

# Topics and Traditions

## A Guide for Leaders



**Girl Scouts®**  
Where Girls Grow Strong<sup>SM</sup>

**Girl Scouts - Mt. Wilson Vista Council**

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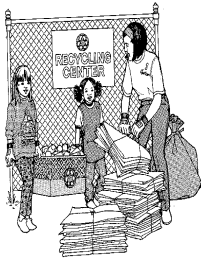


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# GIRL SCOUT WAYS

Girl Scouts was founded on tradition, service and leadership. These values have served millions of girls and adults well. Over the years, traditions have developed that identify the unique organization that is Girl Scouts. Listed below are some national traditions as well as some that are unique to our council.



## The Girl Scout Sign

The Girl Scout Sign is symbolic of the Promise. The girl holds up her right hand with the first three fingers extended—each finger stands for one part of the Promise—and the little finger held down by the thumb. She makes this sign whenever she makes the Promise, at her investiture, and when she gives the Girl Scout handshake.

## The Girl Scout Handshake

The Girl Scout handshake is performed by shaking with the left hand while holding fingers in the Girl Scout sign with the right hand.

## The Quiet Sign

The quiet sign is a way to let everyone know it is time to be quiet. Someone raises her hand and keeps it up until each person in turn sees this sign, stops talking, and raises her hand until everyone is quiet.

## Girl Scout Motto and Slogan

The motto is: “Be Prepared.”

The slogan is: “Do a good turn daily.”

## Girl Scout Circle

This is one form of troop government, usually for Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts. Everyone sits in a circle where all can be seen and heard to hold discussions and make decisions.

## Friendship Circle



The friendship circle is formed in a meeting, at a campsite, or during a ceremony. Everyone stands in a circle and each person crosses her right arm over her left, clasp hands with her friends on both sides. Everyone is silent as a *friendship squeeze* is passed from hand to hand. The friendship circle stands for an unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world.

## **Thinking Day**

Thinking Day is February 22, the birthday of both Lord Robert Baden-Powell, and his wife, Lady Olave Baden-Powell. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts meet on this day to think of their sisters in the scouting movement worldwide and to give voluntary contributions to the Thinking Day Fund. The contributions are used to promote Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in underprivileged or isolated areas, to assist with training, or to support projects that deal with the problems of malnutrition, illiteracy, or the disabled.

## **Girl Scout Birthday**

The Girl Scout birthday is March 12, the anniversary of the day when Juliette Low formed the first troop of Girl Scouts in the United States of America. The week in which March 12 falls is designated as *Girl Scout Week*.

## **Girl Scout Sabbath**

Girl Scout Sabbath is observed on a girl's day of worship for her religion, during *Girl Scout Week*.

## **Juliette Low's Birthday**

Juliette Low's birthday, October 31, is celebrated with a variety of ceremonies and projects.

## **Sit-upons**

Girl Scouts make small mats on which to sit at meetings.

## **S'mores**

Girl Scouts LOVE s'mores. To make them, toast a large marshmallow and then put it, while still hot, on a graham cracker that has two squares of a Hershey Bar on it. The marshmallow melts the Hershey Bar and blends together to make a tasty treat. Why are they called s'mores . . . because we always want "some more."

## **Tournament Troop**

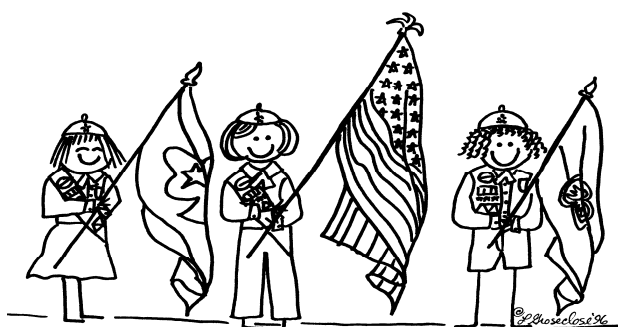
Tournament Troop is unique to Girl Scouts – Mt. Wilson Vista Council. Gold Award Girl Scouts and Eagle Award Boy Scouts carry the banners of the winning floats in the Rose Parade, all 5 ½ miles. Our Council is the only one in the nation who participates in the parade in this special way.

## **Special Annual Events**

Several Service Units have originated events that have endured for many years. The council also hosts a number of annual events. Dates and times are listed in the Program and Training News on the council website: [www.gsmwvc.org](http://www.gsmwvc.org)

# GIRL SCOUT CEREMONIES

Girl Scouts have ceremonies throughout the year. A troop may choose to celebrate a special day or event by planning a ceremony. Examples include: Thinking Day, Girl Scout week or Girl Scout birthday. Formal ceremonies can honor times of transition, such as entering Girl Scouting for the first time or bridging from one level to the next. Simple ceremonies often begin or end meetings. Ceremonies should be simple, appropriate to the occasion and include girl planning. During the year, the ceremonies you most likely will need to help girls plan will be an Investiture or Rededication ceremony, a Fly-up ceremony and a flag ceremony. Listed below are some ceremonies with a brief description.



## **Investiture**

When a registered girl formally becomes a Girl Scout.

## **Rededication**

Girl Scouts who have already been invested renew their Girl Scout Promise and Law. Many girls do this at the beginning and end of the troop year.

## **Bridging**

Girl Scouts move from one program level to another. Check the leader handbook for the bridging steps for each level. Bridging is not required to move from one level to the next.

## **Flying Up**

Brownie Girl Scouts "fly up" to Junior level and receive their "fly up" wings. There are no requirements to receive the wings except to have been a Brownie Girl Scout.

## **Court of Awards**

Ceremony in which Girl Scouts receive recognition (Daisy petals, Try-Its, badges) and other insignia.

## **Girl Scouts' Own**

A quiet ceremony designed by the girls in which girls express their feeling about a particular theme.

## **Flag Ceremony**

A ceremony that honors the flag of the United States.

## **Opening and Closing Ceremonies**

A simple opening or closing ceremony may be singing a song, reciting the Girl Scout Promise and/or Law and forming a friendship circle. They should be done at every meeting.

## Helping Girls Plan Their Own Ceremony



With a little help, young Girl Scouts can learn to plan meaningful ceremonies. You may use the following questions to guide them in the planning process. Remember, the possibilities suggested here are meant to stimulate thought. The final decision about what goes on in the ceremony should rest with the girls.

### What kind of ceremony do we want ?

- a flag ceremony
- an investiture
- court of Awards

### Where will it be held?

- indoors or outdoors
- on the side of a hill or place with a view
- by the water

### When will it be held?

- early in the morning or at night
- during troop meeting time or another time
- on the weekend

### Who should be invited?

- family and friends
- another Girl Scout troop
- adults in Girl Scouting

### What will be used in the ceremony?

- the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- a song, poem, dance, dramatization
- candles, lights, campfire
- a flag, Girl Scout membership pins, World Association symbol
- a mirror (for Brownie pool)

### How will we do it?

- who will start the ceremony
- will we sit or stand
- will we need to learn something new

## Girl Scout Investiture



An investiture ceremony welcomes girls and adults into Girl Scouts for the first time. It is a meaningful step in the life of each person as she becomes active in Girl Scouting. Rededication ceremonies are for girls and adults who have already been invested in Girl Scouts and wish to reaffirm their belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law. A rededication ceremony is usually held at the beginning of each Girl Scout year.

## Indoor Flag Ceremonies for Girl Scouts

- The American Flag is always carried on the right of another flag, or in the center and forward if there are two or more. It is displayed on its own right, that is, to the left of the audience.
- Respect to the American Flag requires that it always be higher, and to the right of, or in front of other flags. Therefore, to keep it always higher, the American Flag is posted last, after the other flags have been set down in their standards. The Pledge of Allegiance is done while the flag is flying, before it is posted.
- The number of flags used will determine the number of girls in the color guard. For each flag, there is one bearer and one guard. If only the American Flag is used, one bearer and two guards are used.
- The color guard does not salute during the Pledge of Allegiance, does not repeat the pledge, does not sing or take part in the ceremony. As official guardian of the flag, they are always at attention.
- When the flags enter the room everyone stands at attention. The ceremony should be brief, well rehearsed, and done with sincerity and finesse. Neat uniforms add to the ceremony.

The commands are given in this order:

- a. "COLOR GUARD, ATTENTION"
- b. "GIRL SCOUTS, ATTENTION"
- c. "COLOR GUARD, ADVANCE"
- d. "COLOR GUARD, PRESENT THE COLORS"
- e. "PLEASE JOIN ME IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, I PLEDGE..."
- f. "COLOR GUARD, POST THE COLORS"
- g. "COLOR GUARD, DISMISSED"

A song or poem may be used before or after the colors are posted.



In the retreat of colors, the American flag is lifted from its standard first. This keeps it higher than the other flags. It is always carried out first.

The colors are retired with these commands:

- a. "COLOR GUARD, ADVANCE"
- b. "COLOR GUARD, RETIRE THE COLORS"
- c. "COLOR GUARD DISMISSED"

The audience rises as the color guard advances and remains at attention until flags leave the room. As the American flag passes you, place your right hand over your heart and keep it there until the Pledge of Allegiance is finished.

**Remember, whenever an American flag is presented, all rise.**

## Girl Scouts' Own



Girl Scouts' Own is an inspirational ceremony, planned and carried out by the girls. It is neither a religious ceremony nor a substitute for one but a simple, sincere program which aims to help Girl Scouts realize the ideals of Girl Scouting. It is a time in which each individual girl receives inspiration. It is a time when dignity and beauty of spirit can emerge.

## Tips for Girl Scouts' Own

- Hold it in a beautiful setting: before a majestic view, under a beautiful tree, in a secluded grove.
- A group of girls from the troop should plan the ceremony. Junior, Cadette or Senior troops may assign a patrol to plan it.
- The girls should be aware of the ceremony as a quiet time. A silent walk, single file or two-by-two, to the ceremony site is an important prelude. Be sure the girls understand its purpose and meaning.
- Keep it short to avoid restlessness.

It is important that this ceremony be the planning and expression of the girls. Don't you plan it for them. Of course, you will make suggestions and help them find references the first few times. Good themes are: The Promise and Law, patriotism, music, friendship, brotherhood, or nature - trees, skies, mountains, etc.

The entire ceremony should be planned so that there is no confusion or stumbling. Usually there are familiar songs or parts in which all can join; the other parts are done by selected individuals. Make sure *everyone* knows what is expected of them.

Keep the ceremony short.

### **A sample Brownie Girl Scouts' Own: (15 minutes maximum for Brownies)**

1. A poem about friends (one a Brownie can understand)
2. All sing "Make New Friends"
3. A very simple choral reading about nature followed by a very favorite, quiet nature song.

Juniors or Cadettes on an overnight will want to be up at dawn. Why not capitalize on it and have a sunrise Girl Scouts' Own? Perhaps everyone might have some fruit juice or an orange before walking quietly to the selected site. Then a poem, a choral reading, and just as the sun tops the hill, sing "God Has Created A New Day" before walking silently back to camp.

At the end of the day, after everyone is ready for bed, a short program with emphasis on the stars, the silence of the night, or a selection of lullabies. It won't put them to sleep, but it might be quieter.

Select the setting. Many times the group presenting Girl Scouts' Own are hidden among trees so that the choir and individual readers are not seen. It can be a quiet walk in the woods to sit in some favorite spot listening to background music. It may be a time of reverence and communion around the campfire with every member permitted to participate.

A great resource for planning Girl Scout Ceremonies is the "Let's Celebrate!" book available from the Council Shop. This book provides the tools for reflecting on and cherishing special experiences. Visit the Council Shop in person or order online at [www.gsmwvc.org](http://www.gsmwvc.org) click on Council Shop.

# PLANNING THE GIRL SCOUT YEAR



The Girl Scout motto is “Be Prepared.” Helping girls learn to make plans and see them through to successful completion is an important role for the Girl Scout leader. Learning to plan carefully is an valuable life skill and Girl Scouting provides a safe environment for girls to learn planning and teamwork.

It is a good idea to plan what your troop will be doing for the coming year so everyone knows exactly what’s ahead. The information and forms in this booklet will assist leaders who have the responsibility for planning and carrying out troop program.

It’s most efficient to have troop adults meet once during the summer to plan through the end of December and again in the late fall to schedule the rest of the membership year.



***Remember, a well-planned calendar makes your job as a leader easier, less stressful and more fun.***

## ***A troop calendar should include:***

- national holidays
- troop’s religious observances
- each girl’s birthday
- school holidays (particularly if you meet at the school)
- all scheduled troop meetings
- all Girl Scout dates (cookie sale, Girl Scout birthday, Thinking Day, Good Turn Day, Juliette Low’s birthday)
- Service Unit meetings and events
- all special annual troop events (investiture/rededication, court of awards)
- activities in *Program and Training News* that the girls have voted to attend
- troop parent meetings
- adult training sessions

***Look at the requirements for Badges and/or Try-Its or Leadership Journey activities under consideration. Decide if they will be best accomplished:***



- . . . as single activities.
- . . . as a Wide-Game.
- . . . by going on a field trip
- . . . by bringing in a consultant
- . . . during regular troop meetings.
- . . . on a day other than the regular meeting day.

As a leader or co-leader you are not responsible to do it all. Take advantage of the opportunity to delegate. You can ask for help from many different sources. Ask girls, parents, friends, family and local business people for help. Planning your year will make your life much easier and your troop meetings more enjoyable.



***Planning your year will help troop meetings run more smoothly, help families know when and where they are needed and help your troop accomplish their goals for the year.***

***Below are a few points to remember when planning your year:***

- Reserve two or three troop meeting dates toward the end of year for special events or catch up work.
- Have some alternative activities ready if your best laid plans go awry.
- Be prepared to change course if the girls decide they want to.
- You don't have to DO IT ALL.

***When bringing in a program consultant to help with special skills or activities remember that they should:***

- Possess technical competence
- Follow Girl Scout program goals and practices
- Cooperate with the leader in carrying out the project
- Be appropriate role models for girls

### ***The leader briefs the consultant on:***

- Girl Scout Program Standards and Program Goals
- Basic safety and security guidelines
- Girls and their abilities, as well as on going group plans



Talk with the prospective consultant in advance. Describe the Girl Scout program, outlining what the girls have done to date, what they want to learn now, and in what context they are learning about the subject. Find out what equipment or facilities the consultant will need and decide who will provide them. Be clear about time frames and stick to them. Be on hand to help when needed, and ensure that basic Girl Scout standards and group safety are maintained.

*Safety-Wise* says, "Make sure all leaders, program consultants, group committee members, and other adults assisting with girls know who is responsible to whom and for what."

Gear activities and events to reinforce rather than compete with each other, keeping the whole picture in focus and calling on your service team, the group committee, and girls' parents or guardians for support.

**Leader for a Day Program** – This program is an opportunity for prominent members of the community, the leaders of today, to meet with Girl Scouts – the leaders of tomorrow. Girls will be able to learn about their community and explore leadership, career possibilities and more through an individually scheduled visit from a community or business leader with your troop! (The council Marketing Department will work with troop leaders to schedule the program opportunity.) The program is a great opportunity to incorporate with Try-Its, badges, and Interest Project Awards. Requests for guest leaders from certain fields or professions can be made and council staff will do their best to accommodate your request. *Offered yearound.* For more information, contact Melissa Duncan at [mduncan@gsmwvc.org](mailto:mduncan@gsmwvc.org) or (626) 445-7771, ext. 315. Program links available on the website under Girl Scout Programs section.

Visit the website for weekly program ideas under the Volunteer Resources section

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# Who Will Help

Activity:	
Who will recruit help?	
When will they be recruited?	
Who will shop for necessary materials?	
When will the shopping be done?	
Does any pre-meeting or activity work need to be done?	
Who will do it?	
When?	
Notes:	



# Long Term Calendar

<b>September</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	
<b>October</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	
<b>November</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	
<b>December</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	
<b>January</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	
<b>February</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	
<b>March</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	
<b>April</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	



<b>May</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	
<b>June</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	
<b>July</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	
<b>August</b>	
Troop meetings	
Activities	

# ***Girl Scouts - HELP AT A GLANCE***

## **Troop Support**

### *Assist Leader at Meeting*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Keep troop Records*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Arrange Transportation*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Coordinate Cookie Sale*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Solicit for Family Partnership*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Store Equipment*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Collect Program Supplies*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Typing*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Program Support**

### *Help with Cookouts*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Help with Hikes*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Help with Camping*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Share a Hobby*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Share Special Training*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Emergency Contacts*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Other*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Babysitting*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

# Program Overview

## The Framework

### **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.

***Put all together and you get Leadership!***

Called the New Girl Scout Leadership Experience, this model engages girls in **discovering** themselves, **connecting** with others, and **taking action** to make the world a better place. The new Girl Scout Leadership Experience identifies three “keys” to leadership and all activities incorporate the Discover, Connect, and Take Action Outcomes. As girls take part in Girl Scouts, facilitators can review the outcomes, and the signs of the outcomes, to gauge the benefits of the experience. The signs of the outcomes reflect what girls might think, say, or do during and after a leadership experience-and help adults determine the success of the experience.

Outcome charts, organized by the three Leadership Keys and by grade level, details all the 15 outcomes. Although detailed and comprehensive, the charts are an easy to use reference and can be used in varying ways.

## ***The 15 Outcomes of the New Girl Scout Leadership Experience***

### ***Discover***

- 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***

- 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***

- 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.

# THE WORLD OF GIRL SCOUTING

## Troops

Groups of girls led by an adult leader. A co-leader and other parents who assist her.

## Service Units

Service Unit is the term used by Girl Scout councils to denote the geographic sub-divisions of the council. Our council is comprised of 15 Service Units. The Service Unit provides the setting within which the primary services of a council (organizing troops and providing direct services to girls and Girl Scout leaders) take place.

The Service Unit Manager recruits and supervises members of the Service Team. Service Team members include Registrar, Product Sales Chair, Treasurer, School Organizers, etc. Service Unit Managers hold monthly leader meetings in their communities at which they relay communications from the council.

## Council

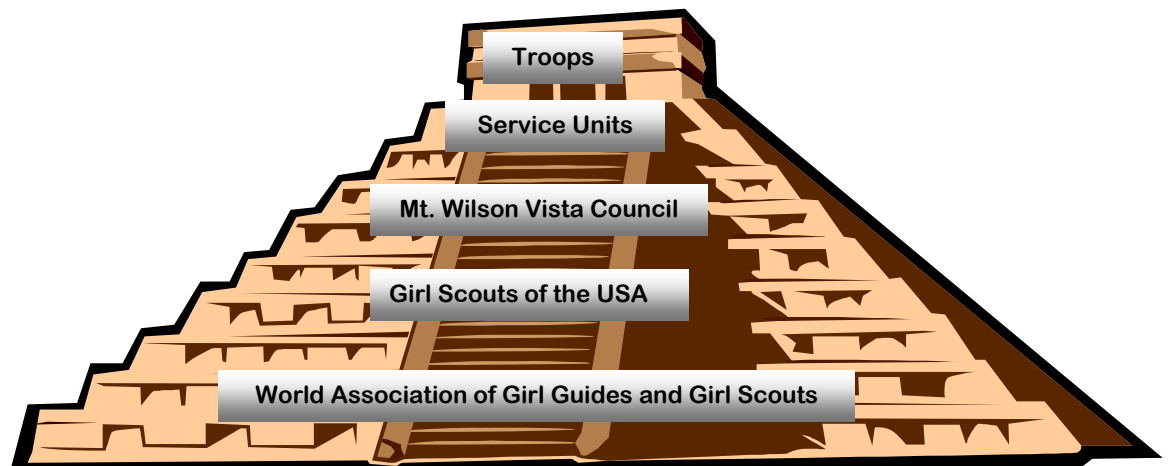
Mt. Wilson Vista Council is incorporated under California state law and is administered by an elected Board of Directors which assigns to the Executive Director the responsibility of operating the council according to the objectives and budget adopted by the Board of Directors. Mt. Wilson Vista Council adopted its name in 1992 because most of the council jurisdiction can be viewed from the top of Mt. Wilson.

## Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA)

Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) was founded on March 12, 1912 and chartered by Congress on March 16, 1950. Girl Scouts is the largest voluntary organization for girls in the world and is headquartered in New York City.

## World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is an international organization whose purpose is to encourage friendship among girls of all nations. WAGGGS, headquartered in London, owns and operates four world centers: *Pax Lodge* in England, *Our Chalet* in Switzerland, *Sangam* in India, and *Our Cabaña* in Mexico.



# THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE AND LAW



The Girl Scout Promise and Law are the foundation of all Girl Scouting and apply in troop meetings, on camping trips and outings and in everyday life. Leaders should help girls be aware of the meaning and application of the Girl Scout Promise and Law and give girls an opportunity to interpret them. To do this, leaders must know and accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

## **Promise and Law**

The promise and law are very important. They guide Girl Scouts in the way they behave in everyday life. "I will try" are important words since no one is perfect.

## **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.

## **La promesa y la ley**

La promesa y la ley son muy importantes. Se usan para dirigir a las "Girl Scouts" en su comportamiento diario. Las palabras "Yo trataré" son muy importantes porque nadie es perfecto.

## **La promesa:**

Por mi honor, trataré:  
De servir a Dios, y a mi patria,  
Ayudar a las personas en todo momento,  
Y vivir conforme a la Ley de las Girl Scouts.

## **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.

## **La Ley:**

Yo haré lo posible para ser  
honrada y justa,  
amistosa y servicial,  
considerada y cariñosa con los  
demás,  
valiente y fuerte, y  
responsable de lo que digo y hago,  
y también,  
respetarme y respetar a otros,  
respetar a las autoridades,  
usar los recursos prudentemente,  
hacer el mundo un mejor lugar, y  
ser hermana de todas las Girl Scout.

# GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM STANDARDS



There are 35 Girl Scout program standards. One of your major responsibilities as a Girl Scout Leader is to provide for the safety and security of girls. Using *Safety-Wise* and Mt. Wilson Vista council policies as your guide for planning and implementing activities is the best way to do this.

Program standards describe how to put the principles of the Girl Scout program into practice. A complete list of program standards and guidelines can be found in *Safety-Wise*.

## 1. Girl Scout Program - Foundation and Goals

Program experiences and activities should meet the needs and interests of girls, be based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and enable girls to grow and develop, as described in the four Girl Scout program emphases.

## 2. General Activities

Program activities should include a balance of subject and interest areas. The types of activities should be determined in partnership with the girls and their leaders, to reflect the girls' needs, interests, physical and emotional readiness, skill level, and preparation. The activities should provide for progressive learning experiences, both at their current age level and in preparation for the next.

## 3. Health, Safety, and Security - Activity Planning Implementation

At all times, the health, safety and security of girls should be paramount. All activities should be planned and carried out to safeguard the health, safety, and general well being of girls and adults. Girls and adults should follow proper safety practices at all times.

## 4. International

Girl Scouting is part of a worldwide movement, and program activities should emphasize this international dimension.

**5. Service**

Service is inherent in the Promise and Law; it is given without expectation of payment or reward. All girls should take part in service activities or projects.

**6. Experiences Beyond the Troop/Group**

Girls should have experiences that broaden their perspectives and enable them to interact with individuals beyond their immediate group. Program activities should provide the girls with opportunities to have experiences beyond regular troop/group meetings.

**7. Outdoor Education**

Activities carried out in outdoor settings are an important part of Girl Scout program for each age level. The leader should receive the appropriate training from Mt. Wilson Vista Council to help her guide preparation for and implementation of the outdoor activities.

**8. Girl Scout Camping**

Girl Scout camping should provide girls with a fun and educational group living experience that links Girl Scout program with nature and contributes to each camper's mental, physical, social, and spiritual growth.

**9. Girl Scout Recognition**

Girl Scout recognition should acknowledge a girl's accomplishments and attainment of specified requirements. Leaders should work in partnership with girls to decide when recognition's, such as badges, patches, or awards, have been achieved. At all times, adults should play a key role in stressing the quality of the program experience over quantity of recognition.

**10. Parental Permission**

Written permission from a parent or legal guardian should be obtained for participation in Girl Scouting. Leaders and girls are responsible for informing parents or guardians of the purpose of Girl Scouting; of the date, time, and place of meetings; and of the type of activities included in troop plans. When activities take place outside of the scheduled meeting place, involve travel, or focus on sensitive or controversial topics, parents and guardians should be informed and asked to provide additional written consent.

**11. Girl Scout Membership Pins and Uniforms**

All Girl Scout members should wear the membership pin when participating in Girl Scout activities. Since Girl Scouting is a uniformed organization, girl and adult members should be informed, at the time they become members, that they are entitled to wear the Girl Scout uniform appropriate for their age level. Although the wearing of the uniform is encouraged, it should be



clearly conveyed that the wearing of the uniform is not required for participation in Girl Scouting.

## **12. Girl/Adult Partnership**

Girls and their leaders should work as partners in planning and decision making. Tasks should be sensitive to girls' developmental maturity and commensurate with their abilities, with each girl encouraged to proceed at her own pace. The girls' opportunity to act independently and handle responsibilities should increase with each age level.

## **13. Troops/Groups**

Each troop or group should have at least one adult leader and one or more assistant leaders. Because the female role model is essential to fulfilling the purpose of Girl Scouting, at least one member of the leadership team must be an adult female.

The adult leaders must be at least 18 years of age or at the age of majority defined by the state if it is older than 18. Leaders should have training as specified by the Council. In addition, an active troop committee of registered adult members should provide ongoing support to the troop.

## **14. Health, Safety, and Security - Adult Supervision and Preparation**

Proper adult supervision and guidance are essential for each activity. Adults with requisite expertise are part of the adult leadership when implementing activities. Adequate training and preparation for girls and adults precede participation in any activity.

## **15. Council Support to Adult Leadership**

All adults within the Girl Scout Council work in concert to ensure the highest quality program experience for girls. Communication and cooperation are essential for providing training, giving ongoing support to troops and groups and obtaining appropriate activity approvals.

## **16. Program Consultants**

The regular adult leadership of any Girl Scout group should be complemented by program consultants who possess technical competence and the ability to share specialized skills.

## **17. Program Centers**

All centers and facilities used for Girl Scout program activities should have at least one adult present with appropriate qualifications and competencies to guide girls in the type of program conducted at the facility. Additional adults (trained for their particular role) should be present in numbers

required to provide adequate adult guidance for the ages of the girls, the size of the group, and the nature of the activity.

**18. Adult Leadership - Girl Scout Camps**

All Girl Scout camps should be staffed by adults who possess the qualifications and necessary competencies for the positions held.

**19. Pluralism and Diversity of Troops/Groups**

Girl Scout troops and groups should reflect the diversity of socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, and disability groups in the community. Whenever possible, troops and groups should include girls from different age and grade levels.

**20. Size of Troops/Groups**

Girls should be able to participate in groupings large enough to provide experience in self-government and in groupings small enough to allow for development of the individual girl.

**21. Meeting and Activity Planning**

Troops and groups should meet often enough to fulfill the needs and interests of girls, and to maintain continuity of their program experience.

**22. Meeting Places/Camps/Sites**

All meeting places, camps, and other sites used for Girl Scout program activities should provide a safe, clean, and secure environment and allow for participation of all girls.

**23. Girl Scout Camps**

All Girl Scout camps should be operated in compliance with local and state laws for maximum protection of campers' health, safety and security and with regard to protection.

**24. Overnight Trips, Camping**

All sites and facilities used for overnight trips or camping should be approved by Mt. Wilson Vista Council.

**25. Private Transportation**

Private passenger cars and vans may be used during Girl Scout activities. They must be properly registered, insured and operated by adults with a valid license for the type of vehicle used. Any other form of private transportation may be used only after Council approval has been obtained.

**26. Public Transportation**

Public transportation, airplanes, buses, or trains should be used whenever possible.

**27. Travel Procedures**

All travel procedures and preparations should make provisions for adequate adult supervision and maximum safety.

**28. Activities Involving Money**

Troops/groups should be financed by troop/group dues, troop money-earning activities, and a share of money earned through Council-sponsored product sales. Daisy Girl Scouts may not be involved in handling any money, including troop dues and proceeds from troop money-earning activities and product sales.

**29. Troop Money-Earning Activities**

Money-earning activities should be a valuable program activity for girls. Daisy Girl Scouts participate in the annual cookie program but do not participate in other troop money-earning activities.

**30. Council- Sponsored Product Sales**

Troops/groups may participate in no more than two council-sponsored product sales each year and only one of these may be a cookie sale. A percentage of the money earned through product sales should be allocated to participating troops and groups. Daisy Girl Scouts may now participate in the cookie program.

**31. Product Sale Incentives**

Participation in a Council product sale incentive plan should be optional for troops and individuals. Incentives, if used, should be program-related and of a type that will provide opportunities for girls to participate in Girl Scout activities.

**32. Council Fund Raising**

Fund raising or fund development, to support Mt. Wilson Vista Council, is the responsibility of adults, not the girls. Girls may provide support to these efforts through voluntary service.

**33. Fund Raising for Other Organizations**

Girl Scouts, in their Girl Scout capacities, may not solicit money for other organizations. Girl members may support other organizations only through service projects. (See National policy on solicitation of contributions in the *Leaders' Digest: Blue Book of Basic Documents*.)

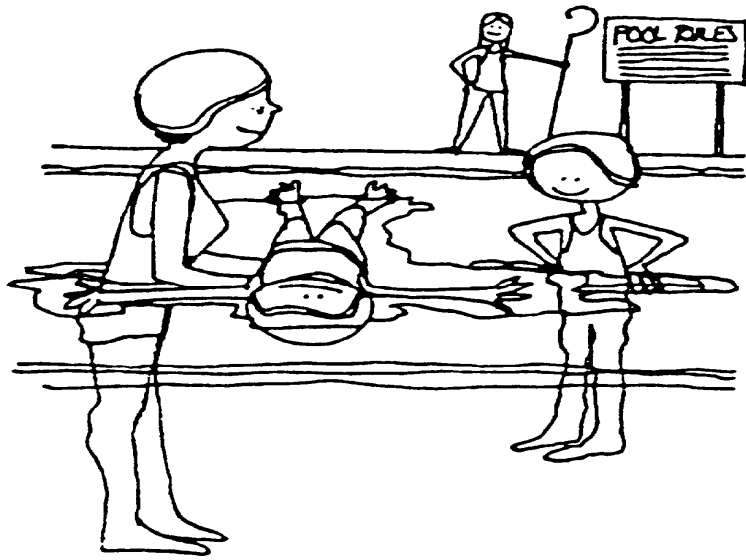


### 34. Collaborations with Other Organizations

All Girl Scout program standards are followed when collaborative relationships or cooperative projects are developed with other organizations.

### 35. Political Activity

Girl Scouts, in their Girl Scout capacities, may not participate directly or indirectly in any political campaigns or participate in partisan efforts on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate for public office.



# PROGRAM STANDARDS

## Review Exercise

The 35 Girl Scout program standards list the necessary elements of a quality program experience and the basic levels of health, safety, security and well being that must be provided for the girls in the troop. The program standards describe how to put the principles of the Girl Scout program into practice.

Listed below are some typical incidents that a Girl Scout leader may encounter. By reviewing the program standards, you will receive guidance on how to proceed in the most effective way.

1. Sally is very active. She never seems to sit still, and wiggles and twitches some part of her body all the time. She also whispers or talks nonstop. Three of the older girls have heard that a ballet touring company will be in town and have convinced the majority of the girls in the troop that a great way to spend the extra troop money would be to attend a matinee performance of "Swan Lake." You think that some of the girls would enjoy it but that others would be bored and Sally would be disruptive.
2. You started with one Try-It. Now that is all the girls want to do. They love getting the triangles and spend a lot of time plotting which Try-Its are the quickest and easiest to earn so they can fill up their sashes and vests. They seem happy but you are concerned.
3. The local mall has agreed to give you space for a booth to sell Girl Scout cookies. One of the girls tells you that she must bring her younger sister, a Daisy Girl Scout, on that day because her mom is working and no one else can baby-sit.
4. Girl Scouts – Mt. Wilson Vista Council has scheduled a cookie rally at Griffith Park to kick off the cookie sale. All the girls in your troop want to go and you can take all of them if they ride in the back of your pickup truck.
5. One of the girls in your troop told you her mother will not let her sell cookies this year. Two other girls overheard her and told you that if she doesn't sell cookies she shouldn't go on troop trips.

# SAFETY-WISE SEARCH

A careful observance of safety standards is a protection to the leader as well as to the girls. Standards are a way of determining insurability. That is, an accident claim may not be covered if standards were not being maintained at the time the accident happened.

Listed below are several situations that require adherence to *Safety-Wise* guidelines. Read the scenarios below and then check your Safety-Wise and Council policies to see how they apply.

1. You and your co-leader have started a Brownie troop at your school. You have 12 registered Brownie Girl Scouts. The girls are very enthusiastic and just about all of them show up at every meeting.

How many adults will you need at each troop meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

2. One of the troop parents has offered a room in the back of a large industrial building for you to hold your troop meetings. When you ask to visit before you begin meeting there you find it is not well ventilated, has a port-a-potty for a toilet and does not appear to have an emergency exit.

What does *Safety-Wise* have to say about the suitability of this meeting site?

---

3. You will be transporting twenty girls to a nature preserve about twenty miles from Los Angeles. You have secured enough transportation for all but two of the girls. One of the drivers will be transporting three girls, all of whom will have a seat belt. She also has a hatch back section that can be converted to a seat for two that faces the back, but does not have seat belts.

Can you use that seat to transport girls?

☐ yes   ☐ no

4. Your troop has several members who are very adept at using computers. They want to create a troop web site and use it to sell Girl Scout cookies. Can girls sell cookies on their troop web site.

☐ yes   ☐ no

5. Your troop worked very hard on the cookie sale and have three hundred dollars in their troop checking account. Some troop parents have asked if the money can be used for Early Bird registration for the next membership year. You aren't sure if troop funds can be used in this way but will check *Safety-Wise* and get back to them. (Hint: look in the "money earning" section.)
- 

6. Some of the girls in your troop want to go to a paintball ranch in a city nearby. You are not sure if this activity is permitted by Girl Scouts and you tell the girls to consult *Safety-Wise*. What answer would the girls find in *Safety-Wise*?

☐ permitted    ☐ not permitted

7. You are planning a cook-out at the Montrose Program Center. You plan to cook on an old kerosene stove you used when camping as a Girl Scout many years ago. Your co-leader said she thought Mt. Wilson Vista Council policies prohibited such stoves because they use liquid fuel. *Safety-Wise* says its allowed, but, just to be safe, you check Mt. Wilson Vista Council Policies. What do the Council policies state?
-



# TROOP FIRST AID KIT



A general first aid kit should always be available for troop use and accompany the girls for any activity, including transportation to and from an event. In addition to the standard materials listed below, all first aid kits should contain the Girl Scouts - Mt. Wilson Vista Council phone number and other emergency telephone numbers.

The troop first aid kit may be modified to reflect the activities of the troop and the individual needs of the troop members. When preparing your kit, take into account the special needs of troop members and adults. Do you have someone who is diabetic in your troop? Is someone allergic to adhesive tape, medicines, bees, plants, or foods? Does someone get motion sickness?

*Safety-Wise* requires the items listed below:

Adhesive tape and bandages  
Alcohol wipes  
Band-Aids, assorted  
Bottle of distilled water (for use as an eye rinse or to clean wounds or other items)  
Coins for phone calls  
Flashlight  
Gauze pads  
Instant chemical icepack  
Latex gloves (disposable for use in situations involving blood or other body fluids)  
List of emergency phone numbers  
Matches  
Needle (for removal of splinters or to make small holes at the base of a blister)

Oral thermometer  
Paper drinking cups  
Plastic bags (for disposal of used materials and for collecting vomit for analysis in suspected oral poisoning)  
Pocket face mask or face shield (used when performing rescue breathing)  
First Aid book  
Roller gauze bandages  
Safety pins  
Scissors  
Soap (antibacterial liquid)  
Splints  
Triangular bandages  
Tweezers

Additional supplies you may need: personal care products (for example, sanitary napkins or tampons). Parents or guardians of any girls who are taking prescribed medications should inform adult leaders in advance. **Any over-the-counter or prescribed medication must be in the original container. It may be administered orally or topically by the leader or registered adult. Medication can be given only with written permission from a girl's custodial parent or guardian.**

Girl Scout troop first-aid kits should also contain an Insurance Claim Form, one copy of the Girl Health History Form for each girl, and pen and paper (to record all first aid treatment given).

**REMEMBER: IF IT'S NOT ON THE LIST - IT DOESN'T GO IN THE FIRST AID KIT.**

# GIRL SCOUT SONGS

## Why Girl Scouts Sing



- For the pure joy of it!
- To help a friendly group spirit grow.
- To quiet the girls when they have been doing something vigorous, or are too excited or hilarious. To help girls know and appreciate the music of our country and other countries. To accompany other activities such as dramatics, dancing, hiking, or camping.

## Get Ready to Teach Songs

- Find out the extent of the girls' experience with singing. Although the girls will be singing all kinds of songs, be sure that all the new songs that you teach are of the finest quality.
- Encourage the girls to teach these kinds of songs, too.

## How to Teach Songs

- Get the group's attention and introduce the song briefly.
- Tell something interesting about it or ask the group to listen for something special:
  - a. who are the people in the song?
  - b. what kind of place does the song describe?
  - c. guess what country the song comes from.
- While the girls listen, sing the song through.
- If you have asked questions, give the group time to answer.
- Next, sing one line at a time, asking the group to listen first and then to echo softly.
- In a soft tone, sing until they are sure of the melody. Have the girls sing the whole song through with you. If it is a long song, teach one stanza at a time. Repeat the song once or twice if the girls are still interested. Otherwise, go to some other activity, and later in the meeting come back to the song again.

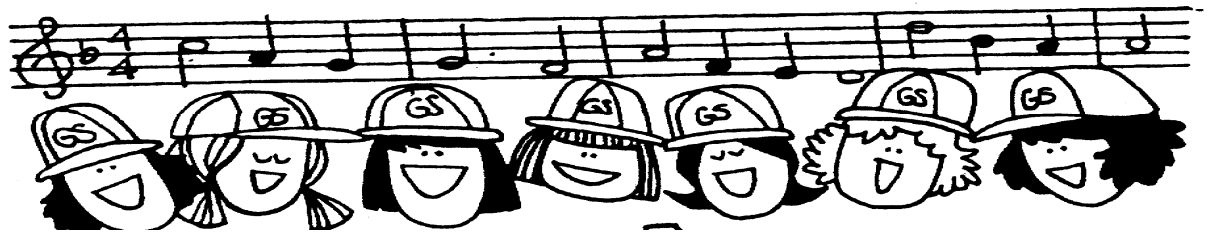


- Pitch songs for children a little higher than is comfortable for you, unless you have a naturally high voice. Their light voices can be spoiled by singing too loud.
- Many children also tend to sing too loud. Help them learn the difference between singing and shouting.
- A girl who plays the piano can pick out the melody for you as you teach the girls.
- In the fall, be sure to ask girls who have gone to camp to share the songs they have learned.

### **Council Resources**

Tapes and songbooks are available at the Council Shop for a nominal fee. There are also CD's that have music with lyrics sung on one side and the instrumental part on the other. You can have the girls sing along with the lyrics until they learn the lyrics and then play the instrumental portion as an accompaniment. Visit the Council Shop in person or order online at [www.gsmwvc.org](http://www.gsmwvc.org) click on Council Shop.

You can also get help with teaching songs from other leaders in your Service Unit. Check with your Service Unit Manager to see if there is a Cadette or Senior troop in your area that would come to a troop meeting to teach your girls Girl Scout songs.





# PROGRESSION IN THE OUT-OF-DOORS



## 1. Look Out

Discover the wonder of the world that starts at our doorstep.

## 2. Meet Out

Look . . . observe the outer world

See . . . colors, trees, birds, etc.

Listen . . . to nature sounds

Program . . . nature games, songs and crafts

## 3. Move Out

Walk . . . around the block

See . . . what we can see

Identify . . . a knotty pine cone

Touch . . . a tall tree

## 4. Hike Out

Bird hike, Compass hike,

Rock hike, Litter hike,

Color hike, letter boxing

## 5. Cook Out

Light a fire

Put it out safely

Prepare: a nosebag lunch, a one-pot meal

Try: stick toasting, the skillet, aluminum foil,

Box oven

## 6. Sleep Out

Prepare for an overnight; practice skills

Tie three knots: square, bowline and clove hitch

Plan: what to take

Know: how to choose a good, safe spot for sleeping

## 7. Camp Out

Plan: what to take and wear

Know: safety rules and first aid

Make or obtain: outdoor cooking equipment, utensils, toasting forks, pot hooks

Be: safety wise on the jack knife, and fire-building

Establish: a campsite including cooking and sleeping areas

Lash: gadgets, table, washstand  
Pitch & strike a tent  
Handle: garbage disposal, dishwashing

## 8. Travel Out

Use: everything learned to plan a trip that offers interesting and worthwhile program possibilities

Know: costs, budget, means of transportation, and keep financial records

Plan: meals, menus, places to eat, purchases, storage

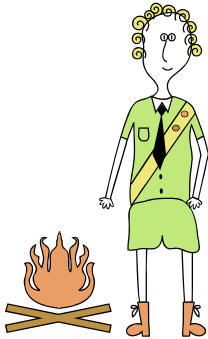
Use: road maps, survey charts, compass, route planning

Select & Pack: minimum group and personal equipment for shelter, cooking, eating, and sanitation

Select & Set Up: campsite and dismantle in minimum time



# LEADER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS



Girl Scouts – Mt. Wilson Vista Council requires that leaders receive training before, and during, the time they are leading a troop. All adult training sessions are offered free of charge, except for Level II - Outdoor Cooking which has a fee of \$7 to cover the cost of the food. Training sessions are lead by volunteer Council Trainers, who are experienced leaders. Consult the Program and Training News for further descriptions of the training sessions, times and dates.

## **Adult Training begins with:**

- **New Leader Introduction**

This session is scheduled at a time that is convenient for the prospective leader and the Membership Development Manager. During the Orientation, the prospective leader receives information about how to register, how to gain adult support for the troop, how to handle troop finances and also becomes familiar with the resources that are available from the council.

- **Leadership Essentials**

This session is conducted in a group setting and is lead by a volunteer Council Trainer, who is an experienced leader herself. She guides the group through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and the leadership journeys.

At this point, a leader may begin working with her troop. Within three months she must attend the appropriate level training.

- **Level Training Sessions**

There are five level training sessions: Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette and Senior. The first four are presented in a group setting, led by a volunteer Council Trainer. The Senior level training is presented on videocassette, accompanied by the Senior Level book and a review sheet.

Leaders who begin as Daisy Leaders, take the Daisy level training session. When the girls bridge to the Brownie level, the leader or co-leader must attend the Brownie level training session. As the troop moves to the next level, the leaders take the appropriate level training session. It is highly recommended that the leader take the class well in advance of the move to the next level.



- **Camping Skills Training**

- Camping Skills-Level I-Indoor Camping**

- Once a registered adult completes the Level I - Indoor Camping session the troop can overnight at a Girl Scout Program Center or facilities such as Lazy J Ranch or Angeles Crest Christian Camp.

- Camping Skills-Level II-Outdoor Cooking**

- Level II - Outdoor cooking is taken after Level I. Once a registered adult completes the session, the troop can cook in the out-of-doors and can build and use a campfire.

- Camping Skills-Level III-Outdoor Camping**

- Level III - Outdoor Camping is taken after Level II. Once a registered adult has completed the session, the troop can camp in tents.

- Girl Scouts - Mt. Wilson Vista Council Policy on Camping Skills Training**

- "A troop participating in an indoor overnight, outdoor cooking or overnight camp out must be accompanied by a registered adult who has successfully completed the appropriate level of camping skills training. The Camping Skills training sessions are progressive. About one month should elapse between each session to allow adequate time for newly trained leaders to teach the girls outdoor skills." (page 8)

Many leaders are anxious to go camping with their troop and want to take the three levels right away and not wait thirty days between sessions. The sessions are designed to teach skills to leaders so that they may teach them to the girls. Girls need to have sufficient time to learn and practice the skills before they go camping. The thirty-day period allows leaders and girls to get comfortable with the skills so that the outdoor experience is a pleasurable and successful one for all involved.

- **Training Requirements for Property Reservation**

- Girl Scouts - Mt. Wilson Vista Council Property Reservations Department observes the requirements listed above. To make a reservation, call 626-445-7771, extension 322. *The Registrar cannot make exceptions or waive requirements.* Questions should be directed to Judy Hubbs, Program and Volunteer Development Director at 626-445-7771, extension 311.

- **Program Training**

- The council offers a variety of training sessions that enhance leaders' knowledge and skills. An example are the Elliott Wildlife sessions that give step-by-step

instructions on how to have fun in the out-of-doors while earning Try-Its and/or badges. Other program training sessions include: Lemmi Sticks, Games for Brownies and Juniors, Bridging Ceremonies, Campfire Ceremonies, Indoor and Outdoor Flag Ceremonies. Check the Program and Training News for these sessions.

- **Training and Adult Recognition**

Leaders are required to attend the Introduction, Leadership Essentials and appropriate level training as they begin to work with their troop. When they transition to the next level, they must attend the appropriate level training session. The Camping Skills classes are also required, for leaders who plan to take their troops into the out-of-doors.

The Program Training sessions count towards achievement of the Leader Award, a Girl Scouts - Mt. Wilson Vista Council adult recognition award. The award is based on a point system and attending the Orientation, Topics and Traditions and appropriate level training within three months of starting a troop contributes three points to the total. Continuing leaders who take additional Program Training receive an additional three points.



# TEACHING GIRL SCOUT GAMES

## Why Games?



different  
games of Scouts and Guides in other countries.

- To help girls and leaders get acquainted easily and enjoy being together.
- To meet the needs of the whole troop and individual girls. For example, games can give girls a chance:
  - to be active, and noisy after long hours at school.
  - to learn teamwork and to win and lose.
  - to be both leaders and followers.
- To present new information or skills and to review or practice skills enjoyably.
- To help girls understand and appreciate both similar and

## Getting Ready

1. Choose the games to teach according to:
  - The ages, interest, and abilities of the girls.
  - The special purpose you want each game to serve.
  - The size and kind of play space available.
2. Know the games so well that you don't have to refer to a book or notes while you are teaching.
3. Start with simple or familiar games and work up to new ones that are harder. Also, plan to alternate exciting games and quiet games.
4. Collect all necessary equipment.

## How to Teach Games



1. Get the girls attention and have them get into formation for playing the game.
2. Explain or show the game briefly and let them play right away.
3. If the game is at all complicated, show them one part at a time, letting them try each part immediately.
4. Let them have fun with the game before you check on mistakes, but stop when necessary to make the rules or action clear.
5. As soon as the girls are able, let them carry on the game themselves. Help them only if questions or arguments arise which they can't settle satisfactorily.

6. Stop the game after a reasonable time even if some of the girls beg to continue. If they play it to death the first day, they lose the fun of coming back to it again.
7. In competitive games, encourage the girls to play for the fun of the game and for their team, and to applaud or otherwise recognize the winning team.

### **Singing games**

1. Sing the song first, without action, with the girls listening, for one part of the game at a time.
2. Then sing a part, one line at a time, and have the girls sing back to you an echo.
3. Then sing and show the accompanying action, one part at a time.
4. Have the girls sing and try the action, asking them to sing softly until they are sure of the melody.
5. Once they are enjoying the swing of the game, correct any mistakes. Be sure to keep the singing musical.



## **GAMES FOR WARM-UP OR GETTING ACQUAINTED**

*From "ICE BREAKERS" by Ele Dulaney*

### **Autograph Hunt**

Give each girl a pad and pencil and get them started on an autograph hunt. Instruct them to get as many signatures of girls present in five minutes as they can. At the end of five minutes, determine who got the most and see if she can identify who goes with the names.

If the troop is too large to try the latter part, why not just give a prize for the girl who got the most signatures? In this case, ask them to get autographs and addresses so they can get in touch with each other later if they wish.

### **Ad Scramble**

Get as many magazine ads as you have girls. Cut each ad into ten pieces and mix all the pieces together. Then get small sandwich bags and place ten pieces in each bag. As the girls arrive, give each a bag and have her assemble a complete picture. Many will get acquainted as they find the need to swap pieces to get the ad finished.

Equipment: The small bags filled with puzzle pieces.

### **Blow the Eggshell**

Prior to the meeting, blow the contents out of several raw eggs so you have empty egg shells. Divide the troop into teams and place a dividing line between them with chalk. Place only one eggshell into play, instructing the players that each time they blow the eggshell over the line to their opponent's side, they score a point.

Once the huffing and puffing begins and the competitors become more skilled, place several more eggshells into the game.

Equipment: Several empty eggshells or Ping-Pong balls.

### **News Charades**

Before the girls arrive, create some "hot news" and write these items down. Make them fun, dramatic front-page news. Then, divide into teams and give each a news story and tell them to draw pictures to illustrate it so others would understand. Give them from 10 to 15 minutes, then have the teams exchange their pictures and try to guess each other's news story.

### **Technicolor Chairs**

This is a slightly more advanced version of musical chairs. Line up the chairs as usual, back to back and with one chair less than the number of guests. On the back of each chair place ribbons, either white or red. Tell your girls that on certain rounds, you will announce that white chairs are worth more points than

the red chairs or vice versa. Be sure to announce before that particular round what the value system is so the guests can try to get chairs with more points. The winner in this game is determined by how many points she can chalk up.

### **Tie Zon**

Teams line up facing each other. Each team is given a scarf. When the signal is given, the first person on each team races to tie their scarves with a square knot. When they are done, they must bow to their next team members, take off scarves and pass them on. This continues on down the line.

“Let’s Play! Games for Girls ages 5-11” is available at the Council Shop. Visit in person or order online at [www.gsmwvc.org](http://www.gsmwvc.org) click on Council Shop.

## WIDE GAMES

A Wide Game is a way in which large groups participate in multiple activities at the same time by rotation. It has a story or theme and as participants, in smaller group divisions, travel through a series of stations.

### Steps to a good Wide Game:

- 1. Decide the time and area limits.**  
Is it going to last one hour, half a day, twenty minutes? Is it going to be inside, on a playground, or a little of both? Make sure you make your areas well defined. (Don't make it too dangerous to play!)
- 2. Make a list of all skills and stunts, techniques and knowledge that you hope to test or teach.**  
Figure out how much time each skill will take to complete. Each skill or question will be a station. Don't make stations too few or too many for the time allowed.
- 3. Stay with a theme.**  
Use your imagination.
- 4. Collect the necessary equipment and recruit any helpers needed.**  
Do you need paper, markers, books, or masking tape? Do you need a watch to check time? How about awards or prizes for winners if you choose to give them? (Remember, you don't always have to give awards!)
- 5. Lay out your game ahead of time.**  
Don't put each station too close to each other. Write the directions, plant the clues, hide the messages, or whatever. Make sure they are easy to read.
- 6. Gather all the participants together and explain the rules clearly to everyone before starting the game.**  
Let people ask questions (but don't give the answers to the stations.) It is a good idea to work in teams, but make sure they are as even as possible.



# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## **Buddy System**

A safety practice in which two or three girls are grouped to keep watch over each other. In an activity (for example, swimming or hiking), the girls grouped together should be of equal ability.

## **Consultant**

A volunteer or staff adult who provides assistance to troop leaders on a continuing basis. He or she is a primary contact for advice, support and help with Girl Scout program.

## **Council**

A corporation, chartered by GSUSA, responsible for the development, management and maintenance of Girl Scouting in a defined area (jurisdiction).

## **Destinations**

Girl Scout travel opportunity. Check the web site: [www.studio2b.org](http://www.studio2b.org) for more information.

## **Diversity**

The state of being different. When used to describe people and population groups, diversity encompasses differences in age, gender, race, ethnicity, ability, religion, education, parental status, professional background, marital status, and so on.

## **Emergency Contact Person**

The person to call in an emergency who will notify parents of any delays or unexpected circumstance.

## **GSUSA**

Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

## **Juliette Low World Friendship Fund**

Allows for contributions from Girl Scouts and their families to the fund in order to extend support to many areas of the world for international service projects, training events, exchange visits for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from 118 nations.

## **Membership Development Manager**



A staff person whose responsibility is to provide support to volunteers in her assigned Service Units.

### **Family Partnership**

A program of fund solicitation that allows the family of Girl Scouts to contribute toward the cost of Girl Scouting.

### **Pluralism**

A system that holds within it individuals or groups differing in basic background experiences and cultures. It allows for the development of a common tradition, while preserving the right of each group to maintain its cultural heritage.

### **Patrol**

A group of no more than eight girls, with a girl leader; usually a subdivision of a troop.

### **Policy**

A binding course of action to be followed as established by G.S.U.S.A. or Girl Scouts - Mt. Wilson Vista Council Board of Directors.

### **Program Levels**

Daisy	Grades K-1
Brownie	Grades 2-3
Junior	Grades 4-5
Cadette	Grades 6-8
Senior	Grades 9-10
Ambassador	Grades 11-12
Adult	Minimum age 18

### **Registrar**

An adult volunteer in each Service Unit who is responsible for processing registrations in her area. The Council Registrar is a staff member responsible for girl and adult registration and training registration.

### **Safety-Wise**

A book, published by GSUSA, that contains guidelines to promote safety in all Girl Scout activities.

### **School Organizer**

A registered volunteer who helps to organize girls into troops, helping to find adult leadership.

**Scoutacular**

An e-newsletter distributed to leaders and co-leaders, containing program information, ideas, suggestions for troop activities and resource materials.

**Service Team**

Adult volunteers and staff in a community working together within the Service Unit to provide service to leaders and troops. They also serve as liaison between troop and Council. Service Team members include Registrar, Product Sales Chair, Treasurer, School Organizers, etc.

**Service Unit**

Service Unit is the most common term used by Girl Scout councils to denote the geographic subdivisions of the council. The Service Unit provides the setting within which the primary services of a council (organizing troops and providing direct services to girls and Girl Scout leaders) take place.

**Service Unit Manager**

The Service Unit Manager recruits and supervises members of the Service Team. Service Unit Managers hold monthly leader meetings in their communities.

**STUDIO 2B**

Girl Scout program for girls 11 – 17.

**Tag-a-Long**

A sibling of a troop member that attends a troop meeting, outing or event. Supervision of tag-a-longs is the responsibility of the parent, not the troop leader or sibling. Some troop or council activities may not be appropriate for tag-a-longs.

**Vista Views and News**

The council newsletter, which is published twice a year and is distributed to registered Girl Scouts and community business and civic leaders.

**World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)**

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is a world-wide organization which aims to provide girls with opportunities for self-training in the development of character, responsible citizenship and service to the community.

**Wide Game**

A Wide Game is a way in which large groups participate in multiple activities at the same time by rotation. It has a story or theme and as

participants, in smaller group divisions, travel through a series of stations.

For additional terms, see *Safety-Wise*, pages 152-155

## LEGEND OF THE TREFOIL



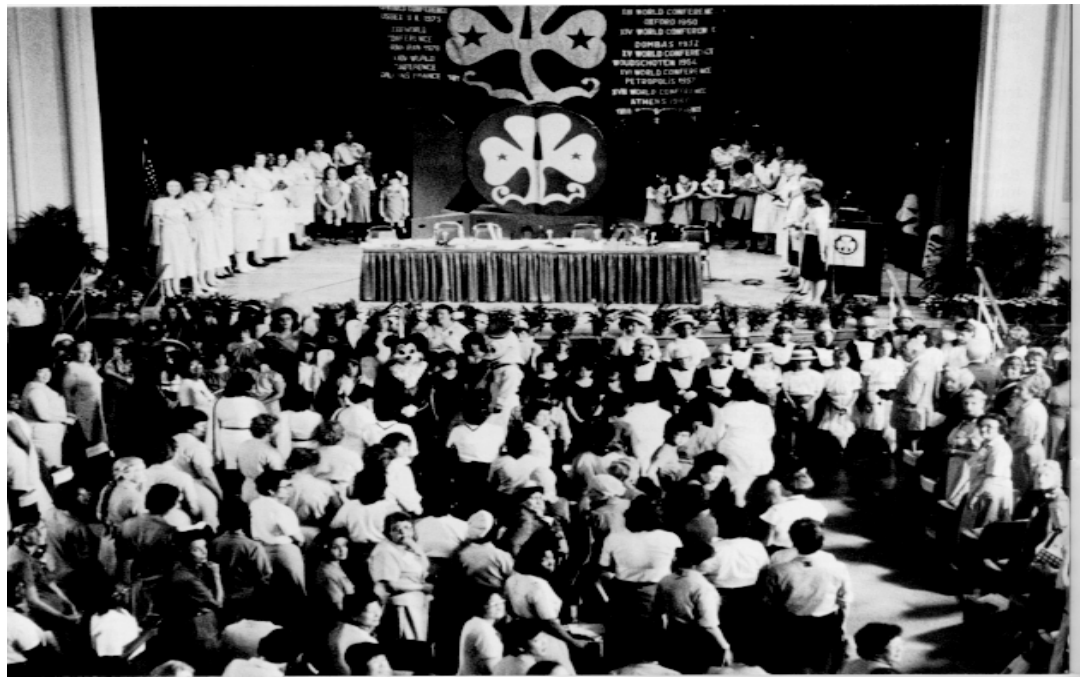
The World Trefoil pin, in the form of a Trefoil, is the sign of the North as pictured by the old mariner's compass. It is said to have originated in China four thousand five hundred years ago. It was a directing sign and so became the guide for men of courage who ventured into the unknown places of the earth.

Through the ages, the trefoil directed men in their travels and explorations, and so it became the emblem of direction and conquest.

The World Trefoil pin signifies membership in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS.) No matter where a Girl Scout travels in the world, if she encounters another Girl Scout or Girl Guide, the same World Trefoil pin will be worn, above all other membership pins.

The flame stands for love of humanity. The vein pointing upwards represents the compass needle pointing the way. The two stars represent the Promise and Law. The outer circle represents the worldwide association. The golden yellow trefoil on a bright blue background represents the sun shining over the children of the world.

Traditionally, the three leaves, like the three fingers of the Scout sign, referred to the three parts of the Scout promise. The center leaf signified duty to God and Country; the one on the right, duty to help other people at all times; and the one on the left, the duty of keeping the Scout Law.



Note the prominent display of the trefoil at the 25<sup>th</sup> World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The conference was hosted by Girl Scouts of the USA and brought women from 104 countries to Tarrytown, New York.

## GIRL SCOUT NATIONAL AND WORLD CENTERS

### **Juliette Gordon Low Girl Scout National Center**

Located in Savannah, Georgia, the birthplace of Juliette Low is part of the largest National Historic Landmark District in the United States. The Juliette Gordon Low Girl Scout National Center is a program center and public museum where visitors can learn about her childhood and her life's work in Girl Scouting.

### **Edith Macy Conference Center**

This center provides an excellent environment for educational opportunities for Girl Scout adult volunteers and staff. It is located 35 miles from New York City, near the historic Hudson River. Courses on such diverse topics as wildlife, serving girls with disabilities, the arts, and leadership are offered. This facility can accommodate day tours by traveling troops. The Girl Scout Outdoor Education Center, where adults are trained in outdoor education skills, is located on the site of the Macy Center. Adults in Girl Scouting can take courses on camping and outdoor activities, and can pass their new skills and information on to girls.

### **The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)**

Girl Scouts of the United States of America is part of the international educational organization for girls, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). All national organizations that are members of WAGGGS share a common history. Robert Baden-Powell founded the Scout movement in England in 1908.

In 1909, a Boy Scout rally was held at the Crystal Palace in London where a number of girls turned up proclaiming themselves to be "Girl Scouts." Since Scouting had originally been intended for boys, Lord Baden-Powell thought it best to form a separate movement for girls and the Girl Guides Association was officially begun in 1910. The movement, under the leadership of Lord Baden-Powell's sister, Agnes, and wife, Olave, quickly spread to other countries. In 1919, Lady Baden-Powell formed the International Council to provide a link among members around the world.

One of the participants in this council was the United States of America, where a friend of the Baden-Powell's, Juliette Gordon Low, founded Girl Scouting in the U.S.A. in 1912. From these beginnings, WAGGGS has grown to 136 national Girl Guide/Girl Scout organizations with a membership close to eight million. The name World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts replaced the name International Council at the Fifth International Conference in 1928.

WAGGGS is organized into various governmental bodies and shares certain symbols worldwide. The World Conference is the policy-making body. It sets standards and formulates general policy. At a World Conference, two delegates represent each national organization. A World Conference is held every three years. Headquartered in London, the World Bureau has three divisions: Training,

Development, and Finance Support & Services. The work of the World Bureau is conducted in its three official languages: English, French, and Spanish.

Common symbols are shared among all member organizations. The trefoil is the unifying symbol of WAGGGS, and it is used on the World Badge and the World Flag. The motto "Be Prepared," the left handshake, the sign or salute, and the World Song are all an integral part of each national organization, which reminds all members of their membership in a worldwide organization.

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts has acquired four world centers, each in a different part of the world. At *Our Chalet* in Switzerland, *Olave House* in England, *Our Cabaña* in Mexico, and *Sangam* in India, Girl Scouts 14 years or older may stay and experience the special opportunities available at each center.

Our Chalet, located in Adelboden, Switzerland, was founded in 1932. A gift to WAGGGS from Helen Storrow of Boston, Massachusetts, the center is high in the Swiss Alps and focuses on the out-of-doors, with hiking and climbing in the warm months and skiing and other winter sports in the cold months.

Olave Centre, located in London, England, and founded in 1939, serves as the home of the World Bureau and a world center. The center includes a new facility called Pax Lodge to honor the efforts of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell on behalf of children all over the world. More than a hostel, Pax Lodge, which opened in late 1990, includes program and training facilities for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Our Cabaña was founded in 1957, in Cuernavaca, Mexico. In this city of eternal spring, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts can learn about Mexican culture, customs, and crafts.

Sangam, located in Pune, India, was founded in 1966. Sangam, which means "coming together," is an appropriate name for a center where eastern and western cultures meet and where Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from all over the world have an opportunity to work together.