



girl scouts
of western ohio



Your Family Guide to Girl Scouts

Girl Scout Leadership Experience

As a Girl Scout, girls are making new friends, gaining new skills, and going on adventures, but they're also learning how to become tomorrow's leaders.

Why the Girl Scout program works

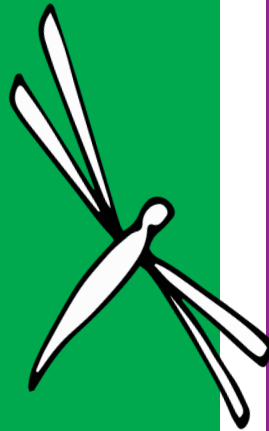
We apply principles and guidelines proven successful by years of research and outcome tracking. It's not just guessing! We work side-by-side with dedicated volunteers (and awesome parents like you) to make sure that all activities are:

- **GIRL LED** - Chosen by girls (with volunteer help)
- **EXPERIENTIAL** - Hands-on and reflective
- **COLLABORATIVE** - Work together on goals

Girl Scout Keys to Leadership

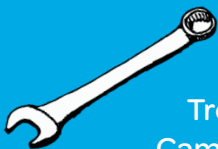
Applying the philosophy above, while also providing girls the right combination of experience and knowledge, is why we are the premiere organization for girls. As a Girl Scout, girls:

- **DISCOVER** their passion
- **CONNECT** with others
- **TAKE ACTION** to create change



Customize her experience

Girls today are balancing sports, music, faith, family, and more. At Girl Scouts, we offer flexible schedules and a variety of ways for girls to get involved with us. Referred to as pathways, we are able to provide a customized experience that is just right for your daughter. No matter how many track meets, band practices, or Quiz Bowl sessions she has, we can find an option that works for her and for you!



Options include:

Troops - The traditional way to connect

Camp - Stay for a day, a week, or all summer!

Series - Usually 6 to 8 week sessions on one specific topic

Events - One time opportunities to try out Girl Scouts

Destinations - Travel locally and around the world

Individuals/Juliettes - Girls can pick a specific path to explore

55,398
Total Members

42,183 girls

13,215 volunteers

150 staff



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.

Grade levels

daisies
K-1

juniors
4-5

seniors
9-10

brownies
2-3

cadettes
6-8

ambassadors
11-12

Letter from our CEO

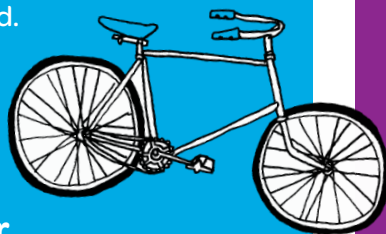


Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to do something amazing! As a Girl Scout, your daughter can find her wow through fun and exciting activities. The possibilities are endless and include adventures like camping, dancing, painting, staying

overnight in a museum, and much more. She'll discover what she likes and what she's passionate about. She'll make new friends as she learns valuable lessons about diversity, courage, and compassion. In the company of caring adults, she'll be inspired to make a difference in her community and change the world! Girls are brighter together as Girl Scouts.

We're so glad to have you and your daughter as a valuable part of our sisterhood.

Roni Luckenbill
Chief Executive Officer



We are one of the top 10 councils in the NATION!

Diversity and Inclusion

Girl Scouts is for every girl, everywhere! We value diversity and inclusiveness, and do not discriminate on any basis. It all started with our founder, Juliette Gordon Low. We're proud to continue the tradition today. We serve girls in urban and rural neighborhoods, homeless and domestic violence shelters, foster care, inner-city schools, and more. We have a long history of adapting to girls with disabilities, special needs, and chronic illnesses. We believe every girl should have the chance to be a Girl Scout.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program

When you buy Girl Scout Cookies, you make adventures possible! Through the funds they raise, girls go on exciting adventures, give back to their community, make new friends, and more. Girls have even saved up enough money to travel to Europe through their hard work and dedication. The possibilities are truly endless, once a girl puts her mind to it. All girls can participate in the program, which runs from January to March. Find out more at gsw.org/cookies.

The Five Skills

More important than the funds they raise, girls learn valuable skills that will help them succeed in life. We encourage people to buy directly from a girl (not her parents), and ask her questions about the program. Why is she selling them? What is her goal? Her favorite variety? Asking these questions will help her learn:

- Business ethics
- Decision making
- Goal setting
- Money management
- People skills



Fall product

The Girl Scout Fall Product Program is a sale of nuts, candy, or magazines primarily to family and friends. It's a great way for troops to start earning funds for their next adventure right away! Girls can also practice the Five Skills and earn fun rewards.

Operation Cookie

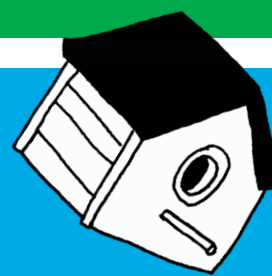
Every year, we partner with Heroes in Action and donate cookies to military members and their families serving overseas and here at home. Troops can also choose groups like local food banks, Ronald McDonald House, or homeless shelters to receive donated boxes of cookies. The girls keep the proceeds and it's a win for everyone!

Camp - Choose your adventure!

Camping is a great way for girls to explore leadership, build skills, and develop a deep appreciation for nature. We have a variety of facilities for girls to choose from. They can create their own unique experience, including archery, swimming, watercrafts, or hiking. There are dozens of options available. For many girls, camp is the first time they will be doing things on their own.

It's a great way for them to learn how to be self-sufficient and independent while making new friends and having a blast! All girls can sign up for camp (grades K-12), regardless if they are in a troop.

Visit gsw.org/camp for more information.



Summer Resident Camp

Overnight camping for one night or a week at one of our camp facilities

Day Camp

3-5 day camp for girls to attend during the day

Troop Camping

2-3 day camping (often including overnights) with a girl's troop



Volunteers - Our greatest asset!

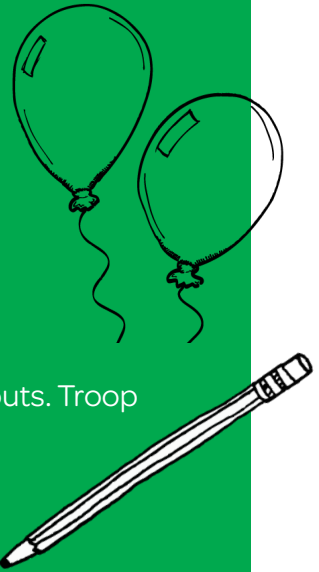
Girls aren't the only ones that get to go on adventures in Girl Scouts. Adults who lead the way as volunteers offer their time and talents (not to mention hearts), as girls discover their passion, connect with others, and take action to make our communities better. We often hear adults say they feel that they have grown and learned just as much as the girls. Why don't you join them and reap the benefits too?

The Troop Leadership Team

Each Girl Scout troop needs several adults to make their adventures possible. It takes a dedicated team working together to bring fascinating and engaging opportunities to the girls. The main person you'll work with most often is the Troop Leader. The primary leader works with girls to plan and manage the troop's activities. The second-in-command is the Troop Assistant. This person helps the leader with tasks such as driving a vehicle on troop trips, managing the troop's bank account, facilitating Fall Product or Cookie Program participation, or leading the troop on campouts. Troop Helpers are the next member of the leadership team for the troop. They occasionally lend a hand at troop meetings and activities.

Plug in!

In addition to the leadership opportunities outlined above, many other volunteer roles are available. There is something to fit everyone's interests (and schedule!)



Service Units

Service units are made up of all the Girl Scouts in a geographic area. It usually consists of three or more neighboring communities. Volunteers in a service unit work together to support one another and provide as many awesome opportunities as possible to the girls in their area. By pooling their resources and connections, they can expand the availability of fun programs to a larger number of girls.

Circles

To widen that net of support and opportunity, service units work together in even larger groups called circles to host big events for both girls and adults. Common circle activities include ceremonies, learning opportunities, and outdoor experiences like camp. Stay tuned for cool opportunities for the girl in your life!

Sign up for fun!

Join your girl for all the laughs and adventure Girl Scouting has to offer—it's easy! You'll be able to view all the volunteer opportunities available in your area and read brief descriptions of what is involved in the role.

Join the adventure at
gsw.org/volunteer/





Highest Awards

By putting in service hours above-and-beyond their traditional troop time, and developing community projects about topics that matter to them, girls can work to earn their Gold, Silver, or Bronze Award. Local girls have created a dog park, held community book drives, helped senior citizens learn new technology, and more.

These rewarding experiences teach girls resume building skills, expand scholarship opportunities, and often lead to employment and military service advantages later in life.

Gold Award

Seniors and Ambassadors (grades 9-12)

Silver Award

Cadettes (grades 6-8)

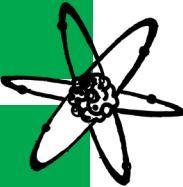
Bronze Award

Juniors (grades 4-5)



Making the world a better place

Being a Girl Scout means giving back to the community. From our selfless volunteers, to service projects with local nonprofits, to respecting diversity and inclusion, Girl Scouts make the world a better place!



Alumnae

Half of all adult women are Girl Scout alumnae. That's 59 million women. Wow! Others include:

- 85% of Congresswomen
- 52% of all female business owners
- Every female astronaut who went to space
- Madeleine Albright, Sandra Day O'Connor, Barbara Walters, Dionne Warwick, Taylor Swift, and more!

Are you an alumnae? Stay in touch with us by signing up at gsw.org/alumnae.



Connect with us!



LIVE UNITED

United Way

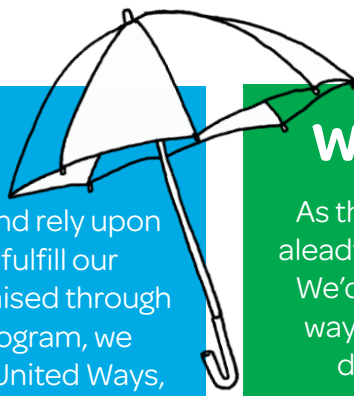


Community Partner

Financials

We are a nonprofit organization and rely upon the generosity of the public to fulfill our mission. In addition to proceeds raised through the annual Girl Scout Cookie Program, we receive support from many local United Ways, grants, foundations, and donors.

All funds directly support girls through a variety of outlets including council activities, financial assistance, volunteer training and screening, print materials like this guide, maintenance of our council properties and camps, new technology, Girl Scout activities to low income neighborhoods, and more.



Welcome to the family

As the family member of a Girl Scout, you are already officially part of our Girl Scout family too! We'd love to get to know you. There are many ways you can get involved and support your daughter as she continues her journey.

1

Volunteer!

Check out the volunteer section here in the guide, or visit gsw.org/volunteer.

2

Support the Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Sale Programs!

Help with delivery, encourage her to connect with other people, and ask her what she's learning.

3

Give to Family Partnership!

This campaign offers an opportunity for families to give back to Girl Scouts financially, and includes fun special events like the Thin Mint Sprint. Contact your troop leader or visit gsw.org/familypartnership.

It costs \$278 to provide Girl Scouts to one girl.



Out-of-pocket costs



We cover a very large percentage of the costs associated with Girl Scouting, so the amount you pay is relatively small. You'll decide with the troop which charges you'll incur. Below are a few of the common items you may be asked to contribute funds to cover:

- **Uniform** - This is not required, but many girls enjoy wearing them and using them to display their earned badges.
 - **Books** - A variety of Girl Scout official program books (such as Girl Scout Journeys) are used by troops to facilitate the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This is especially helpful for new troops. You can find these for sale in the Council Shop.
 - **Camp/trips/overnighters** - The excitement in Girl Scouts rests heavily with the fun outings and trips girls take to places they've never been to before. The cost of these trips vary widely and are often covered all or in part by proceeds raised through the Girl Scout Cookie or Fall Product Programs.
 - **Badges/patches** - These are the tokens girls earn for their hard work and display proudly on their official uniform. Not mandatory, but girls love collecting them.
- Activity supplies** - Much like other trips, but on a smaller scale. You may be asked to contribute supplies for activities, or provide a small fee to cover the cost for the volunteers to buy them for all girls.

Financial Assistance

Every girl should have the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts! Financial assistance is available for girls who qualify.

Visit gsw.org/financialassistance.



Quick contact info

Save all of your important contact information in one safe place!

TROOP LEADER _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

SERVICE UNIT CHAIR _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Customer Service

Have questions?
Need help?

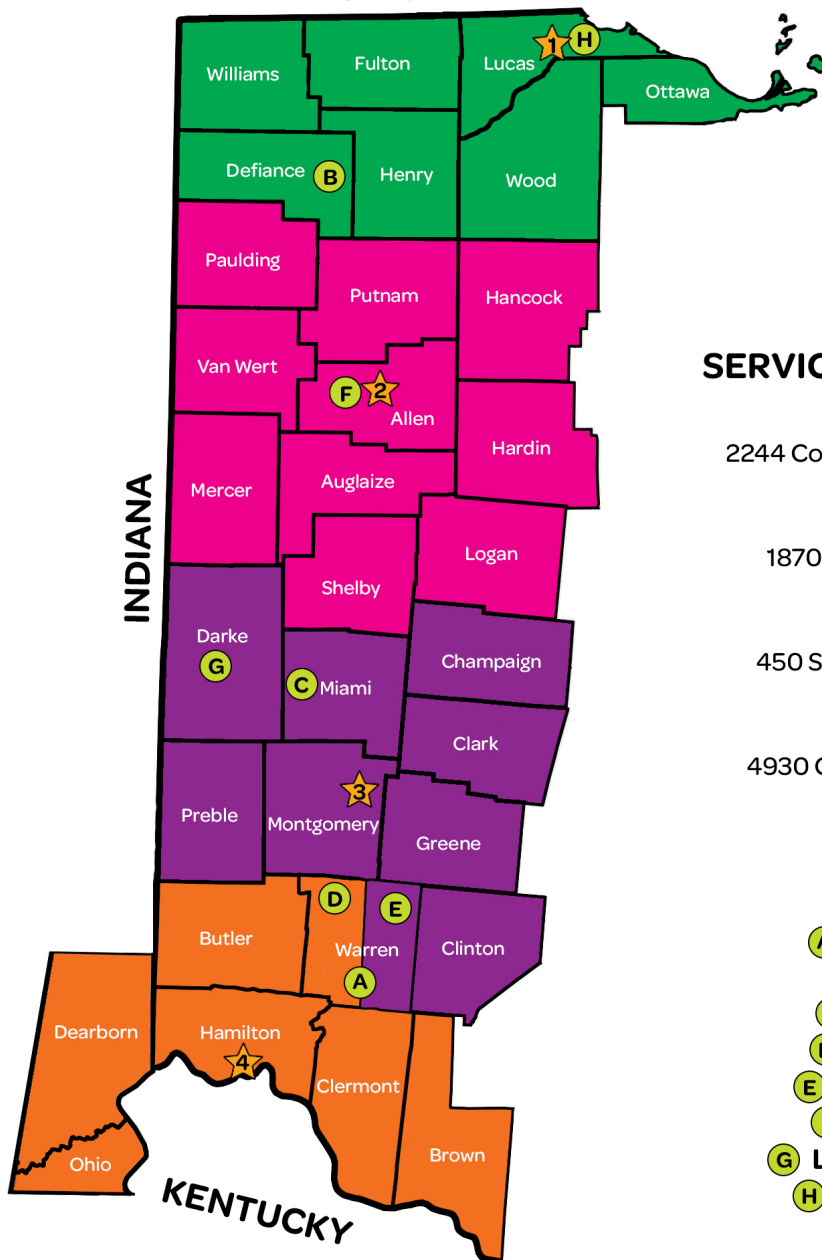
We're here to respond to your questions and get you connected with the information and resources you need.

Open 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. M-F
(until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays)

888.350.5090

customerservice@gsw.org

MICHIGAN



SERVICE CENTERS AND SHOPS

★ Toledo

2244 Collingwood Blvd, Toledo, OH 43620
419.243.8216

★ Lima

1870 W. Robb Ave, Lima, OH 45805
419.225.4085

★ Dayton

450 Shoup Mill Rd, Dayton, OH 45415
937.275.7601

★ Cincinnati

4930 Cornell Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45242
513.489.2015

CAMPS

- Ⓐ Camp Butterworth
- Ⓑ Camp Libbey
- Ⓒ Camp Rolling Hills
- Ⓓ Camp Stonybrook
- Ⓔ Camp Whip Poor Will
- Ⓕ Camp Woodhaven
- Ⓖ Little House - Greenville
- Ⓗ Little House - Toledo