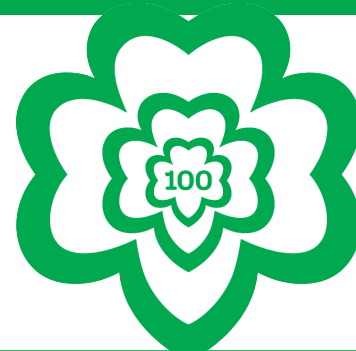




# ***A Parent's Guide*** **To Girl Scouts of Western Ohio**





# CEO Message

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Barbara Bonifas

Dear Parent,

If you listen to the news or read a newspaper, you are aware that the world is changing and these changes affect the expectations of girls, you as parents, and the community. Girl Scouting is also aware that many changes are taking place locally and across the globe, and our Girl Scout

program materials are being updated to reflect current girl activities. However, the foundation that Girl Scouting was built on has not changed, and this coming year, 2012, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting.

Girl Scouting has always been and continues to be a place where girls are engaged in fun opportunities that also provide girls with a small group learning environment, where they develop decision-making and critical thinking skills through a process of group planning, implementing, and reflecting on their activities. It is a place where girls can explore the world around them while remaining firmly grounded in the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. It is these principles that made Girl Scouting successful in 1912 and these principles are even more critical today. "To be successful in the 21st century, children and youth need access to experiences... that will help them develop the skills to understand, interpret, and utilize knowledge in the 'real world'."<sup>1</sup> Girl Scouts prepare girls for today and tomorrow by providing this type of learning experience. Through Girl Scouting, girls:

- Develop a strong sense of self
- Gain practical life skills, such as problem solving, critical thinking, and conflict resolution
- Gain an understanding of the importance of community service
- Set goals and develop plans to reach her goals
- Know people who are different than herself
- Feel good about herself
- Think that learning is fun

Thank you for allowing the Girl Scouts to support your daughter on her life journey.

*Barbara*

<sup>1</sup> The Harvard Family Research Project Evaluation Exchange, "Supplementary Education: The Hidden Curriculum of High Academic Achievement," Spring 2005

## New Online Registration

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio is going green, saving paper and getting tech savvy! eBiz online registration opens **August 1, 2011, for purchasing annual membership renewals and registering for program opportunities including camp.** eBiz online registration is quick, easy and convenient. Credit and debit card information is processed in a secure transaction. eBiz provides the council with accurate spelling and contact information. It helps reduce paper use and mailing costs and is more environmentally friendly.

Parents and guardians will have the ability to re-register their daughters through eBiz at their convenience once the daughter's account is activated. Parents must activate their daughter's accounts prior to using eBiz. Instructions on how to activate an account are on the website. Visa/MasterCard/Discover and American Express are accepted online. Paper registration forms may still be submitted with cash, Cookie Dough or Juliette Credits.

Another advantage to registering by eBiz online for program opportunities is that with registration opening at 12:01 a.m. on the open registration date, all eBiz purchases transact immediately and therefore placement in a program opportunity is immediate. There is no waiting for council staff to process paper registrations the next day and hope there are still openings. You know right away that your daughter is in the program activity by the printable order summary at the end of your transaction. Also, when logged in to your account, you can view the girl's entire order history. If purchasing a renewing annual membership, an annual membership card can be printed out when your order is complete.

Opportunities for donating through eBiz will also be available. More details will be forthcoming.

Thank you for helping support this initiative and using our new eBiz online registration system. For more information contact your regional Girl Scout Center.



## New Website

We are excited to announce that we are developing a new website. User-friendly and interactive, the new website is scheduled to go live **August 1, 2011.** The link is the same: [www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org](http://www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org).



# Get Involved in HER Girl Scout Experience!



Are you interested in creating lasting change and making a difference in your community? There are many ways that you as an adult family member can be involved with your daughter's troop or group and even on a community or council level.

## **Involvement at the troop/group level:**

You can make an impact in your daughter's Girl Scout experience simply by volunteering for as little as one hour per month by:

- Providing transportation for trips
- Making telephone calls
- Keeping troop records
- Creating a troop newsletter
- Assisting with badge activities

You can also take on an even more exciting role as:

- Leader
- Assistant leader
- Troop treasurer
- Troop cookie manager
- Series volunteer (six to eight sessions)

For more details on how you can help within your daughter's troop or group, contact her leader.



## **Involvement at the community level:**

Communities within Girl Scouts of Western Ohio are divided into what are called "service units." There are many unique and rewarding opportunities available within service units for parents:

- Recruiting girls and adults to the organization
- Coaching and mentoring leaders
- Coordinating Girl Scout Cookie activities
- Ensuring girls and adults are registered
- Publicizing local Girl Scout achievements

If you are interested in making a difference in your daughter's service unit, contact your regional Girl Scout Center.

## **Involvement at the council level:**

There are many ways for parents to contribute at the council level. One of the easiest ways is by making a donation to the Family Partnership Campaign, which helps to ensure girls get the best Girl Scout experience possible. You can also help by:

- Volunteering time to train adult volunteers
- Assisting with fund development or cookie sales
- Working with camp or program activities
- Being a part of a special project task group.

For more information on volunteering for Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, contact your regional Girl Scout Center.

## **Four Easy Steps to Becoming a Girl Scout Volunteer**

1. Complete a volunteer application and background check, available at [www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org](http://www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org) by clicking on "Get Involved" and then "Volunteer Opportunities."
2. Connect with other Girl Scout volunteers in your community.
3. Prepare for your role through trainings (online or in person).
4. Join in the fun!



# Girl Scout Leadership Experience

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Girl Scouts provides, as it always has, the best opportunities for girls to get the experiences and tools they need to be successful leaders now and throughout their lives. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience engages girls in:

- **Discovering** themselves
- **Connecting** with others
- **Taking action** to make the world a better place.

These discoveries happen through the Girl Scout program, which is intentionally designed to be:

- **Girl-Led**—by the girls, for the girls.
- **Experiential**—learning by doing.
- **Cooperative**—working in small groups and teams.

With their Girl Scout leaders, girls team with one another to implement their own troop activities, based on **their** interests. In addition to helping girls take ownership of their experience, Girl Scout leaders ensure all activities are grade-appropriate and based on the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, as well as on the Girl Scout Promise and Law. They encourage each girl to express her feelings and ideas in this all-girl, girl-led environment and to build leadership skills through the girl/adult planning approach.

Regardless of her unique interests, your daughter will find a special place in Girl Scouting where she can make a difference. Whether it's working on a local community service project, traveling abroad for diverse learning experiences or attending summer camp, she will develop memories and skills to last a lifetime.

## The Girl Scout Mission

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

## The Council Goals

Girls will understand themselves and their values.

Girls will use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.

Girls will care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally.

Girls will act to make the world a better place.

## The 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.

## The 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 Journeys

A Girl Scout journey is a fun and challenging experience spread over a series of sessions, with designated skills a girl develops as the outcome of her participation. Each themed and grade-specific journey has a clear starting point (an invitation to explore and take action) and a finite ending point (opportunities to enjoy closure through reflections, rewards and celebration). Throughout their Girl Scout journey experience, girls and volunteers are guided by a series of grade-specific books that help facilitate activities and foster discussions.

There are three leadership journey series and each series is comprised of six journeys—one for each grade level in Girl Scouting. Below is a description of each journey.

***It's Your World—Change It!*** journeys engage girls in:

- A critical thinking process related to identifying and researching issues they care about.
- Developing community networks and creating and implementing plans to take action.

***It's Your Planet—Love It!*** journeys invite Girl Scouts of every age on an adventure to:

- Explore the wonders of Earth as they enjoy the natural world.
- Investigate the science that keeps our Earth—and us—spinning.

***It's Your Story—Tell It!*** journeys use a storytelling theme in a fun and grade-level relevant way for Girl Scouts to:

- Better understand themselves and their potential.
- Develop media literacy and creative expression through a variety of arts, including performing, visual, culinary and new media.

No matter how much time girls spend on a journey, the whole is always greater than any single part. So when a Girl Scout journey comes to a close, girls and their adult guides truly feel a sense of accomplishment.

## ***The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting***

In addition to the resources created for leadership journeys, in September 2011, Girl Scouts of the USA will debut *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*. Girls at every grade level will have the option to purchase their own *Girl's Guide*. Through fun activities girls can earn a variety of badges to build the skills and gain the confidence they'll use to change the world. *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* will include: a variety of badge offerings, handbook sections covering traditions and history, cookie badges, an awards log and much more.

## ***E-News: Sign Up Now to Stay Informed***

Do you receive E-News from Girl Scouts of Western Ohio? E-News contains the most up-to-date information on program events, training, product sales, camp and much more. It's a great way as a parent to be in the know about what's going on beyond your daughter's troop!

By signing up for E-News, you will receive on-going information that is pertinent to your selected areas of interest in a timely fashion!

Visit [www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org](http://www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org) to sign up.

## ***100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting***

In 2012, Girl Scouts will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary! There are many activities planned both nationwide and locally. At Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, our goal is to have flexible ways for girls to participate in celebrating. We are planning exciting activities and events, including three councilwide events as well as other activities for girls and for their families. Details will be posted on our website, Facebook page and blog as they are finalized.

In addition, be sure to join the Girl Scout Alumnae Association and choose Girl Scouts of Western Ohio as your council. Visit <http://alumnae.girlscouts.org/> to join. All adult Girl Scouts (18 years and older), including former Brownies, former and current volunteers, and former and current Girl Scout staff can register for the Online Alumnae Community. This is the place to reconnect with old friends, make new ones and learn about plans for the 100th Anniversary!



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Tell me about Girl Scouts of Western Ohio.**

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio is a council that serves more than 53,000 girls in a 32 county area throughout western Ohio and southeastern Indiana. Nearly 14,000 trained volunteers work to provide services and deliver the Girl Scout program to girls. Four regional Girl Scout Centers are located in Cincinnati, Dayton, Lima and Toledo (see back cover for contact information).

## **Why should my daughter join Girl Scouts?**

Imagine a new generation of leaders. Who lead in a new way. Who lead by principle rather than pride. Who care what leadership is for, more than who it's for. Who step across barriers of class and race every day. Who seek out the work that needs doing in the world. And bring boundless energy to every challenge. They are today's Girl Scouts.

Wherever girls live, whatever their circumstances, we help them learn to be safe, think for themselves, and lead the way for others. Leadership experiences for girls are what make Girl Scouting unique. We help every girl discover who she can be and what she can do, wherever she chooses to put her energies.

The journey begins with the Girl Scout environment itself. A girl's leadership blooms among other girls—away from school pressures, social cliques, and boys—where she can be herself and try new things. In Girl Scouts, activities are girl-led. She learns by doing, and the learning is cooperative, not competitive.

To discover who she can be, she needs access to wise adults who both inspire her and respect her. Our volunteers do this every day. To discover what she can do, she needs participation opportunities as varied as the world—so she can “try on” different leadership roles and grow into the ones that fit her best. Girl Scouting provides these opportunities.



## **What are the grade levels/names of Girl Scouts?**

Girls in grade levels kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade can join as girl members. Each level of membership offers new, fun, and exciting experiences and discoveries. The grade levels are:

**Girl Scout Daisies: Grades K -1**

**Girl Scout Brownies: Grades 2-3**

**Girl Scout Juniors: Grades 4-5**

**Girl Scout Cadettes: Grades 6-8**

**Girl Scout Seniors: Grades 9-10**

**Girl Scout Ambassadors: Grades 11-12**

As girls progress in Girl Scouts, they gain new skills and experiences, so the longer a girl participates, the more she gains from her experience.

## **How can my daughter get involved?**

Girls can become involved in Girl Scouting in a variety of ways; these are referred to as the Girl Scout Pathways. The pathways recognize that different girls have different personal strengths, skills and interests, and offer flexibility for girls and parents to determine how they will participate in Girl Scouting. The pathways include the following:

- **Troops:** Series of program activities with the same group of girls; typically spans the length of a school year.
- **Camp:** Day and resident camps; the essence is out-of-doors and/or includes a focus on environmental or outdoor education.
- **Events:** Girls participate in local or councilwide events; different girls participate each time.
- **Series:** Girls participate in a series of program activities with the same group of girls relating to a specific theme or purpose.
- **Travel:** Girls plan, earn money, prepare, and participate in regional, national, and international trips.

## **Are uniforms required in Girl Scouts?**

Uniforms are not required for participation in Girl Scouting. Girls are encouraged to wear a uniform for visibility and to demonstrate their Girl Scout spirit. Some troops choose to purchase uniforms, others make group T-shirts, still others allow each girl to decide for herself what her uniform will be. A girl is always welcome to participate in Girl Scouting whether or not she chooses to wear a uniform.

## **How often should I expect my daughter's troop or group to meet?**

How often a troop or group meets depends on a variety of factors, including the availability of the meeting place and the schedules of the leaders and girls. Usually groups meet for an hour or two, from once a week to once a month. Many troops meet every other week. Occasional activities may involve longer time commitments, such as field trips and camp outs.



**How much does Girl Scouts cost?**

Girl Scout membership fees are \$12 per year—that fee goes directly to Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and does not stay with Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. Most troops also collect dues or program activity fees to support their needs, as well as participate in council sponsored money-earning activities, such as the Girl Scout Cookie Sale. Participation in Girl Scouting should not be expensive for girls and their families, as Girl Scout troops have the opportunity to earn funds through the Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Sales and through other money-earning projects.

**Does my daughter have to earn badges?**

A Girl Scout is not required to earn badges; in fact badges are just one way a girl can demonstrate the progression of skills she has attained in Girl Scouting. The experiences she has and the skills and abilities she gains are what will last a lifetime.

**My daughter has a disability. Will she be allowed to join Girl Scouts?**

Girl Scouting does not discriminate on any basis, including disability. In fact the founder of Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low, had a severe hearing disability. Girls of varying abilities enjoy participating in Girl Scouting and we have a long history of adapting activities for girls who have special needs, including those who have physical or mental disabilities and those who are chronically ill.

**Does Girl Scouts have a particular religious affiliation?**

Girl Scouts does not endorse or promote any particular philosophy or religious belief. Our movement is secular and is founded on American democratic principles, one of which is freedom of religion. We welcome Girl Scouts from diverse backgrounds. Girl Scouts of Western Ohio is committed to supporting girls in their journey to become stronger members of their own faith communities.

**Who is leading my daughter's troop/group? Will my daughter be safe?**

Leaders are appointed on a yearly basis after completing training, both general and specific, for the age of girls they are leading. They have all passed a background check and are required to follow stringent rules governing safety/supervision issues. Girl Scout leaders undergo comprehensive training to enable them not only to conduct activities in a safe manner, but to make each girl feel safe and secure in the troop environment. Leaders often have daughters of their own in their troops. Of course, parents are encouraged to register and participate with the troop in its activities.

**I have questions about my daughter's troop. Who do I ask?**

Your first step is to communicate with the troop or group leader. Ask the leader to meet with you when it is convenient for both of you. Ask her to share the goals of the troop and how these goals fit into the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Ask her to explain why certain policies and procedures were put into place. The leader is a great resource for you—she is volunteering her time to ensure that your daughter and the rest of the troop or group members have the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouting.

If you have concerns that the troop or group leader cannot address, please contact your regional Girl Scout Center.

**How can I get financial assistance?**

To request financial assistance, please speak with your daughter's leader or contact your regional Girl Scout Center. Financial assistance is available to ensure that every girl is able to participate. No girl is denied membership because of inability to pay. Approximately, one-fourth of girls in Girl Scouting receive financial assistance.

**How can I thank my daughter's troop leader?**

Leaders are an essential part of the Girl Scout movement, making a difference everyday in the lives of girls. Recognize your leader for their donation of time and talent, and show them how much you appreciate their efforts. There are many ways to thank your leader, here are a few:

- Nominate him or her for a national award or council award (see *Adult Recognitions in Girl Scouting*).
- Give a sincere word of thanks or a personalized note of appreciation.
- Offer to help with your daughter's troop by sharing a special talent or skill.
- Celebrate Leader Appreciation Day on April 22. Thank your leader for the difference she/he has made to your daughter's life.
- Participate in the Honor Your Leader Campaign by making a tax-deductible gift. This is an opportunity to thank a dedicated volunteer while simultaneously supporting Girl Scouts of Western Ohio.

Remember, showing appreciation doesn't have to be once a year. You can thank your daughter's troop leader each time you see them.



# Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Sales

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Twice a year, Girl Scouts have the opportunity to learn life skills and earn money for troop activities through the Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Sales.

Each winter, Girl Scouts participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Sale. Girl Scouts of Western Ohio is proud to be working with Little Brownie Bakers again for the 2012 cookie sale. Little Brownie Bakers has more than 35 years of experience serving Girl Scouts through the annual cookie sale.

Girl Scouts have the opportunity to sell cookies in a variety of ways that are age-appropriate. They may sell to family and friends, neighbors, throughout the community and even through booth sales at local businesses.

The Girl Scout Fall Product Sale is a “family and friends” sale, where girls sell nuts, candy and magazines primarily to family and friends. It is a great way for troops to earn start-up funds while giving girls practice in goal setting, customer service and financial literacy.

The key to both of these program activities is that they are “girl led.” Girls set goals and decide how the troop will spend the earnings. Through democratic processes at the troop level, girls work as a team to decide how troop proceeds are best utilized. They develop a plan to use the earnings to turn their dreams into reality by planning for camp, service project and special activities together.

Through the Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Sales, girls learn:

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



These skills and activities support the Girl Scout Leadership Experience by providing girls a way to Discover, Connect and Take Action.

By participating in both product sales you are supporting your daughter’s Girl Scout troop, your community or service unit and the council. All monies from product sales stay with Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. Here are some of the ways this money is used is:

1. More than \$358,000 is used to pay for membership, programs and camps for girls whose families were experiencing financial concerns. Without this support many girls would not have the opportunity to have a Girl Scout experience.
2. Almost \$80,000 was used to pay for resident camp expenses so the cost of the camp experience was affordable for families.
3. More than \$2 million was earned by troops in troop proceeds last year. This money is vital to the troop to pay for events, programs and supplies.

We know that you, as parents, are asked to participate in fundraising for schools and athletic activities. You do this to support your child and the organization they are part of—please remember that Girl Scouts is one of these organizations. We rely on your participation to continue the Girl Scout mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Parents play an important role in both sales. Whether it’s mentoring your daughter or transporting Girl Scout Cookies, you can help your daughter’s troop be successful. Be sure to ask your daughter’s troop leader how you can help.

For more information about Girl Scout Product Sales, visit these websites: [www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org](http://www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org), [www.littlebrownie.com](http://www.littlebrownie.com) (Little Brownie Bakers, our Girl Scout Cookie baker), or [www.ashdonfarmsgsi.com](http://www.ashdonfarmsgsi.com) (Ashdon Farms, our Girl Scout Fall Product vendor).



## Benefits of the Family Partnership Campaign

*My daughter is in seventh grade and has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten. When she was ready to go to camp, I was not working. My husband and I have two children—only one year apart—and we couldn't afford to send them both to camp. How could one go and not the other? We were grateful to receive financial assistance from Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, so that she could go to camp.*



*Girl Scouting and especially Girl Scout summer camp has made a big difference in my daughter's growth and development. It has helped her self-confidence and problem-solving abilities. We rarely hear her say phrases like, "I can't," and she never gives up when she encounters a problem. Instead she says, "I can," and "I will." She finds a way to solve issues; she thinks through what needs to be done and does it. I attribute this to her positive Girl Scout camp experience. In addition, she comes home from camp with memories and experiences to share and is able to do things at camp that she wouldn't do at home.*



*We are deeply appreciative for all the opportunities Girl Scouts has given our daughter. I want to encourage everyone to give to the Family Partnership Campaign. We give as we can and I hope you will too. Giving makes a difference. The more you give, the more it multiplies.*

*—Mother of a seventh grade Girl Scout and service unit volunteer*

## Today Girl Scout Alumnae Make Up:

- 80 percent of women business owners.
- 69 percent of female U.S. senators.
- 67 percent of female members of the House of Representatives.
- Nearly every female astronaut who has flown in space.

— GSUSA

## Your financial support helps to ensure that:

- Every girl who wants to participate in Girl Scouting has the opportunity to do so.
- Your daughter's troop leader has access to the resources she needs to be a trained, knowledgeable Girl Scout volunteer.
- When your daughter goes to a Girl Scouts of Western Ohio camp, she will be using facilities that are well-maintained, safe and accessible.
- The Girl Scout Leadership Experience thrives in our community for years to come.

## How can you support Girl Scouts of Western Ohio?

Simply check the "contributions" circle on your membership registration form and submit your donation with your membership form. You can even include your donation on the same check with your membership fee. Or you can simply mail a contribution to your regional Girl Scout Center. Make sure to put "Family Partnership Campaign" in the memo line of your check.

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

# Financial Facts

## ***Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA)***

Did you know that the \$12 annual Girl Scout membership fee pays for registration into our national organization GSUSA? It does not remain with Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. GSUSA utilizes membership fees, as well as funding from other sources, to provide a variety of services, including: developing new program opportunities for girls; providing grants to local councils for innovative program opportunities; and assisting local councils with management, human resource, and membership questions or issues.

## ***Girl Scouts of Western Ohio***

### ***What does it cost to keep a girl in Girl Scouts?***

We estimate that \$300-400 is spent per individual Girl Scout every year. This amount includes dollars spent at the council level to supplement program opportunities, financial aid and other related expenses. It also includes money contributed by parents toward activities and money earned by the troop to help defer costs for each girl.

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio provides approximately a 50 percent subsidy for every council-sponsored program activity (including resident camp, Troop Adventure Camp, Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Conference, and many more). In addition to these direct service expenses, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio incurs many other costs, such as:

- **Financial assistance to girls and troops in need**
- **Training of volunteers, including specialized training for issues such as behavior management and conflict resolution**
- **Volunteer screening/background checks**
- **Communication resources including newsletters, the council website and Facebook page, and the summer opportunities brochure**
- **Maintenance of 10 camp properties and four regional Girl Scout Centers**

Non-profit standards state that an organization is managed well if it spends 70 percent of its funds on direct service to clients. In 2010, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio spent 83 percent of its total budget on direct program services for girls.

### ***What makes up the council's funding?***

Many people think the Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Sales provide all the funding the council needs. This is by no means the case. United Way contributions, program fees, investment income, grants and contributions, sales of supplies and other miscellaneous revenue are also important to the budget. The continued support of those who believe in the Girl Scout Mission, Promise and Law, including volunteers and parents of our girl members, is critical in maintaining a financially sound Girl Scout council.

## ***Troop/Group Finances***

In Girl Scouts there are financial policies and standards that govern all troop/group monies. (For more information on these policies, please ask your leader.) Troops generally pay for troop program-related items, such as:

- **Recognition items like badges and awards**
- **Troop meeting activities, field trips and troop camping**

Financial management is one of the many areas of experiential learning that Girl Scouting provides for girls. By working as a team to plan their activities and develop budgets, girls will gain an understanding of money management, a skill that can be carried into their adult lives. Activities such as bringing/collecting troop dues, creating budgets for special activities, and voting on how to spend funds teach girls to live financially-educated and responsible lives. The Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Sales also provide girls with the opportunity to budget, to set goals and to gain the leadership skills to become the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

## ***Financial Assistance in Girl Scouting***

No girl should ever be denied the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts because of financial need. Funding is available to ensure all girls have access to program activities, membership fees, handbooks, etc. Talk with your daughter's leader or contact your regional Girl Scout Center for more information.





### The Benefits of a Camp Experience

Summer resident camp is a long-standing Girl Scout tradition. Ask any girl who's been to camp and she'll have a story to tell, a memory to recount. Summer resident camp can be a powerful experience for a girl. Staying overnight, away from home, out in nature with others teaches invaluable lessons. Girls learn to work together, make choices, take responsibility, build independence and self-reliance and gain confidence.

By participating in camp, girls gain a sense of achievement and belonging, and have a heightened sense of self-worth. They learn to share, to assume responsibility and to cooperate more effectively with others. Girls are given the opportunity to think and make decisions. Indeed, participation in camp gives a girl the sense of competence that equates with a sense of confidence.

Camp is an honored Girl Scout tradition for good reason. Lasting long after the summer ends, the benefits of a summer resident camp experience will remain with a girl indefinitely.



### Camping Opportunities

- **Day Camp**—a three to five day camp (usually themed) for girls to attend just during the day.
- **Family Camp**—one or two nights for girls and an adult chaperone or the entire family.
- **Troop Adventure Camp (TAC)**—overnight troop camping for two or three nights, with activities led by camp staff.
- **Resident Camp**—overnight camping for three nights or a week at one of our camp facilities.
- **One-two week Adventure/Travel Camp**—overnight camping for one or two weeks, beginning at one of our camps, proceeding to an adventure location, and ending back at one of our camps (for experienced campers).
- **Camp Leadership Opportunities**—for girls who are ready to give others the camp experience, these are opportunities such as counselor-in-training.

### Parent Spotlight

Camping and outdoor activities have always been a part Steve and Char Sherman's lives, so when their daughter Stephanie was able to join Girl Scout Daisies they both jumped in and haven't looked back. Over the years Char has been a "cookie mom," co-leader and service unit registrar. Her favorite memories will always be the trips—to Camp Libbey, Hocking Hills and even Chicago. The girls have all flourished and Char says, "it is so awesome to see the 'ah ha' moment when they accomplish something, like building a fire or making a meal."



The girls in the troop earned their Girl Scout Bronze Award, with several of the girls also earning the God and Family Religious Award. One of the highlights of each year with their service unit is the Leader/Daughter Weekend at Camp Libbey. Char was filled with pride when two girls spontaneously became the leaders at the evening camp fire—building a great fire and leading songs until their voices were hoarse!

Char feels that Girl Scouts is part of the fabric of her family's life. She quickly learned how fast childhood goes, is so grateful to know that she played a role in making her daughter's Girl Scout memories and know the funny stories and jokes—the "you had to be there to understand" stories! Char reports that "it's been a fantastic experience to be with my child as she grows into the confident young woman she is today, to keep her grounded in faith and the principles we want her to embrace and yet provide the opportunity to soar."

Char's involvement in Girl Scouting is so appreciated, as access to wise adults is important to girls as they grow and develop. We thank Char and her family and everyone involved in Girl Scouting for your dedication.



**girl scouts**   
of western ohio

# Regional Centers

## Cincinnati

4930 Cornell Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242  
T: (513) 489-1025  
(800) 537-6241  
F: (513) 489-1417

## Dayton

450 Shoup Mill Road  
Dayton, Ohio 45415  
T: (937) 275-7601  
(800) 233-4845  
F: (937) 275-1147

## Lima

1870 W. Robb Ave.  
Lima, Ohio 45805  
T: (419) 225-4085  
(800) 962-7753  
F: (419) 229-7570

## Toledo

2244 Collingwood Blvd.  
Toledo, Ohio 43620  
T: (419) 243-8216  
(800) 860-4516  
F: (419) 245-5357



[www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org](http://www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org)