

New Leader Roadmap

Your path to getting the most out of your first year as a Girl Scouts of Greater New York (GSGNY) troop leader!

Your **First Year Experience Specialist** will be your guide. They'll be there every step of the way during the onboarding process and will introduce you to your **Volunteer Experience Specialist!**

STEP 1: Register

- Purchase a membership and create a troop.
- Complete a background check.

STEP 2: Start Training

- Sign up for Leader's Guide to Success
Complete the gsLearn Essential Trainings Checklist (located on the reverse side of this page)

Step 3: Plan Your Meetings

- Set your meeting location, time, frequency
- Register your co-leader (troops must be led by two unrelated adults)
- Register youth Girl Scout members
- Create your Year Plan in the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)
- Set up your troop bank account

Step 7: Get the most out of Girl Scouting!

- Attend a Service Unit meeting
- Sign up for council programs and events
- Visit Camp Kaufmann

Step 6: Continue Training

- Explore gsLearn courses relevant to your troop
- Complete trainings that will allow you to take Girl Scouts on camping and overnight trips, CPR and First Aid certification, and other skill trainings held by experienced Girl Scouts staff and volunteers.

Step 5: Connect with Other Volunteers

- Join BAND - a social media platform utilized by GSGNY troop leaders
- Go to a Service Unit Meeting

Step 4: Hold a Caregiver Meeting

- Set expectations
- Collect dues
- Connect adult volunteers with troop roles

gsLearn Essential Training Checklist

General Essentials

- GSUSA Managing My Troops from My Account
- GSUSA Successful Leader Learning Series

Grade Level Essentials

- GSUSA Brownie Grade Level Essentials
- GSUSA Daisy Grade Level Essentials
- GSUSA Junior Grade Level Essentials

Troop Administration

- GSUSA Volunteer Toolkit Troop Leader View
- GSUSA Volunteer Toolkit Troop Finance View
- GSUSA Brand Ambassador 101 for Volunteers

Delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)

- GSUSA Girl Scouts in the Outdoors
- GSUSA Delivering Inclusive Program

FAQ's

Where and when do we meet?

Girl Scouting is super flexible. Co-leaders choose the location, time, and frequency of their troop meetings. You can also have a blended experience – sometimes virtual, sometimes in-person.

How much time will I need to give my troop?

Co-leaders typically spend between 4-8 hours a month planning activities and meeting with their troop, plus 1-2 hours at Service Unit meetings and events.

Do I need to plan everything myself?

No, Girl Scouts provides you with a variety of resources to support the planning process. The Volunteer Tool Kit (VTK) is an online platform that allows you to select and plan level-specific troop activities such as badge earning. You will also receive our email newsletter, The Leader's Tribune, every other week, which will keep you informed about program and training opportunities. Finally, your local Service Unit meetings are the best place to learn what's going on and meet other volunteers with a wealth of Girl Scout knowledge!

What is MyGS?

MyGS is our online member platform. Through MyGS, you can assign troop and volunteer roles, sign up for events, renew your membership, manage communication preferences, update account information, access the VTK, complete gsLearn courses, contact our council, and more.

How much does it cost to volunteer?

All volunteers must purchase an annual Girl Scout membership for \$25 a year and cover their own transportation costs, as well as any other personal volunteering costs (such as Girl Scout apparel). Financial aid is available for membership fees.

Troop dues and Girl Scout Cookie sales can help cover the costs of troop supplies such as badges or craft materials, as well as any leader training that directly benefits the troop (such as CPR/First Aid certification). Most trainings are offered free of charge by Girl Scouts of Greater New York.

Don't see your question here?

Our Customer Experience team is available to help. Call us at (212) 645-4000, Monday–Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm, or email us any time at customerexperience@girlscoutsnyc.org.