

Girl Scout Basic Leader Training



Contact Customer Care

888-623-1237

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

Welcome new troop leaders!

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God* and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong,
and responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Girl Scout Mission

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

**Members may substitute for the word God in
accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.*



Welcome to Girl Scouts!

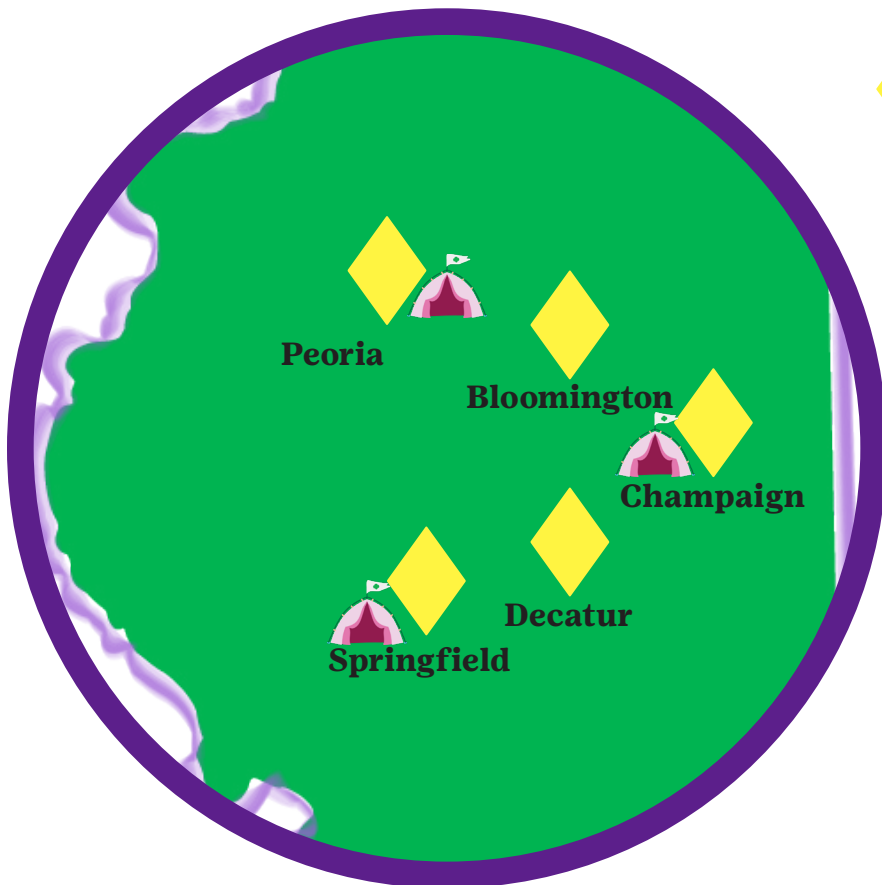
We're so excited for you to join the Girl Scout movement.

Girl Scouts empowers girls everywhere to stand up and make a difference. By nurturing innovation and developing leadership skills, we prepare girls to overcome challenges and advocate for their ideas now and later. With an emphasis on self-discovery, character building, and community impact, Girl Scouts helps girls become a powerful force for good in the world.

Our council spans a 38-county region made up of nearly 16,500 girls and 4,000 volunteers. Together, we are Girl Scouts of Central Illinois.

No matter where or how you volunteer, you'll make a difference in girls' lives. This go-to guide will prepare you to effectively lead during your first year as a Girl Scout volunteer. Need help along the way? Let us know! We have tools, training resources, and people to help support you through each step.

You're now a part of our team. We can't wait to see the impact you'll make this year!



◆ Service Centers

Service Center hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 am. - noon

Bloomington Service Center

3 Westport Court

Bloomington, IL 61704

Champaign Service Center

2001 Round Barn Rd., Suite C Champaign, IL 61820

Decatur Urban Program Center

1170 E. Pershing Road

Decatur, IL 62526

Peoria Service Center

1103 W. Lake Avenue Peoria, IL 61614

Springfield Service Center and Headquarters

3020 Baker Drive Springfield, IL 62703

We serve the following counties in Illinois: Adams, Brown, Bureau, Cass, Champaign, Christian, DeWitt, Douglas, Ford, Fulton, Greene, Hancock, Iroquois, Jersey LaSalle, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Maddison, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Peoria, Piatt, Pike, Putnam, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Stark, Tazewell, Vermilion, and Woodford.



Camps

Camp Kiwanis, Mahomet

Camp Tapawingo, Metamora

Camp Widjiwagan, Springfield

Our Promise to Girls

- Meet Regularly
- Experience a variety of purposeful activities including...
 - Earning awards in ONE of the following categories utilizing the Girl Scout National Program which includes using the Girl Scout Leadership Experience in Outdoor, STEM, Entrepreneurship, or Life Skills
 - At least 4 skill building badges
 - OR at least 1 higher award
 - OR 1 Leadership Journey
 - Complete at least 1 community service or Take Action Project.
 - Take part in at least 1 outdoor activity.
 - Experience at least 1 field trip or Girl Scout event.
 - Develop entrepreneurship skills through participation in the product program.
- Participate in Girl Scout traditions, included but not limited to...
 - saying the Promise & Law
 - wearing your Girl Scout uniform
 - taking part in ceremonies such as Investiture, bridging or flag ceremony
 - singing Girl Scout songs



Girl Scout Levels



Daisies
K & 1st

Girl Scout Daisies sparkle with that “first time ever” newness in everything they do. They go on trips, learn about nature and science and explore the arts and their communities—and so much more. Girl Scout Daisies can also earn Learning Petals and receive participation patches.



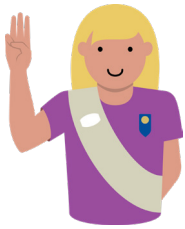
Brownies
2nd & 3rd

Girl Scout Brownies work together, earn badges, and explore their community. Friendship, fun, and age-appropriate activities begin at the Girl Scout Brownie meeting and move out to the community and wider world. While earning badges, they build skills, learn hobbies, and have fun!



Juniors
4th & 5th

Girl Scout Juniors are big-idea thinkers. They’re explorers at camp and product designers when they earn their Innovation and Storytelling badges, or even their Bronze Award. Every day, they wake up ready to play a new role.



Cadettes
6th - 8th

Girl Scout Cadettes chart their own course and let their curiosity and imagination lead the way. They learn about the power of being a good friend, gain confidence mentoring younger girls, and can earn the Silver Award.



Seniors
9th & 10th

Girl Scout Seniors are ready to take the world by storm, and Girl Scouts gives them millions of ways to do it. Their experiences help to shape their world, while giving them a safe space to be themselves and explore their Interests. Girl Scout Seniors can earn their Gold Award (which, by the way, adds something ‘extra’ to college applications).



Ambassadors
11th & 12th

Girl Scout Ambassadors know that small acts create big change. While they get ready for life beyond high school, Girl Scouts helps them take flight. They also earn the Gold Award (which, by the way, adds something “extra* to college applications).

The Girl Scout Uniform

Uniforms are an important part of the Girl Scout experience, connecting girls to Girl Scout traditions, displaying their accomplishments, and creating memories to last a lifetime. Girls want to look and feel their best when representing Girl Scouts. And now they can, with uniform options that are in step with today’s trends and active lifestyles. Girl Scouts at each level now wear one required element (tunic, sash, or vest) to display official pins and awards. Girls can mix and match pieces from the official Girl Scout collection to complete the uniform. Troop Leaders may opt to collect money from parents and purchase sashes, vests, and insignia from a council shop, or ask parents to purchase items on their own.

Financial assistance for uniform components is available for girls that qualify.

Visit one of our shop locations to purchase uniforms, starter kits, and more. Our shop staff are here to help! Shop online at shop.girlscouts-gsci.org/store/ or call customer care at 888-623-1237 to be connected to one of our Trefoil Boutique Specialists.

Organizational Structure

Troops

Volunteer-supervised groups of girls who participate in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

Service Unit

Comprised of volunteers who support the work of troop volunteers within a given geographic area

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois (GSCI)

Independent 501(c)3 nonprofit chartered by GSUSA operating under the direction of a local board of directors and overseeing all service units and troops within a given geographic area

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA)

A national organization supporting the work of more than 100 councils across the U S for more than 100 years. Headquartered in New York, New York.

Girls are the heart of our organization!



Your New Girl Scout Community

Now that you have joined Girl Scouts you are part of a larger community. As a troop leader you have an instant new support system, both within the GSCI staff and the larger network of Girl Scout Volunteers and Troops. Let's talk about what that looks like!

The GSCI Staff Team

Membership Engagement Coordinator—The MEC is likely the very first GSCI staff you met. Their goal is to connect interested future Girl Scout to the Adventure they have been waiting for!

Program Specialist—Our Program Specialist are creating the fun and planning all the adventures troops can tap into through the gsEvents calendar. They are the best at creating curriculum around the many Girl Scout badge, journey and patch programs. PC's also run our Fall Product and Cookie Programs—they are experts in the field of Girl Scout Cookie information!

Membership Services Specialist—The MSS is the member of your new team that is your Go To person. If you have a question the MSS will know the answer or know where to find the answer for you. They are available to help Monday—Thursday 8:00 am-5:00 pm and Fridays 8:00 am - 12:30 pm. Just reach out!!

Boutique Staff—When you walk into any of our Trefoil Boutiques you will be greeted with a warm hello and helping hand. Our Boutique Staff can walk you through any purchase you might be making for your troop and information you are seeking for our badge, journey and patch programs.

Staying Connected through Social Media

GSCI Facebook

GSCI Instagram

Service Unit Facebook pages

Your Service Unit Team

Service Units are managed by teams of council-appointed volunteers. Service Unit Teams form new troops each year, provide direct support to members, and serve as a local communication center for the council.

What Service Units Do

Each Service Unit has a shared goal: to best serve the needs of its girls. Team members can contribute in a variety of ways:

- Volunteering in a variety of roles

- Keeping positive, relevant and consistent communication

- Hosting events for girls to make friends and learn new skills

- Coordinating Fall Product and Cookie Programs

- Ensuring Girl Scouts has a visible community presence

Service Teams & Roles

All Service Units are led by a Service Unit Leadership Team and the Service Team. Each team includes several experienced volunteers who specialize in a specific area of support for leaders.

Sizes of Service Units and Teams may vary, but are compiled of individuals who support leaders and the council through the following roles:

Following the BLT you will be connected to your SU Team to get started!

