



**Girl Scouts®**  
Greater Los Angeles

## GLOSSARY OF GIRL SCOUT TERMS

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*(This glossary will be periodically updated with additions and changes. The document can also be found on the GSGLA Web site, [www.girlscoutsla.org](http://www.girlscoutsla.org) under Volunteer Resources.)*

## Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Glossary of Terms

Advisor	Adult who advises and supervises girls in any of the grade levels from Girl Scout Daisy to Girl Scout Ambassador.
Ambassador	A Girl Scout Ambassador is a Girl Scout in 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> grades. One of six levels of Girl Scouting.
ALF	Adult Learning Facilitator. One who guides the learning process.
Alumnae	Female adult who had a Girl Scout experience as a girl, volunteer, or as a staff member.
Baden-Powell, Robert	Lord Robert Baden-Powell was the founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guide movements for boys and girls. Olav, his wife, was the first World Chief Guide.
Badges	Embroidered Girl Scout earned proficiency badges. Used to indicate increased knowledge and skills in a particular subject.
Bridging	When girls move from one program grade level to the next; may include an award for the girls completing the bridging award requirements, and likely will include a ceremony.
Bridging Ceremony	Ceremony celebrating the transition from one program grade level to the next.
Bronze Award	The highest award Girl Scout Juniors can earn. Earned by girls in the 4th-5th grades. It recognizes efforts in a wide range of Girl Scout experiences and a commitment to working to better ones' life and the lives of others.
Brownie	A Girl Scout Brownie is a Girl Scout in 2nd and 3rd grades. One of six levels of Girl Scouting.
Brownie Ring	Form of troop government used by Girl Scout Brownies. The girls sit in a circle; all share in planning, problem solving, and decision-making.
Buddy System	Safety practice that groups two or three girls together to keep watch over each other in an activity (for example, swimming, hiking). The system places girls of equal ability in the same group.
Cadette	A Girl Scout Cadette is a Girl Scout in the 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , and 8 <sup>th</sup> grades. One of six levels of Girl Scouting.
Campout	Overnight camping with outdoor trained and experienced volunteer leaders.
Campus Girl Scout	Girl Scout who belongs to a campus Girl Scout group while attending college.

## Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Glossary of Terms

CEO	Chief Executive Officer. The head administrative officer for the entire Council.
Circles	Physical formations to help create an inclusive "safe space."
Color Guard	Girl Scouts who carry, guard, raise, and/or lower the flag.
Cooperative Learning	All members of a group work together toward a common goal that can only be accomplished with the help of others. One of the three "processes" integral to a high-quality Girl Scout experience.
Core Business Strategy	Provides a vision for the transformation of Girl Scouting by creating one consistent national leadership experience for girls that ties activities to outcomes. The strategy calls for closing the gap between the "present state" and a desired "future state." Many of the changes in the future state relate to taking Girl Scouts' past strengths and traditions and focusing renewed energy on them.
Core Camp	Camping event for which the council provides the site, facilities, and administrative staff, including Level II first aider and program staff.
Council	Corporation chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA that is responsible for the development, management, and maintenance of Girl Scouting in a defined geographic area.
Council Introduction	This course, which covers basic Girl Scout knowledge, is required of all new leaders.
Counselor in Training (CIT)	Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador who has taken a training course to learn camp counselor skills.
Court of Awards	Ceremony to distribute earned awards and recognitions to Girl Scouts.
Court of Honor	Troop/group decision-making and planning body that represents all members of the troop/group. Composed of patrol leaders, troop/group officers, and leaders/advisors.
Daisy	A Girl Scout Daisy is a Girl Scout in kindergarten and 1st grade. The nickname of Juliette Gordon Low. One of six levels of Girl Scouting.
Daisy Circle	Girl Scout Daisy's introduction to troop government where she learns the formal group decision-making process.
Day Camp	Program conducted within a 12-hour period for a minimum of 2 days. Girls register as individual participants and are placed in temporary units for program activities. Day camping also includes programs run at urban centers, city centers, and schools.

## Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Glossary of Terms

Destinations	Trip or event beyond girls' own troops and councils. For Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors. For more information go to <a href="http://www.girlscouts.org">www.girlscouts.org</a> or <a href="http://www.studio2b.org">www.studio2b.org</a> .
Direct Volunteer	Volunteer who works directly with girls. Usually a troop/group leader; can be involved in other pathways such as travel, series, camp, virtual, and events.
Early Bird Registration	Registration period for existing troops/groups for the upcoming membership year.
e-Learning	Electronic learning opportunities; Internet, webinars, etc.
Emergency Contact Person	Person to call in an emergency or for guidance and advice who is not at the activity or function. This person should have all pertinent information to assist in an emergency.
Facilitator	Individual skilled in helping adults learn. A specially trained volunteer who conducts learning opportunities at the council level.
First Aider	Adult who has completed training and is currently certified in pediatric, and/or adult first aid/CPR. See <u><a href="#">Safety-Wise</a></u> for more information.
Fly-Up	When Brownies bridge to Juniors, it's called "flying up." This is how they earn their Brownie wings. Girls who fly up from Brownies can wear their wings on their vest/sash at every future program grade level.
Friendship Circle	Symbolic gesture in which Girl Scouts form a circle by clasping each others hands, right arm over the left arm and sing a song. Often used as a closing ceremony.
Friendship Squeeze	Within a friendship circle, one person gently squeezes the hand of the next person and the squeeze is silently passed around the circle.
Fund Raising	Annual giving events and fund raising programs run by adults in the Council.
Girl Guide	Original name for Girl Scouts which is still used in WAGGGS member countries around the world.
Girl Scout Birthday	March 12th is the Girl Scouts of the USA birthday. It marks the first meeting of Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia in 1912.
Girl Scout Grade Levels	Daisy (K-1)    Brownie (2-3)    Junior (4-5)    Cadette (6-8) Senior (9-10)    Ambassador (11-12).
Girl Scout Group	Group with a specific interest, i.e. sports, outdoor activities, literacy, robotics, etc. or multiple grade levels.
Girl Scout Handshake	Formal way of greeting other Girl Scouts by shaking with the left hand, while giving the Girl Scout sign with the right hand.

## Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Glossary of Terms

Girl Scout Law	Girl Scout Law is the credo of Girl Scouting. A girl lives the 10 parts of the Girl Scout Law to fulfill the Girl Scout Promise.
Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)	The engine for everything girls do in Girl Scouting. The experience identifies all the elements that need to be in place for Girl Scouting to achieve its mission; Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. When Discover, Connect, and Take Action activities are combined with the Girl Scout Processes of Girl-Led, Learning by Doing, and Cooperative Learning, girls achieve the desired and expected short-term leadership outcomes, ultimately resulting in Girl Scouting achieving its mission.
Girl Scout Sign	Official Girl Scout greeting. The right hand is raised shoulder high with the three middle fingers extended and the thumb crossing over the palm to hold down the little finger.
Girl Scout Slogan	"Do a good turn daily."
Girl Scout Troop	Basic unit in Girl Scouting consisting of girls, adult leaders, and troop committee members. One of six pathways for girls to participate in Girl Scouting.
Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA)	Our Council, covering Los Angeles County and parts of San Bernardino and Kern counties. The result of the realignment of six former legacy councils.
Girl Scouts' Own	Quiet inspirational ceremony planned by girls, having a central theme chosen by the girls.
Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI)	The Girl Scout Research Institute conducts studies, releases critical facts and findings, and provides resources essential for the advancement of the well-being and safety of girls living in today's world. The institute also informs public policy and advocacy for Girl Scouting with its research and outreach.
Girl Scout Week	Annual celebration during the week of March 12, (the Girl Scout Birthday) to celebrate the beginning of Girl Scouts in the USA.
Girl/Adult Financial Assistance	Scholarship program for girls and adults who need financial assistance to participate in Girl Scout activities and training.
Girl-Led	Girls play an active role in planning activities, while adults provide guidance, ensuring that planning, organization, and set-up are age-appropriate. Evaluation of all activities is done jointly with girls and is integral to a high-quality Girl Scout experience.

## Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Glossary of Terms

Gold Award	Highest award a Girl Scout Senior or Girl Scout Ambassador can earn. It recognizes efforts in a wide range of Girl Scout experiences and commitment within the community. Girls must complete specific requirements and community service to earn this highest of awards.
Gold Award Mentor	Adult volunteer who mentors and advises a girl who is in the process of earning her Gold Award.
Grade Level	Progressive grade levels of the Girl Scout program for girls aged 5-17. Daisy (K-1), Brownie (2-3), Junior (4-5), Cadette (6-8), Senior (9-10), Ambassador (11-12).
GSGLA Regions	Four geographic regions used to organize and administer the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles operations. Central, East, North, and Southwest.
GSUSA	Acronym for Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Our national organization. The Web site is <a href="http://www.girlscouts.org">www.girlscouts.org</a> .
Indirect Volunteer	Volunteer who does not work directly with girls. Can be a board member, facilitator, service team member, etc.
Individually Registered Girl Scout	Girl individually registered who does not belong to a troop or group. Also known as a Girl Scout Juliette.
Insignia	Girl Scout official emblem, buttons, badges, pins, and other official forms of recognition that may be worn on the uniform by registered members.
Interest Project Patch (IPP)	Official awards earned by Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors for proficiency in a specific area.
Investiture	Special ceremony in which a new member accepts the Girl Scout Law and Promise and receives the membership pin.
Journey Guide for Adult Volunteers	"How to" book for adults that corresponds to the girls' book at every grade level. Journey guides include information on how specific activities and experiences tie to leadership outcomes by using the Leadership keys and the three Girl Scout processes. They include sample sessions for adults and girls to customize to bring the journey to life.
Journeys	Process used to engage girls at each grade level in exploring the three keys to leadership, earning awards, experiencing Girl Scout history and tradition, while having fun adventures and challenges. Journeys are planned purposefully toward specific leadership outcomes. An accompanying "how to" guide for adult volunteers is available for each Journey.

## Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Glossary of Terms

Juliette Girl Scout	Girl who has chosen to be an individually registered Girl Scout of any grade level. Also known as an Individually Registered Girl Scout.
Juliette Gordon Low	The founder of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States.
Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday	Special Girl Scout day celebrating Juliette's birthday on October 31.
Juliette Low World Friendship Fund	Fund set aside to help Girl Scouts travel to events in other countries and to bring Girl Guides to the United States. All Girl Scouts are encouraged to contribute annually.
Junior	A Girl Scout Junior is a Girl Scout in 4th - 5th grades. One of six levels of Girl Scouting.
Kaper Chart	Chart that divides the jobs within the troop/group. It usually rotates the jobs in some way. So that everyone experiences each job and has the opportunity for leadership.
Leader/Co-Leader	Trained adult volunteer who meets regularly with and gives guidance to a troop or group of girls.
Leadership Essentials	Learning module that prepares volunteers to effectively guide the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) through the Journeys.
Leadership Keys: Discover, Connect, Take Action	Term encompassing the Discover, Connect, and Take Action components of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. In Girl Scouting the definition of leadership is: Discover + Connect + Take Action = Leadership. <b>Discover</b> - Girls understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world. <b>Connect</b> - Girls care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally. <b>Take Action</b> - Girls act to make the world a better place, using critical thinking skills to get at the roots of an issue and strive toward lasting change.
Learning by Doing	"Hands-on" learning process that engages girls in cycles of action and reflection resulting in deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills. One of the three processes integral in a high-quality Girl Scout experience.
Learning Modules	Training designs that help facilitate adult learning.
Membership Dues	\$12 fee paid annually to Girl Scouts of the USA for registration which goes directly to National Headquarters. One of the requirements for becoming a member of GSUSA.
Membership Pin	Either of two pins; the trefoil with three faces (contemporary style) or trefoil with eagle (traditional style) pin. These pins signify the acceptance of the membership requirements.



## Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Glossary of Terms

Money-earning Activity	Way for troops/groups to earn money for troop/group activities. Troops/groups must receive permission before beginning a money-earning activity.
Girl Scout Motto	"Be Prepared."
Multi-disciplinary Programming	Connecting skills and knowledge from multiple sources and experiences; applying skills and practices in various settings.
Online Orientation	The GSUSA Online training about Girl Scouts and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. The first step in the Adult Learning Process. <a href="http://training.girlscouts.org">http://training.girlscouts.org</a> .
Outcomes	There are 15 outcomes identified by the Girl Scout Research Institute and directly linked to the three GSUSA Leadership Keys - Discover, Connect, and Take Action. To evaluate whether these outcomes are being achieved, Girl Scout program activities will determine effectiveness and specific relevance through measurable indicators. The indicators will assess whether the program activities are meeting our goals, for and the needs of, our Girl Scouts and will help drive future program development.
Patches	Unofficial recognitions for participation in a troop/group or council-wide event. Worn on the back of the sash or vest.
Pathways	Various ways girls and adults can participate in Girl Scouting. Girl pathways include: <b>Camp</b> - girls can participate in a day or resident camp with a focus on the outdoors and/or environment. <b>Events</b> - girls participate in events (i.e. career day). <b>Series</b> - girls participate in a series of programs with the same group of girls relating to a specific theme or purpose. <b>Travel</b> - girls plan, earn money, prepare, and participate in trips. <b>Troops</b> - girls participate in a troop setting with the same girls over the course of the year. <b>Virtual</b> - girls participate using the Internet.
Patrol	Small group of girls that plans and carries out activities within the troop/larger group.
Patrol System	Form of troop government composed of patrols and a Court of Honor. Usually used by Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors.
Petals and Promise Center	Earned awards by Girl Scout Daisies. Girls earn the Promise Center by showing they understand the Girl Scout Promise. Girls earn Petals by showing they understand the 10 parts of the Girl Scout Law.
Policy	Established course of action determined by the Board of Directors of any Girl Scout Council. Policies must be followed. GSUSA policies are found in the <u><i>Blue Book of Basic Documents</i></u> .



## Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Glossary of Terms

Product Sales Program, council-sponsored	Council wide program activities in which troops/groups may sell authorized, tangible products, such as Girl Scout Cookies, nuts, magazines, etc.
Program Aide	Girl who has completed the 6th grade, who has taken a specialized training to help troop/group leaders with activities for their girls. Program Aides also help at day camps and core camps.
Girl Scout Promise	The Girl Scout Promise is the way Girl Scouts agree to act every day toward one another and other people.
Purposeful Leadership	Purposeful leaders in Girl Scouting understand who they are and what they want to achieve for the benefit of girls. By discovering who you are on the inside, this knowledge can be used to effectively partner with girls.
Quiet Sign	Girl Scout signal for silence in a group situation. The person in charge raises her/his right hand and Girl Scouts fall silent as they raise their right hand also.
Recognition	Acknowledgement of accomplishment in the Girl Scout program. It may be a pin, certificate, patch, badge, letter, or other creative idea.
Recruiter	Adult Girl Scout support team member who actively attempts to involve new girls and adults in Girl Scouting.
Resident Camp	Sessions are generally for at least five days (and four nights) and may be multiple weeks in length. The program is operated and staffed by the camp, and the supervision of campers is a camp responsibility. Campers stay overnight, and camp is responsible for campers 24 hours a day.
Safety-Wise	GSUSA publication for Girl Scouts that outlines safety principles and supplies safety references for specific Girl Scout activities in the form of program standards and activity checkpoints.
Senior	A Girl Scout Senior is a Girl Scout in 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> grades. One of six levels of Girl Scouting.
Service Center	Council facility where staff offices and some council shops are located. GSGLA has seven service centers. <b>Central Region</b> - Arcadia, <b>East Region</b> - Montclair, <b>North Region</b> - Chatsworth, Lancaster (Antelope Valley), Santa Clarita, <b>Southwest Region</b> - Long Beach, Santa Monica. <b>GSGLA Headquarters</b> - Downtown Los Angeles.
Service Unit	Geographic unit of troops/groups within a region which facilitates delivery of services and the Girl Scout program to girls and adults.

## Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Glossary of Terms

Service Unit Manager (SUM)	Adult volunteer manager or co-managers who manage the service unit support team and service unit. Responsible for directing the work of the service unit.
Service Unit Team	Group of adult volunteers who provide direct service to troops/groups within a service unit or local geographic unit.
Silver Award	Highest award earned by Girl Scout Cadettes. It recognizes efforts in a wide range of Girl Scout experiences and a commitment to working to better one's life and the lives of others.
Sister Troop	Troop that participates in activities with another troop.
Sit-Up-on	Lightweight pad or mat the girls make to "sit-upon" when the ground is dirty or damp.
Sponsor	Business or community organization or individual offering a troop/group assistance with financial support, resources, personnel, meeting locations, uniforms, book, etc.
Tag-along	Child who is not a registered Girl Scout or a registered Girl Scout not of the grade level for the specific program or event.
Thinking Day	Official Girl Scout day where girls traditionally learn about the cultures and traditions of WAGGGS member countries. This day also commemorates the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell the founders of the Scouting Movement worldwide.
<i>Transforming Leadership</i>	Girl Scout Research Institute publication that identifies and explains 15 anticipated outcomes, or benefits, of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This resource shows how to use the Leadership Experience as the engine for everything girls do in Girl Scouting.
Trefoil	International symbol of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. The trefoil represents the three parts of the Girl Scout promise.
Troop Consultant	Volunteer service unit team position that provides on-going help and advice to the troop/group leader.
Try-Its	Official earned awards by Girl Scout Brownies to show achievement.
<i>Volunteer Essentials</i>	Resource guide from GSUSA with guidelines for the health and safety of girls. Also contains council specific information. For all volunteers.
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)	Worldwide organization of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts with over 144 member countries of which GSUSA belongs to. WAGGGS headquarters are in London, England.