permit group games without disturbing others, and if possible, have outdoor facilities nearby.

Meeting Activities

Troop meeting activities are based on the interest and input of the girls. There are no mandatory requirements governing the activities of the troop, except they must follow the Volunteer Essentials Resource Guide. Meeting activities are designed to help girls **Discover**, **Connect** and **Take Action** by encouraging girls to develop leadership skills, self-awareness, positive values, critical thinking skills and healthy relationships. Girl Scout activities also help girls identify and respond to community needs and advocate for themselves and others.

Girl Scout Processes

In Girl Scouting, it's not just "what girls do" (activities), but "how" (processes) they do the activities. When used together, these three processes ensure the quality and promote the fun and friendship so integral to Girl Scouting.

Girl Led: Girls help drive the planning and decision making.

Learning by Doing: Girls gain fuller meaning from each experience by being hands-on, having the opportunity to reflect on what they have experienced and accomplished, and having the ability to apply their insights to what they do next.

Cooperative Learning: Girls work together toward shared goals with respect and collaboration, because girls can learn a lot from each other by working in groups.

Registration

Girl Scouts is a membership organization. All volunteers and girls participating in the Girl Scout movement must be registered through the council. The leader is responsible for registering all girls and adult members of the troop and collecting the national membership dues each year. The membership year is October 1 - September 30.

Finances

Troop income is a combination of troop dues, parental support and council Money Earning Activities (Fall Product Sale Program and Cookie Sale Program). Troops determine the amount of their dues and other income based on their budgeted expenses. Troops are required to have an established bank account and to submit an Annual Troop Report to the council.

Sponsorship

A troop sponsor is an adult, organization or business in the community that assumes defined responsibilities for maintaining and supporting your troop. A sponsor may provide tangible goods, a meeting place or a service to the troop. In exchange, the troop may conduct service projects during the year to benefit its sponsor.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available through Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania for membership registration, troop dues, program fees and uniform components.



girl scouts

in the heart
of pennsylvania

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