

Frequently Asked Questions (and their answers!)

I work and have other children. How will I have time to be a leader? Many of our current leaders work, have other children and volunteer for other organizations. As a volunteer leader, you determine a schedule that works best for your schedule.

Do I have to have a daughter in Girl Scouts to be a leader? NO! Any adult (age 18 or older) willing to accept the responsibilities of being a leader (including the completion of a criminal background check and required training) can be a Girl Scout volunteer.

Will I have to do it alone? NO! Ask a friend, relative, or neighbor to work with you! There must be more than one adult present at any Girl Scout gathering, so you will be paired with another adult. In your training, you will learn to delegate tasks, like driving or helping with the Girl Scout cookie program.

Who decides when and where we'll meet? As a Girl Scout leader you select:
Time of meetings (i.e., after school, early evening, weekend morning)
Day of meetings (i.e., Monday through Sunday)
Meeting Location (i.e., school, home, church, bank, library, etc.)
How often the troop meets (i.e., weekly, bi-weekly, monthly)

How much time is required? Planning takes a minimum of 1-2 hrs. depending on how often you meet and if you like to plan weekly. Otherwise, after obtaining ideas from the girls, the leadership team could plan out the entire year in as little as 4 hours. The time in planning depends on the individual. Troop/group meeting time requirements depends on the frequency of meetings and the duration. Volunteering for the Girl Scouts is flexible and allows for options.

Who will help me learn how to be a leader? There are experienced people at every level, waiting to help you be successful. You can count on your:

- Trainers—experienced, trained and certified volunteers who teach leadership essentials, outdoor, overnight, first aid/CPR and enrichment classes to Northern Illinois Girl Scout leaders
- Volunteers who oversee Girl Scouting in your community
- Membership Staff Member—a professional staff member who supports leaders and girls in your area

What are the Girl Scout levels? Do I pick what kind of troop I have? If you have a specific preference, you will lead that kind of troop. The levels are:

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

If you have a special interest or skill, you can also start a group or series around a specific topic for girls in grades 6-12.

What is the Role of a Girl Scout Leader?

A leader helps girls develop the confidence, determination, and skills to thrive in today's world.

Becoming a Leader in 3 Easy Steps

1. Complete an application form and Criminal Background Check Release form. You'll need two references on your application form. Please return the forms to your recruiter or membership staff member in the enclosed envelope.
2. Complete the Orientation Training. This training is offered, either as an online course or a CD can be sent if you do not have internet access.
3. Within 12 weeks of your first meeting with the girls, you will need to access Volunteer Essentials and the Troop Module, and register and attend a three-hour Leadership Essentials training. You can choose from the list of scheduled classes and locations listed on our council Web site at <www.girlscoutsni.org>. There is NO cost for this training. These classes are designed to make your Girl Scout experience easy, positive and fun!

Getting a Troop/Group Up and Running

With the help of your recruiter and membership staff member:

1. Adult leadership team will meet and discuss preliminary plans for the troop/group.
2. Contact your school, church or community center to obtain the use of a room for your troop meetings.
3. Hold a parent meeting and have the girls register (you must also register) to be a member of Girl Scouts of the USA. Your recruiter or membership staff member can also help with this.
4. Meet with your girls as often as your schedule allows. Some troops meet as often as every week or as little as once each month.
5. Take advantage of all of the great programming Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois offers. For many council-sponsored program events, girls have the option of attending individually or as a troop.

Sugar Grove Service Center
200 New Bond
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
630-897-1565

Rockford Service Center
2101 Auburn Street
Rockford, IL 61103
815-962-5591

Freeport Service Center
5040 Business Rt. 20 W.
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-8777

Elgin Service Center
12N124 Coombs Road
Elgin, IL 60124
847-741-5521

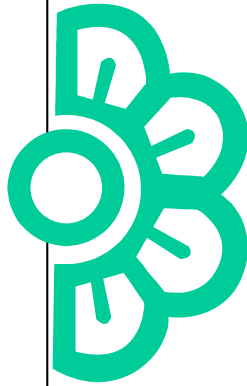
Girl Scout Promise

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.

**An individual member may use the word or words for "God" that best reflect her own spiritual beliefs.*

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.



If being a Girl Scout leader isn't a good fit for you, think about these other ways of impacting girls:

- Train the volunteers who lead girls
- Assist a local troop leader
- Volunteer at one of our camps
- Support the fall product and Girl Scout cookie sale programs
- Donate money or goods and services to enhance the quality of our program
- Serve on a planning committee

Give 60 minutes or 15 years . . .

Our girls will benefit from your energy and interest in their success. For more information, contact your Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois service center or visit www.girlscoutsni.org.

Be a Girl Scout Leader!

Change a life!



Girl Scouts®

*Your guide to understanding
the Girl Scout leader role*

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois