Be a Girl Scout Champion
A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO INVITE NEW GIRLS AND ADULTS TO JOIN OUR MOVEMENT
LET’S GET STARTED:
2. WHAT’S A GIRL SCOUT

Did you know that our volunteers are Girl Scouts? Girl Scout Champions, like you, play a vital role in helping our community spread the word on how to become a part of Girl Scouts!

As a current volunteer and champion, you’re the greatest example of how Girl Scouts can provide a great experience for adults, as well as the girls you’re supporting. We always need new and existing volunteers to join us in getting the word out there, by talking about Girl Scouts at events, to not just parents, but all girls and adults.

When she’s a Girl Scout, she’s also a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™. Every day, Girl Scouts unleash the power of G.I.R.L. to make amazing things happen. When you’re a Girl Scout Champion, being a G.I.R.L. is part of your DNA, too.

WHAT DO GIRL SCOUT CHAMPIONS DO?

As a Girl Scout Champion, you’ll serve as the liaison between a school and your Service Unit Recruiter. You’ll introduce girls and adults to becoming a Girl Scout, by capturing their information or guiding them with council resources. With the proper training, scripts (see pages 5-7) and other materials from Girl Scouts of Silver Sage (GSSSC), we can work together and help you along the way.

You are the one who has a strong relationship and presence with the school staff, administrators, and members of the PTA/PTO. You’ll work in partnership with your Service Unit Recruiter to have a plan for the events, request fliers, and supplies and ensure visibility of Girl Scouts in your school and service unit all year. At the end of the summer, you’re ready to attend back to school nights or teacher meet and greets. In the winter, you’ll recruit girls in time to participate in the Cookie Program. In the spring, you’re ready for next year by targeting preschool-aged girls entering kindergarten or letting girls know they can still join a Girl Scout troop or experience camp. Throughout the year, you are willing to go into classrooms and talk to the girls about becoming Girl Scouts (Girl Talks) and attend any school events: Fall Festival, Winter Carnival, Math & Science nights, just to name a few.
3. RECRUITMENT EVENTS

What counts as a recruitment event?
A recruitment event is any opportunity that educates and encourages girls and adults to join Girl Scouts! The following are perfect examples of recruitment opportunities that may appear in your own community regularly:
- school events: school talks, family fun nights, and PTO meetings
- community events: fairs, festivals, and community days
- social media platforms: posts to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.
- partnerships with local businesses: posters, flyers, or general business cards
- partnerships with current troops/volunteers: invite a friend events and referrals

Preparing for a recruitment event
Know your audience! Depending on the event, decide ahead of time what type of fliers you'll need, fun items you want to give away, or even what language to use. A variety of scripts are located toward the back of this guide for your use.

For an event that requires a table, set it up as necessary. Have a list ready of what your recruitment table should include. While talking to potential Girl Scouts, share some personal experiences to engage them while using some of the talking points provided at training!

Make good use of your time! For some events, you may only need to drop off fliers, where others may require you to be there all day! Your Service Unit Recruiter or a GSSSC Council Recruiter can help you decide which option would be best if you’re unsure.

You’re at a recruitment event. What’s next?
While speaking with potential Girl Scout volunteers, give information on all the available opportunities! We have opportunities and handouts for troop leaders and parent volunteers regarding the experience a girl can have in a troop or as a Juliette Girl. (This is a Girl Scout who isn’t part of a troop.) We also have a need for episodic volunteers. These are volunteers who cannot commit for extended time, but are willing and able to help with individual projects (E.g. camp clean-up) or who have a skill they would like to teach (E.g. winter survival, campfire cooking)

Now, we have to tell everyone how to sign up! Capture the interest on our sign-in sheet or interest card (make sure the information is legible) or if you have internet access, physically walk the interested girl/adult through the sign-up on our GSSSC’s website at www.girlscouts-ssc.org. Look to page 5 for additional information.

After the event, send in your recruitment sign-in sheet and recruitment evaluation form to your Service Unit Recruiter. Did you form a new troop? Did you make some great connections with local businesses? Your Service Unit Recruiter wants to know everything! Then watch and see the progress of new troops you may have started, as well as local partnerships you created!
4. HAVE FUN WITH SIMPLE EVENT ACTIVITIES

A big part of your recruitment is the activity you do with the girls. No matter what type of event you hold, girls will remember what they did at your event. Plus, it’s even better if they take a reminder of the activity home with them! Here are some activities designed for you. You can access the printable versions for them on our website. Your Service Unit Recruiter also has limited copies. Choose the one that best suits your needs.

- **Make fingerprint art:** This activity works best with younger girls (Daisies and Brownies) and can be done at a school recruitment, vendor table at a fair or even at a community event. Print individual thumbprint cards for each girl, as well as a draw a thumbprint tree on butcher paper that can be displayed on the table or wall. Supplies needed are a washable ink pad, crayons/pencils, paper and baby wipes. Girls press a thumb into inkpad then press thumb onto the critter card. Use a baby wipe to clean hands. Girls can take their paper and create a critter from their own thumbprint, and leave a thumbprint on the Girl Scout tree if they like or they can take it home.

- **Toss a beach ball:** This activity is best at smaller-scale events like a school carnival and can be played with Brownie- and Junior-age girls. Write questions with a permanent marker on an inflatable beach ball. Girls form a circle (adults optional) and toss the ball to someone in the circle. When that person catches the ball, they answer the question closest to where their right thumb lands. Materials you will need are simply an inflatable beach ball with handwritten questions.

- **Make a S.W.A.P. (special whatchamacallits affectionately pinned somewhere):** Girls of any age can have fun with this activity, and it works well at almost any event! Girls color the seed packet from a printable sheet, cut and fold, then insert into a 2” reclosable plastic bags. Then they scoop a few “seeds” in the bag, close, and attach a safety pin. You can get creative with the seeds and use any shape or color of shaped confetti or seed beads. In additional to the printable sheet, you will need 2 x 3” plastic bags, crayons, “seeds,” and safety pins.

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WHO IS ON YOUR TEAM?

Service Unit Troop Organizer: Name: ____________________________
Tel. ___________________ Email: _______________________________

Service Unit Recruiter: Name: ____________________________
Tel. ___________________ Email: _______________________________

Council Recruiter: Name: ____________________________
Tel. ___________________ Email: _______________________________
5. PROGRAMS TO HELP WITH RECRUITMENT

GSSSC offers a few different ways to get new and existing girls involved. Talk to your SU Recruiter to get more info.

- **Invite a Friend**: Current Girl Scouts can invite a friend to a recruitment event or information session to get them to either join an existing troop, or even start a new one. Parents can watch the new girls have fun with the other Girl Scouts and sign them up on the spot.

- **Fun, Friends & Cookies**: This specific recruitment option is held during cookie time. While girls attend their cookie booth, they encourage new girls and adults to sign up to learn more about Girl Scouts. At least 10 new girls and adults’ contacts will render all the cookie-selling girls in the Troop a "Fun, Friends & Cookies" patch.

- **Troop Kit**: This kit is a four session guide for Daisies and Brownies to help a new leader and troop with what they need to get started on their GS adventure.

- **Daisy Launch**: This is an introductory program for girls entering kindergarten in the fall. This program is done in the spring months at kindergarten registrations, preschools, libraries and after-school care.

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**Joining Girl Scouts in four easy steps**

**GIRLS:**
1. Have a parent/guardian visit girlscouts-ssc.org to register and click Join Today!
   a. Membership cost is $40 annually (Oct. 1-Sept. 30). *Financial assistance is available.*
2. Search for a troop by using your zip code or a troop number. You can also mark ‘unsure’ and give us details on what you are looking for.
3. Once you are ready to meet, get your Girl Scout gear at www.girlscouts-ssc.org (SHOP)
4. Troop leaders and other volunteers are needed!

Girl Scouts is a volunteer-led organization and we are ready to support you at every turn!

Need Help? Contact Customer Care 208-377-2011 or email at customercare@girlscouts-ssc.org

**ADULTS:**
1. Visit girlscouts-ssc.org to register and click Be a Volunteer!
2. Complete required background screening.
3. Once registered and approved, we provide necessary orientation and training.
4. Get your Girl Scout gear at www.girlscouts-ssc.org (SHOP)
   *As a troop leader, you create a meeting schedule that works for you!*

Need Help? Contact Customer Care: customercare@gswpa.org or 800-248-3355.
6. TALKING POINTS FOR RECRUITMENT EVENTS

School Talk—Girl Script

- Greet the girls with enthusiasm and introduce yourself.
- Explain that you’re there to talk with them about Girl Scouts.
- Ask if any girls present are already Girl Scouts.
- If you have girls in your audience who are Girl Scouts, have them share their experiences. If not, share some of your experiences or tell them about things Girl Scouts do.
- Teach them a song, for example — Make New Friends.
- Hand out a flyer or item with GSSSC contact info.
- Encourage girls to attend an upcoming event or have their parents contact GSSSC to join now.
- Thank them for listening and wish them a good rest of their day.

Community Event Script

- Welcome children to engage in the activity you’ve chosen at your table.
- Once the children are engaged, turn to the adults.
- Ask if they were a Girl Scout or what comes to mind when they hear Girl Scouts mentioned.
- Ask what they would like their daughter to experience or do more of (E.g. less social media, more camping, etc.)
- Did they know that Girl Scouts is for girls in kindergarten – 12th grade?
- Share with them your experiences or tell them about things Girl Scouts do and the benefits of GS (E.g. skill building, college application, scholarships, etc.)
- Ask if they would like to get involved as an adult volunteer.
- Inform them how they can search for a troop in their area by going to the website, clicking ‘Join’ and entering their zip code.
- Ask them if they would like to share their contact info. If not, give them a card or flyer with the Girl Scout website listed.
- Thank them for stopping by your table.

Parent Info Night Script

Introduction:

- Welcome parents, and have them sit in designated areas based on their girl’s grade or level.
- Explain what will happen (presentation/girl activity) and how long meeting will last (45 minutes to one hour).
- Ask girls to join the Girl Scout troop/volunteers at the activity table where they’ll do an activity with a troop/volunteers.
- Ask what they would like their daughter to experience or do more of (E.g. less social media, more camping, etc.)
- Tell your G.I.R.L. Story! Share your experience and communicate your enthusiasm and commitment to the organization or a time you were proud of your girls and saw the benefits of being a G.I.R.L.!

What is a Girl Scout troop?

- A troop is a group of girls who come together as strangers and soon become a group of friends who work together to meet goals they set at their meetings.
- What is needed to start a troop*? (2 adult volunteer leaders, min. 5 girls),
- How does a person become a Girl Scout leader?
  - Become a registered member.
  - Complete background check
  - Training – 30-minute on line orientation and two-hour new leader training given as a webinar or in-person training
  - Average time commitment to be a leader is 8-10 hours a month
* Troop start-up takes time. Consider there to be a "starting period". Be patient and above all have fun!
What do Girl Scouts do?
• **Daisies** (grades K-1) 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, badges and receive participation patches.
• **Brownies** (grades 2-3) 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** (grades 4-5) are big-idea thinkers. They’re explorers at camp, 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, Seniors and Ambassadors** (grades 6-12) take on more of a leadership role each year in their troop as they learn to take on the world. The Silver and Gold Awards are part of their experience, but it doesn’t stop there. They’re trying out career paths, traveling, seeking outdoor adventures. The sky’s the limit.

Where are the meetings?
• Public places like schools, churches, fire halls, or municipal buildings.
• Meetings should be held outside of the home because of the liabilities involved.

When are the meetings? How long are they? How often are they? What months are they?
• Dependent on the leaders availability
• Could be after school, in the evenings or during the weekend
• Every week or every other week, or even once a month
• Troops usually meet anywhere from an hour to two hours
• Many troops meet year-long and often do reduced activities during the summer months (E.g. Movie in the park, ice-cream party, etc.)
• Schedule flexibility is one of the many advantages to being a troop leader

How much does Girl Scouts cost?
• The cost is $40 for girls and $25 for adults. Anyone becoming a Leader will need to pass a background check.
• Troops often charge troop dues which help cover costs of activities and supplies. Typically this is around $25 annually. Once troops are established and have participated in cookies, they will have sufficient money to cover these costs and will no longer need to charge troop dues.
• Girl Scouts also need a uniform which needs to be worn when they represent Girl Scouts in the community, including at cookie booths. Uniforms are available from the Council Girl Scout store and cost between $30-$45
• The Fall Product and Cookie Programs are the primary money-earning activities for a troop. In addition, they help girls build Five Business Skills they’ll use throughout their lives.
• Girl Scouts isn’t free – but it’s one of the least expensive activities to do with your girls and the one activity that she will benefit from the most!
What if a troop isn’t formed today? You can search the troop opportunity catalog for a troop.
- The availability of a troop is based on the availability of leadership. Depending on location and accessibility, troop placement may be available – but really the best opportunity to be involved is if we could start a troop here today!
- Girls can participate in Girl Scouting as a Juliette. These girls participate in Girl Scouting as an Individually Registered Girl Scout, and can be involved in Girl Scouting through their community events and council sponsored events. Girls can also attend camp even if there’s not a troop available at this time.

Closing
- Let adults know what follow up will take place.
- Give parents the opportunity to ask questions.
- Make sure they all signed in and you have their contact information. Make sure the information is legible
- Have their girls tell them what they learned, sing a song or say the promise.
- Thank them all for coming!

Rally with others:
Get Resources & Connect with other Girl Scout Champions

Join our Girl Scout Champion Rally to:
- get access to recruitment materials,
- learn about new recruitment resources as soon as they’re available, and
- connect with other Girl Scout Champions like you to share ideas.

If you’re not already connected, contact Customer Care at customercare@girlscouts-ssc.org or 208-377-2011. We will get you in touch with other Champions in your Service Unit.