



# Ready, Set, Change Lives!

## How to Become a Girl Scouts Volunteer

**THE COMMITMENT:** 1 year of making a meaningful, life-long difference in the lives of girls by serving as a volunteer (troop leader, co-leader, assistant leader)

### 1. Complete a Membership Registration & Criminal Background Check

*Help ensure the safety of our girls.*

- Go to [www.gsgms.org](http://www.gsgms.org) and choose *Volunteer Today*.
- Follow the directions sent by e-mail to complete your membership form and background check online. (E-mail from [theadvocates@sterlingvolunteers.com](mailto:theadvocates@sterlingvolunteers.com))
- You will receive a welcome e-mail when your background check is approved.

### 2. Start Your Volunteer Training

*Learn about your new role and the essentials of volunteering with Girl Scouts. These resources, along with the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK), will support you and your Girl Scout troop to have a successful and fun year full of meaningful experiences and memories.*

- Log in to Member Community “My GS” at [www.gsgms.org](http://www.gsgms.org) and watch the “Welcome to Girl Scouts” video.
- Spend time reviewing [Volunteer Essentials](#) and [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) and [New Leader’s Guide to Success](#).
- Familiarize yourself with the national program of [Journeys & The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting](#) for your troop’s age level.
- [gsLearn](#) Girl Scouts’ official online and on-demand training forum.  
(Required training will be within your content library)

### 3. Review the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) and Other Resources

*The Volunteer Toolkit includes everything you need to plan and implement your Troop year.*

- Go to [www.gsgms.org](http://www.gsgms.org) and choose “My GS”.
- Your username and password are the same as the Member Community.

#### **Additional Resources**

- Council Website: [www.gsgms.org](http://www.gsgms.org) and [GSGMS social media](#) pages
- GSUSA Website: [www.gsusa.org](http://www.gsusa.org)
- [Virtual Troop Meeting](#) resources (also available in gsLearn)
- [Girl Scouts at Home](#) Participate in the Girl Scout experience from virtually anywhere and get started on your next e-adventure!
- [Girl Scouts Leadership Experience](#) (Journeys, badges, awards, & traditions)
- Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Program (seasonal)
- [Girl Scout Shop](#) (Online Open 24/7; council location availability varies)
- Your GSGMS Troop Support Staff and Service Unit Volunteers

#### 4. Recruit Parents to Participate as Co-Troop Leaders & Parent Helpers

Host a Parent Meeting to introduce and welcome parents/adult volunteers to the Girl Scout experience and their responsibilities.

- Check out the [get help from parents](#) resource in Volunteer Essentials and Parent Meeting resources in Volunteer Toolkit.
- Contact adults who have shown interest in helping you run your troop.

#### 5. Prepare for and Schedule Your First Troop Meeting

Each Girl Scout meeting provides an opportunity to explore new worlds and learn new skills.

- Review the Parent Meeting and Meetings Plan resources in your Volunteer Toolkit and the safety information in [Volunteer Essentials](#).
- [Establishing a Girl Scout Troop Bank Account](#) (contact your membership specialist for documents and council bank options.)
  - NOTE: All troop funds must be placed in a troop bank account.
- Set your meeting place and time and communicate this info to parents.
- Review [troop meeting safety information](#) provided in Volunteer Essentials

#### 6. Attend Service Unit Meetings and Connect with Other Volunteers

Service Units provide local support to troop leaders and are a great source of information on Girl Scout programs and events in your community, county, or area.

- Troop Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Troop Volunteers: \_\_\_\_\_
- Meeting Times and Location: \_\_\_\_\_
- Service Unit Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Service Unit Manager: \_\_\_\_\_
- Service Unit Product Chair: \_\_\_\_\_
- Service Unit Meeting Time and Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**We're here for you!**

Contact us at

**601.326.GIRL (4475)**

or email us at

**[customer care@gsgms.org](mailto:customer care@gsgms.org)**

