

# Planning the Troop Year With Your Daisy Girl Scouts



This guide provides information, ideas, and tips for planning a year of engaging, interactive, and fun activities for your Girl Scout Daisies.

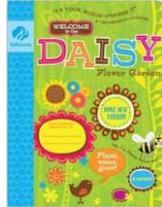
To learn more about working with girls at the Daisy level, dig into the grade-level program resources available from GSUSA (described on the next page). The new Journeys are especially rich in ideas and facilitation tips that provide some great self-study about working with girls even if you don't plan to do a journey yet.

And, the best kept secret....talk with other Troop Leaders in your Service Unit. Hearing what others on the path ahead of you have tried is priceless information!

## Program Resources for Girl Scout Daisies – K & 1st Grade

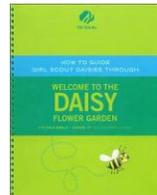
Below is a brief description of your primary national program resources. You can purchase these at either of our council stores (Boise and Idaho Falls) or at our online store ([www.girlscouts-ssc.org](http://www.girlscouts-ssc.org)). You might be able to acquire a used copy from another leader or from your Service Unit Library to review before purchasing.

**Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden - It's Your World, Change It**  
Journey Series



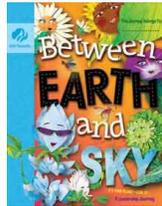
Three young girls pass by a neglected community garden one afternoon and meet Amazing Daisy. She takes the girls on a journey, and along the way, they meet her friends and learn about the Girl Scout Law. On this journey, Daisies earn the Watering Can, the Golden Honey Bee, and the Amazing Daisy awards.

**Adult Guide for Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden Journey**



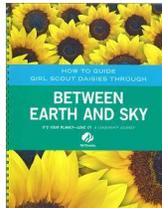
This journey adult guide offers Garden Story Time tips, key ideas for garden projects, and all the Girl Scout history and traditions needed to guide your girls through their garden journey.

**Between Earth and Sky - It's Your Planet, Love It**  
Journey Series



The flower friends take a cross-country road trip that invites Daisies to explore what sprouts up across the country as they learn how to protect what needs protecting. As Lupe and her flower friends zip along in Lupe's petal-powered car, the Daisies witness some wonders and woes of nature, and are on their way to earning their Clover, Blue Bucket, and Firefly awards.

**Adult Guide for Between Earth and Sky Journey**



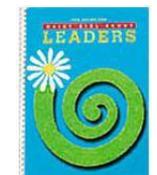
The accompanying journey adult guide offers tips and tools to facilitate the journey.

**Daisy Girl Scout Activity Book**



This resource offers Girl Scout's youngest members an educational and entertaining introduction to the world of Girl Scouting through simple, engaging activities.

**Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders**



A guide filled with practical tips, age-appropriate fun activities, and other easy-to-use features for leaders of active 5 to 6 year olds. Includes information about the Promise Center and Learning Petals that Girl Scout Daisies can earn by learning the Promise and Law.

## The Big Picture

At the beginning of the year, you will start planning the general layout of the program activities for the year. Here is a generic troop year structure that you might use as a starting point.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founder's Day Event</li> <li>• Investiture</li> <li>• Yearly Planning</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>November</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journey Start</li> <li>• Badgework, etc.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journey, cont.</li> <li>• Badgework, etc.</li> <li>• Cookie Program Goal Setting</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journey, cont.</li> <li>• Badgework, etc.</li> <li>• Cookie Program</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cookie Program, cont.</li> <li>• Thinking Day Activity</li> <li>• Journey, cont.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cookie Program, cont.</li> <li>• Girl Scout Week Activity</li> <li>• Journey, cont.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journey, cont.</li> <li>• Badgework, etc.</li> <li>• Service Project</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day Trip</li> <li>• Journey Wrap-Up</li> <li>• End of Year Celebrations</li> </ul>	

Many leaders suggest loosely planning the entire year with 'room to move.' These leaders find that they deviate from their original plan as they notice what the girls enjoy doing and how long it takes them to accomplish activities.

You and your co-leaders might get together and discuss the following:

- Given our meeting schedule, how many troop meetings are we planning?
- Which journey do we want to do this year?
- How many meetings should we devote to the journey?
- Will we do an Investiture/Rededication ceremony at our first meeting?
- What badge-earning activities do we want to propose?
- How many short trips do we want to plan for?
- Do we want to consider one or more service projects?
- What Service Unit events are being planned that we might want to participate in?
- How much time will we devote to the cookie program?

## The Planning Partnership

Planning is new to Girl Scout Daisies and they look to adults for suggestions, stimulation, and direction. You and your co-leader will layout the basic plan and engage your girls in making small decisions here and there, such as color of this or that, order in which something might be accomplished, choosing a song, choosing which flower to plant, etc. Other examples of making the planning Girl-Led at this grade level are found in the Journey Adult Facilitator's Guides, and include:

- Repeating an activity that girls say they really enjoyed
- Listening to their ideas on how to make activities even more fun
- Giving girls the opportunity to ask questions or predict what's going to happen next in any story.

You don't want to over-plan so that you leave room for surprises and new opportunities, but it is good to have a general plan so that the girls know what to expect and so that you can manage the planning and preparation time efficiently. This will also help you organize your Troop Support Team including the adult helpers so they know what is expected of them and when.

At the Daisy grade level, since they are not yet ready to take an active role in planning, it is not necessary to have an entire meeting designated to planning the year. Instead of planning with your girls use this first meeting to let them know what to expect during the year and what fun activities and group learning you have planned for them. Use this meeting to talk about the journey you have selected, the Girl Scout Cookie Program, ceremonies you will be performing and any special trips or events you have planned with your troop or Service Unit.

Before each troop meeting review your materials and your plan so that the session will run smoothly. Make sure all field trips are organized and parents know what their girls will be doing. Look over what materials you will need, including opening activities for girls to do as they arrive and anything they will need to bring from home for the next troop meeting. This preparation includes purchasing materials, printing forms, confirming field trips, etc.

The most important thing is to do your best to design your troop activities around the basics of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE). If you choose to add a journey to your plan for the year, you will be all set because the GSLE is built right in. But, anything can become a GSLE activity with a little extra planning. An example is provided on the next page.

## GSLE'ing Any Activity

With a little extra planning, any activity can become a Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Let's say that you have decided to do one of the Daisy journeys this year, and participate with your Service Unit for two big traditional events, but you also want to invite your girls to choose an idea for a day trip.

Since Daisies cannot always come up with ideas on their own, you might give them three choices:

1. A trip to the zoo
2. A trip to the cheese factory
3. A trip to {somewhere}.

Let's say your troop of Girl Scout Daisies chooses to go to the zoo, visit all the animals, and eat ice cream. Although taking your Daisies to the zoo is a wonderful learning opportunity in and of itself, and a great field trip, you and your co-leader can make it a Girl Scout Leadership Experience by linking the activity to the three keys and the three processes.

### Applying the GSLE Keys

<b>Discover</b>	By traveling to the zoo with their troop, girls will discover more about themselves and who they are without their families by their side.
<b>Connect</b>	On the field trip make sure that everyone has a 'buddy' within the troop. Throughout the trip make comments to the girls regarding how well they are working together with their buddy or take the time to correct behaviors so they can work well with one another.
<b>Take Action</b>	After the field trip, ask girls their ideas about what projects for animals or zoos they might like to do when they are older.

## Applying the GSLE Processes

<b>Girl-Led</b>	Take the meeting time before the zoo field trip to ask the girls what specific animals they would like to see or learn more about. If the girls say they love the cuddly tigers, call the zoo ahead of time to see if a zoo keeper can meet you outside of the tiger’s display for more information. As the leader you could do some research about tigers before you get to the zoo to educate the girls. For example, you could inform the girls that tigers are only cuddly with their cubs, not Girl Scouts.
<b>Learning By Doing (&amp; Reflection)</b>	Have girls play games that identify different animals by their fur, if they lay eggs, or by what they eat. After the trip, ask girls to share their favorite thing that happened, and how they each helped make the trip a success.
<b>Cooperative Learning</b>	Although you have promised that the girls can have ice cream at the zoo, take some time before the trip to talk about the difference between healthy snacks and yummy treats. Ask the girls to decide as a group on ideas for healthy snacks for future meetings.



## Traditions at the Daisy Level

This section provides detail about traditional Girl Scout activities and where you can find information to help you plan for your Daisy troop.

### General Resources:

- **Traditions** link on **Resource Central** on our council website ([www.girlscouts-ssc.org](http://www.girlscouts-ssc.org))
- **Girl Scout Central** under **Program** on the GSUSA website ([www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org))
- Let's Celebrate! Girl Scout Ceremonies, a GSUSA Program Resource
- [www.scoutingweb.com](http://www.scoutingweb.com)

### *Investiture Ceremony: Usually held at the beginning of the year*

The investiture ceremony is very special for all girls, but especially for first year Daisies because all girls will be making the Girl Scout Promise for the first time. At the Daisy grade level the investiture ceremony can take an entire meeting or just a portion of it. Include the girls in planning by asking their preferences on who should be invited and/or if they would like a song or poem to be read. Girls will receive their Daisy Girl Scout pin which is placed to the left side of her uniform over her heart.

#### **Find out more:**

- The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders, Page 42

### *Founder's Day or Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday: October 31st*

Girl Scout Daisies love to learn the story of the Girl Scout Founder. At this grade level girls will enjoy listening to stories, planning a party with a sister troop, or taking part in a Service Unit function that honors Juliette Gordon Low.

#### **Find out more:**

- Daisy Girl Scout Activity Book : 'The First Daisy Activity' Page 16
- The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders:
  - Activity Suggestions on Page 26
  - 'What's in a Name' Page 24
  - 'Fun "Daisy" Tales' Page 25

### ***Girl Scout Cookie Program: January through March***

Each year our cookie baker, Little Brownie Baker, develops great **Cookie Activity Kits** with suggestions on how to design a fun, educational, and successful cookie program. These will be available at the start of the membership year.

### ***World Thinking Day: February 22nd***

Girl Scout Daisies love to learn about other countries, which can include creating a dish from a foreign land or learning a few words or a song in a different language. Girls can earn their World Trefoil Pin at this time. Make sure you attend your Service Unit Meetings since many Service Units plan a special Thinking Day activity for all troops.

#### **Find out more:**

- Daisy Girl Scout Activity Book: 'Daisy Girl Scouts Go Round the World' Page 18, 19
- The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders: Activity Suggestions on Page 26

### ***Girl Scout Birthday/Girl Scout Week: March 12th***

**Girl Scout Birthday:** On March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1912 Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouting in Savannah, Georgia. The week in which March 12 falls is Girl Scout Week. During this week Girl Scout troops hold ceremonies within their Service Unit or with sister troops. Juliette Gordon Low wanted to show young people that they can make their world a better peaceful place and the ceremonies should reflect this sense of goodwill.

**Girl Scout Week:** Girl Scout week brings girls, adults, and friends together to recognize and appreciate the Girl Scout Organization. Celebrations happen all week along, and in many cities Mayors make a special Girl Scout Week proclamation. This will be a perfect time to have a ceremony or special activity in your Service Unit.

#### **Find out more:**

- Daisy Girl Scout Activity Book: "The First Daisy" Page 16-17
- The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders, Page 27
- "Amazing Daisy Activities" Page 66-81

***Trips:*** Girls can take and help plan trips at any point during the year

It is recommend that girls at the Daisy grade level take only short trips to local points of interest. This will help build their confidence for longer day trips and overnight trips as they progress to higher grade levels.

**Find out more:**

- The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders:
  - Activity Suggestion, Page 59
  - Trip Checklist, Page 58

***Service Projects:*** Anytime during the year

Plan service projects with your girls based on their interests. Some samples that are good for the Daisy grade level include:

- Visiting retirement centers and perhaps adopting a resident as a “grandparent”.
- Collecting items needed by adults and children at homeless shelters.

***Bridging:*** At the end of the year for girls moving to Brownies



Girl Scout Daisies "bridge" to Girl Scout Brownies by learning about the next level through a series of activities and participating in the planning of a ceremony. At the ceremony, girls receive the following insignia and awards:

- Brownie Girl Scout Membership Pin
- World Trefoil Pin (if they have not received it on their first Thinking Day)
- Bridging to Brownie Girl Scouts Award
- A membership star with a blue disc
- A Daisy Girl Scout Ending Certificate
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**Find out more:**

- Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders, Pages 61 to 64
- Daisy Girl Scout Activity Book, Page 44
- Updated Bridging Requirements on the **Bridging** link on **Resource Central**