

**Important Information For
Girl Scout Families**



We Bring Out The Best In Girls.

JOURNEY TO LEADERSHIP

Girls develop best among other girls—away from school pressures, social cliques and boys. Your daughter's **leadership** potential will blossom in a **safe** environment where she can make **friends**, develop important **skills**, strengthen her **values** and have **fun** doing it.

As a Girl Scout, your daughter will benefit from progressive hands-on leadership experiences that encourage her to:

- **Take an active role** in deciding and planning what she wants to do
- **Learn by doing** in a supportive, girls-only environment where learning is cooperative, not competitive
- **Share special ceremonies and traditions** with other girls
- **Earn badges and awards** for new skills and accomplishments
- **Plan service projects** to benefit her community and make a difference in the world



CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE PATHS

With so many fun and flexible ways to join and participate in Girl Scouting, your daughter's experiences can be as individual and unique as she is. She can choose one path or choose them all.

Camp. She'll love experiencing nature and learning outdoor skills at a sleep-over camp or local summer day camp.



Events. Does she have several passions? She can explore them all and discover new ones during half-to three-day events for Girl Scouts.

Series. She'll be able to explore her interests and ideas more deeply with like-minded girls who meet regularly over a short term period (usually 4-8 weeks).

Travel. She can broaden her horizons by visiting new places, meeting people and experiencing different cultures through Girl Scout regional, national and international troop/group travel opportunities.

Troop. She'll meet with a group of girls regularly, share amazing experiences, learn how girls working together can make a difference and develop close bonds with other girls and adult role models.

WHO CAN BE A GIRL SCOUT?

Girl Scouts is open to **all girls**, kindergarten through grade 12, and girls from every walk of life, culture, economic background and neighborhood are welcomed. Nearly 23,000 Orange County Girl Scouts are already building the leadership values and abilities they need to live their best lives. They're having a great time doing it, and your daughter will too!

Proceeds from the annual **Cookie and Fall Product sales can be used to help cover expenses.** Financial Assistance is available when required.



WHAT DO GIRLS SCOUTS DO?

CHOOSE A JOURNEY

Your daughter can choose from three age-appropriate series of Journey books: *It's Your Story, Tell It!*, *It's Your Planet, Love It! and It's Your World, Change It!*

Each activity in a *Journey*—whether it's about science, art, nutrition or the environment—is designed to help her develop three important **'Keys to Leadership.'**

- **Discover.** She'll increase her self-knowledge and use it to strengthen her confidence and values, set goals and explore the world around her.
- **Connect.** She'll learn to be part of a team, solve conflicts and develop healthy relationships.
- **Take Action.** She'll feel empowered to make the world a better place, while learning more about her community and the world around her.

Each **Journey series** has a corresponding **Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting**, a colorful, easy-to-use binder specially designed for girls at each grade level. The binder is packed with essential information, Girl Scout traditions and exciting new badges to earn. She'll be able to customize her own experiences by choosing and adding additional **Badge Sets**. Together, these resources ensure that all Girl Scouts can share a powerful, national experience— girls together changing the world!





LEARN AND EARN

Cookie Program January - March
Fall Product Program October - November

Girl Scout product sales offer the nation’s leading business skill development programs for girls. They provide fun opportunities for girls in every grade to earn funds and learn important skills. Although no girl is required to participate, the programs are popular with most Girl Scouts.



Girls learn real-world success skills like goal setting, decision making, money management, communications and business ethics.

Girls and troops earn extra funds for activity fees, camp and supplies. Proceeds stay in Orange County to provide girl leadership experiences, safe facilities, volunteer support and financial aid.



EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF CAMP SCHERMAN

Ideally situated in the scenic San Jacinto Mountains, Camp Scherman is a special place where girls can safely explore the wonders of nature and develop self-esteem, courage and a spirit of independence.



Canoeing, archery, rock climbing, swimming, hiking, sing-a-longs, S’mores by the campfire and gazing at a star-studded sky through telescopes – these are just some of the unforgettable experiences that have kept generations of girls coming back to Camp Scherman since 1968.

Our popular summer sessions are just for girls, but **families can share in the fun** during the rest of the year at weekend camps like Mom and Me, Family Camp and more. Visit us at www.GirlScoutsOC.org/Camp.



AWARDS

EARN HIGHEST AWARDS

Girl Scout Juniors, Seniors and Ambassadors can earn recognized national leadership awards while making a significant impact in their communities and beyond. Beginning with the **Bronze Award** (Juniors), Girl Scouts employ their leadership skills to plan and complete meaningful community service projects. As girls move into higher grades, the requirements for the **Silver Award** (Cadettes) and then the **Gold Award** (Ambassadors) become progressively more challenging.



The **prestigious Gold Award is Girl Scouts' highest honor. College scholarship opportunities and advanced military placement** are available to Gold Award recipients in recognition of their exceptional leadership skills and extraordinary contributions to make the world a better place. For more information, go to www.girlscouts.org/program/highest_awards.

BADGES

WEAR BADGES AND RECOGNITIONS



Most Girl Scouts love to earn and wear colorful skill badges that demonstrate their proficiencies. In addition, there are many special recognitions that Girl Scouts can earn. For example, girls from K-12 can earn **My Promise My Faith Pins** each year, customized to their faith traditions, and **Safety Awards** in each of the six Girl Scout levels (Daisy through Ambassador). Girl Scout Juniors and above can earn **Mentoring Awards**

by using their leadership skills to guide and teach younger girls. Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors can earn **Community Service Bars** through projects that make a difference and **Torch Awards** for troop or group leadership positions.

TRAVEL

TRAVEL THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD

The possibilities are endless! How about a California wilderness photography trip, a Yukon River expedition or a horseback trip through the Appalachian foothills? Imagine doing a service project in Costa Rica, a safari in Kenya or a city tour of Paris. Whether a girl goes on a **Girl Scout destination** (amazing nationally-sponsored trips for Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors) or takes a **troop/group trip** (all ages), she will discover things about herself she never knew. Girl Scout travel opportunities open up the world for girls to safely explore new places and cultures, meet new people and be challenged to take actions that make a difference. To learn more about Girl Scout travel opportunities, go to www.girlscouts.org/forgirls/travel.



SERVICE

MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Girl Scouting promotes a lifelong commitment to community service. Your daughter will learn important life and leadership skills and be given opportunities to use her abilities to make the community, and the world, a better place. Orange County Girl Scouts of all ages perform thousands of service projects to help people and causes, like abandoned pets, hospitalized children, endangered habitats, disadvantaged families, people in long- term care facilities, and more. Each year, local Girl Scouts give more than 500,000 hours of community service to Orange County and beyond.



YOU BELONG IN GIRL SCOUTS

WHEN CAN GIRLS JOIN?

Girls can join at **any time, in any grade**. Some girls join in kindergarten or first grade and progress through all six levels. Other girls join later to go camping, pursue a passion, become part of a troop or travel with other girls.

The six Girl Scout program levels are:

- ◆ Girl Scout Daisy, grades K-1
- ◆ Girl Scout Brownie, grades 2-3
- ◆ Girl Scout Junior, grades 4-5
- ◆ Girl Scout Cadette, grades 6-8
- ◆ Girl Scout Senior, grades 9-10
- ◆ Girl Scout Ambassador, grades 11-12

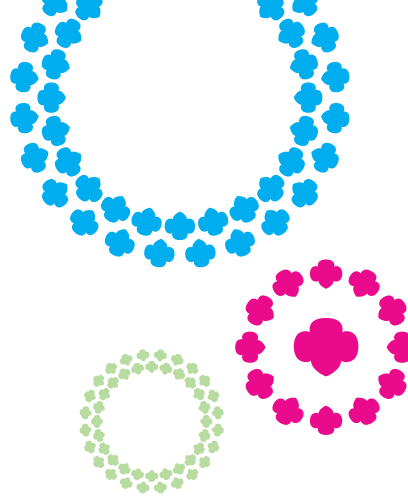
All Girl Scout levels are based on the varying abilities, needs and interests girls have in different grades. Research shows that the longer girls stay in Girl Scouting, the greater the benefits.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Required: National membership dues and Council Service Fee of \$20, payable to Girl Scouts of the USA, for each membership year, October – September.

Optional: Costs for uniforms (encouraged, but not required), books and badges, and fees for selected camps, program activities or travel opportunities. Troop expenses also vary, based on each troop's selected activities.

Cookie and Fall Product program proceeds can help cover expenses. When needed, **financial assistance** is available.



GET STARTED TODAY!

Join Girl Scouts. Complete the registration forms that you receive at a Girl Scout information meeting, or contact the GSOC Membership Department at (949) 461-8800 or Membership@GirlScoutsOC.org.

Renew a membership. Go to www.GirlScoutsOC.org/Register to register online or call (949) 461-8800 for membership renewal assistance.

Connect and get active. Check out our calendar of exciting activities at www.GirlScoutsOC.org/Calendar, and sign your daughter up for the events and activities that interest her.

STAY CONNECTED

- ◆ Sign up for the Monthly Family Connections e-newsletter at www.GirlScoutsOC.org - click on "E-News Sign Up"
- ◆ Sign up to receive weekly Event Calendar Updates at www.GirlScoutsOC.org/calendar
- ◆ Follow us on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/girlscoutsoc

Twitter: www.twitter.com/girlscoutsoc

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/girlscoutsoc

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/girl-scouts-of-orange-county

YouTube: www.youtube.com/gscoc

KNOW WHO TO CONTACT

Your daughter's Troop Leader or other key volunteer can provide information or answer your questions. Use the form below to record their contact information, and keep it in a handy place.

Troop Leader/Other Volunteer: _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening: _____

Email: _____

Co-leader/Other Volunteer: _____

Council staff can also provide assistance and answer questions. Call (949) 461-8800 or email GirlScouts@GirlScoutsOC.org.

BE PART OF HER TEAM AS A VOLUNTEER

A girl gets the greatest benefits from Girl Scouting when her parents are involved. Even if your to-do list is packed, Girl Scouts offers **many flexible ways you can be on her team**. Although Leaders and Co-leaders are always needed, there are many other ways to support your Girl Scout's success:

- Help with meeting set-ups and clean-ups
- Coordinate a phone or e-mail tree
- Coach a sports clinic, share a hobby or lead a hike
- Take photos of activities and share with your local newspaper
- Transport or chaperone girls on a field trip
- Be a 'Cookie Mom or Dad' during the annual sale
- Help with paperwork

You'll have fun and make new friends. Talk to a Girl Scout volunteer in your area or contact a Girl Scout staff member at (949) 461-8800 or Volunteers@GirlScoutsOC.org.

YOUR FAMILY'S SUPPORT IS VITAL

The annual cost to provide the Girl Scout leadership program for just one girl is \$400. With nearly 23,000 Girl Scouts in Orange County, family support is crucial to help cover the actual costs. Your annual membership dues go directly to Girl Scouts of the USA, but there are many ways **families can support Girl Scouting locally**.

- Encourage your daughter's participation in the **Fall Product and Cookie Sale programs**
- Contribute to the annual Family Partnership Campaign
- Ask your employer about matching funds and in-kind contributions
- Purchase Girl Scout supplies and gifts at the Orange County Girl Scout Shop

All purchases from the GSOC Shop (in store and online) help support local Girl Scout activities. Purchases from other retail outlets do not benefit Orange County Girl Scouting.

www.GirlScoutsOC.org/Shop





Be a Part of our Next 100 Years

The Girl Scout movement reached the century mark in 2012. Founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low with just 18 girls, Girl Scouts of the USA has grown to more than 3.2 million girls and adult members. In Orange County alone, there are nearly 23,000 Girl Scouts from all cultures, ethnicities, faiths, beliefs and socioeconomic backgrounds. With its rich heritage and reputation for building leaders, the Girl Scout movement will continue to make history for the next 100 years.

Girl Scouts Works

Girl Scouts is the world's most successful organization dedicated to building girl leaders. A recent Girl Scout Research Institute report, "Girl Scouting Works: The Alumnae Impact Study," in conjunction with an independent research firm, reported that women who were Girl Scouts as children display significantly more positive life outcomes than non-Girl Scout alumnae. Girl Scout alumnae have:

- Higher perceptions of self
- Higher rates of volunteerism and civic engagement
- Higher rates of college education
- Higher household incomes

Did You Know?

Girl Scout alumnae are living proof of the impact of Girl Scouting.

- 92% of female **astronauts** were Girl Scouts
- 68% of women in **Congress** were Girl Scouts
- 80% of all women **business owners** were Girl Scouts

Girl Scout alumnae come from every background and walk of life, and they belong to one of the most powerful all-female networks in the country. As Girl Scouts enters its next 100 years, now is the time for Girl Scout alumnae to join hands and raise their voices to ensure that girls have the opportunities they need to become leaders in their communities and the world.

If you were a Girl Scout, Brownie, past or present volunteer, or involved with Girl Scouts in some other capacity, please join the Girl Scouts of Orange County Alumnae Program at www.GirlScoutsOC.org/Alumnae/Register.



All Girl Scout program activities are based on the timeless values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

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.

**Individuals can substitute their own words to reflect their personal beliefs.*

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 Scouts of Orange County
Headquarters and Shop**

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Shop@GirlScoutsOC.org
[Facebook.com/GirlScoutsOC](https://www.facebook.com/GirlScoutsOC)
[Twitter.com/GirlScoutsOC](https://twitter.com/GirlScoutsOC)

Business Hours:
8 a.m.—6 p.m. Monday—Thursday

Shop Hours:
10 a.m.—6 p.m. Monday—Thursday
10 a.m.—3 p.m. Friday
11 a.m.—3 p.m. Saturday

Please check the website periodically for updated shop hours and locations.