

# All About My Troop

Fill in the details of your girl's troop and keep this handy all year long!

Troop number: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Other important information: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting place: \_\_\_\_\_

Meet at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, every \_\_\_\_\_ week/s.  
[FILL IN TIME] [FILL IN DAY] [FILL IN NUMBER]

Girls in the troop are: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Family is helping out by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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girlscoutsofmaine.org | 888-922-4763

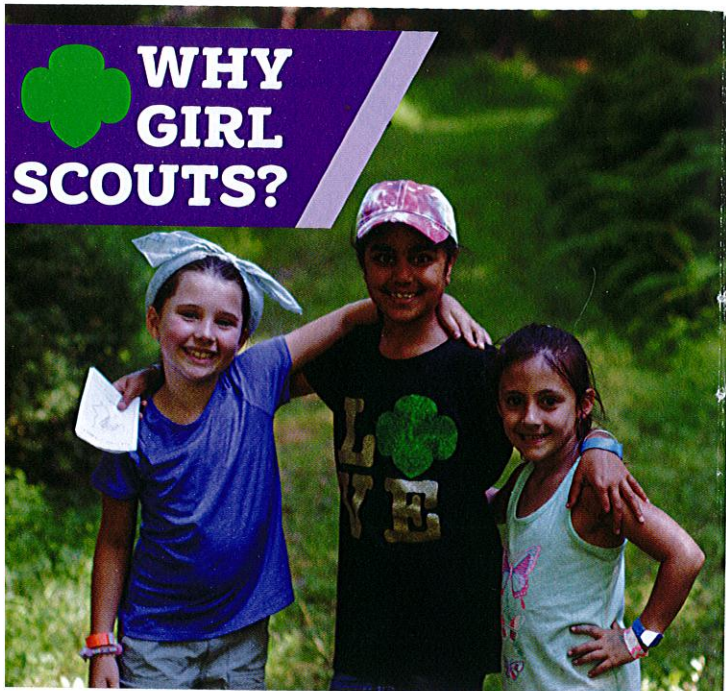
customer care@gsmaine.org



DISCOVER  
GIRL SCOUTS  
Virtual and In-Person Troops Now Forming

YOUR GUIDE TO  
GETTING STARTED





## WHY GIRL SCOUTS?

### How much time does it take to be a troop leader?

As a troop leader, plan on spending an hour or two preparing for each hour of meeting time with the girls. If your troop was meeting twice a month for 1.5 hours, you should plan on 2-4 hours per month outside of meetings. Also plan to attend a local leaders meeting to keep you up-to-date on what's happening locally and statewide in Girl Scouts.

### What support is provided if I volunteer?

We offer free new leader training. Your first training is available online and takes about an hour. After two to four meetings, register for your second, live training online or at one of our sites across the state. You also have access to online resources like webinars and the Volunteer Toolkit. ***Our Volunteer Support Team is also here to help.***

### What is Girl Scouts?

Girl Scouts isn't just a moment in her life, it's a Movement dedicated to building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

### Why do families love us?

Girl Scouts brings out the best in your girl, and helps her bring out the best in everyone around her. While she's learning about STEM, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and important life skills, she's also discovering new ways to make your family and community stronger, kinder, and better for everyone.

### How does it work?

Groups of Girl Scouts from the same community, called troops, typically meet weekly or bi-weekly for an hour or two. Hand-in-hand with adult volunteers—often parents or caregivers—girls select exciting hands-on activities and projects, try new things, and cheer each other on. Together, they earn badges and awards to reflect their successes and show the world what they're made of.

### What's the goal?

Making sure girls realize their potential isn't just about helping them earn better grades, make better decisions, and have happier lives (although it helps with those things, too!). It's about creating a more fair, equal, and compassionate world where every girl has a seat at the table and can make her dreams come true.

### Taking pride in your uniform

Your insignia—flag patch, council name patches, and troop numbers—go on the front of your tunic, sash, or vest, starting at the top. As you earn badges and Journey awards, put them on the front (or have your family help you!), starting at the bottom, to show all the skills you've learned. On a vest, insignia and badges go on the right-hand side, Journey awards on the left. On a sash, put badges below Journey awards. Fun patches from experiences and trips always go on the back. Need more help? Check out [girlscouts.org/placement](http://girlscouts.org/placement).







## What if we have questions?

That's normal! There are loads of resources and a network of support to assist you and your girl on your Girl Scout journey.

Just reach out to our Customer Care team at [customercare@gsmaine.org](mailto:customercare@gsmaine.org) or 888-922-4763.

### Girl responsibilities:

- ◆ To follow the Girl Scout Promise & Law.
- ◆ To be willing to take risks and be supportive towards her troop peers.
- ◆ To attend and participate in meetings and events.
- ◆ To listen to others and show respect for what they are saying.
- ◆ To be prepared and conduct herself in a safe manner.
- ◆ To respect troop leaders and other volunteers.

### Family responsibilities:

- ◆ Consider volunteering as a co-leader to make sure your girl's troop can start right away with the required two unrelated adults.
- ◆ Volunteer with your troop as a parent helper or driver chaperone. Troop Leaders cannot do it alone!
- ◆ Actively participate in the troop, and communicate efficiently and in a timely fashion with the Troop Leaders.
- ◆ Support your Girl Scout through all facets of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.
- ◆ Encourage her to take risks and try new things.
- ◆ Be a cheerleader and allow her to take the lead.
- ◆ When possible, attend council events with your Girl Scout and encourage active participation in troop meetings. Ensure she arrives prepared and on time for meetings or outings.
- ◆ Have questions or concerns? Start with your troop leaders. Discuss issues with them privately, not in front of the girls. Local volunteers and council staff are also here to help!



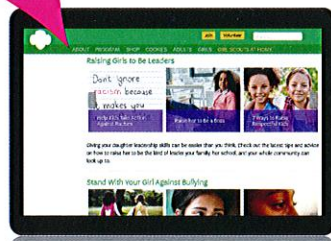
## Are you ready to be a Girl Scout?

### Here are your next steps:

- ◆ Register your girl and pay membership dues at [girlscoutsofmaine.org/join](http://girlscoutsofmaine.org/join). Once registered, you will receive an email receipt and information to log into your GS member community.
- ◆ If you registered your girl into a troop, you should hear from your troop leader within a week. If you do not hear from them, please contact Customer Care at [customercare@gsmaine.org](mailto:customercare@gsmaine.org) or 888-922-4763.
- ◆ If you did not register with a specific troop, then your girl can participate on her own as a Juliette while we recruit troop leaders to start a new troop. (Have you considered volunteering as a Troop Leader? Check out the next page!)
- ◆ We have programs and events throughout Maine and virtually that are open to registered Girl Scouts of all levels. Check them out on our website at [girlscoutsofmaine.org/activities](http://girlscoutsofmaine.org/activities).
- ◆ Purchase your girl's Girl Scout uniform and books at one of our council stores in South Portland or Bangor, or shop online at [girlscoutshop.com/MAINE-COUNCIL](http://girlscoutshop.com/MAINE-COUNCIL).

## Her life can be complicated—raising her doesn't have to be.

Check out Raising Awesome Girls at [girlscouts.org/raising-girls](http://girlscouts.org/raising-girls) for the latest tips and insight into her world.





## Volunteers

Volunteers guide and inspire girls in your community as they embrace new challenges, build important skills, and take the lead—all in a safe, no-limits place designed just for her.

Reach your full potential as you help her discover hers, and together, change the world and make lasting memories!

### 1 Complete your membership registration

- ◆ Get started at [girlscoutsofmaine.org](http://girlscoutsofmaine.org) and click VOLUNTEER NOW.
- ◆ Complete your registration and pay your membership dues.

### 2 Complete your background check

– Help ensure the safety of our girls.

- ◆ You will automatically receive an email with a link.
- ◆ Then, you will receive a welcome email with your next steps!

### 3 Start your troop leader training

– Learn about your new role and the essentials of Girl Scouting.

- ◆ Log into gsLearn through the “MyGS” at [girlscoutsofmaine.org](http://girlscoutsofmaine.org) to take Troop Volunteers, part 1: the Adventure Begins.

### 4 Review the volunteer toolkit and other resources

- ◆ The Volunteer Toolkit includes everything you need to plan your troop year.

## The Troop Experience

Whether in-person or online, girls create connections and make new friends, become leaders, and discover all the amazing things they can do!

### Where does the troop meet?

Volunteers help to decide! Most of the time, troops meet in schools or community centers like libraries or churches that offer free meeting space.

### How do troops pick activities?

Girls, volunteers, and families should make decisions together as a troop, such as which Journey to complete, badges to earn, events to attend, and goals to set for the product programs. Always follow the girls' lead.

### Who pays for what?

**Troop Funds:** When a troop earns funds through a product program or troop dues, those funds belong to the entire troop, not specific girls. These funds should pay for supplies, event registration, badges and awards, and renewal membership fees.

**Families:** Families are typically responsible for uniforms, books, and startup costs (membership fees and troop dues).

## The Juliette Experience

A Juliette, or individually registered Girl Scout, has the same Girl Scout experience as any other girl—outdoor adventures, life skill training, entrepreneurial programming, and hands-on STEM experiments—she simply does it all without being in a troop setting. If you're a Juliette family, we're here for support and guidance, just reach out to [customer-care@gsmaine.org](mailto:customer-care@gsmaine.org).

Check out fun at home activities and look for the Juliette emails filled with information just for you!

**Explore Girl Scout activities at home!**

[www.girlscoutsofmaine.org/girlscoutsathome](http://www.girlscoutsofmaine.org/girlscoutsathome)





## Girl Scout Program Levels

Keep track as your girl levels up through the years!



**Girl Scout Daisy**

**Grades K-1**



**Girl Scout Brownie**

**Grades 2-3**



**Girl Scout Junior**

**Grades 4-5**



**Girl Scout Cadette**

**Grades 6-8**



**Girl Scout Senior**

**Grades 9-10**



**Girl Scout Ambassador**

**Grades 11-12**

## Keep the fun going with Girl Scouts at home

Troop meetings are awesome, but why let the good times stop there? We've handpicked the most engaging and inspiring Girl Scout activities for you and your girl to try out at home—and brought them to life like never before. Check out our free video tutorials for standalone projects, or work on earning a badge from virtually anywhere.



## GSME Shops

Council shop staff are happy to provide personal assistance as you choose a uniform, insignia and resources to get your Girl Scout experience under way.

Throughout the year, watch for shop specials and keep an eye on your email for your \$5 off birthday coupon!

## My Girl Scout Kit



Phone orders can be placed.

## Shop locations

**Bangor Service Center**  
359 Perry Rd Ste B  
Bangor, ME 04401-6723

**South Portland Service Center**  
138 Gannett Drive  
South Portland, ME 04106

Check out our website at [girlscoutsofmaine.org/shop](http://girlscoutsofmaine.org/shop) for current shop hours and closures.

Remember, you can shop 24/7 at [girlscoutshop.com/maine-council](http://girlscoutshop.com/maine-council)





## FAQs:

### How much does it cost to become a Girl Scout?

Annual girl membership is \$40 (\$25 National Membership fees and \$15 Council Service Fee) and \$25 for adults. Most Girl Scout troops also collect dues to defray the cost of their activities. Girl also can fund their activities with proceeds earned from their participation in our annual Fall Product and Cookie Programs. Girl Scout memberships are non-refundable.

### What does my Girl Scout need to get started?

Girl Scouts are encouraged to purchase a My Girl Scout Kit; which includes choice of uniform (tunic, vest or sash), official insignia (patches and pins), and girl choice of age level handbook/ badge requirements. My Girl Scout Kits start at \$55 and are available at our shops located in South Portland and Bangor, or online at [girlscoutshop.com/MAINE-COUNCIL](http://girlscoutshop.com/MAINE-COUNCIL)

### When, where, and how often do troops meet?

Girls can start their journey on their own from home as soon as they register. If you select a troop when you register please know that troop volunteers choose their meeting times and locations. On average troops meet for about an hour, bi-weekly either virtually or in person. Become a troop leader and you can choose a troop meeting schedule that fits perfectly with your schedule.

### Who can volunteer?

Adults who complete the registration process, background check, and attend the appropriate training can volunteer. Is it only moms or women? That's a common misconception. We welcome dads and grandads to become involved!



## GIRL SCOUT Program Pillars: A Foundation for Success

Everything a Girl Scout does centers around STEM, the outdoors, entrepreneurship and the development of life skills; and is designed to meet her where she is now and to grow along with her.



### STEM

Computer science, engineering, robotics, and more.



### Life Skills

Civic engagement, healthy living, global citizenship, and communication skills.



### Outdoors






Adventure and skill building, including camping experiences for all age levels; from the backyard to the backcountry.



### Entrepreneurship

The Girl Scout Cookie Program - the largest girl-led business in the world - teaches goal setting, decision making, money management, business ethics, and people skills.

### Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to:

-  Develop a strong sense of self (80% vs. 68%)
-  Display positive values (75% vs. 59%)
-  Seek challenges and learn from setbacks (62% vs. 42%)
-  Form and maintain healthy relationships (60% vs. 43%)
-  Exhibit community problem-solving skills (57% vs. 28%)

Join our Girl Scout Explorers as they guide you through the steps of getting started!

