



Girl Scout Leadership Experience Transition Update November 2010

In 2008, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) launched the leadership journeys, an innovative new program that helps girls develop their leadership skills. Journeys signaled the first step in a movement-wide effort to transition from an eclectic variety of program resources to one that emphasizes a consistent national experience built on Girl Scouting's three keys to leadership: *Discover, Connect, and Take Action*. Leadership journeys were developed intentionally to create the clear and nationally consistent Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) that girls, parents, volunteers and council want.

Based on council feedback and research with girls, parents, and volunteers, GSUSA decided to streamline and simplify program offerings. Beginning in fall 2011, the national program experience will consist of two products:

1. Journeys, which consist of three series: *It's Your World—Change It!*, *It's Your Planet—Love It!* and *It's Your Story—Tell It!*. The journeys are the core of the GSLE that provides an exploration of all three keys to leadership, ties directly to the 15 national outcomes, and provides detailed guidance for adults.
2. *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* (the new badge/handbook, available in fall 2011), which complements journeys with skill-building badge activities.

The first two journey series (*It's Your World—Change It!* and *It's Your Planet—Love It!*) are currently being used by Girl Scouts throughout the country. The third journey series (*It's Your Story—Tell It!*) will be delivered in December 2010. Be sure to visit one of GSNI's Journey Open Houses scheduled in January to learn more about *It's Your Story—Tell It!*. (See attached list.)

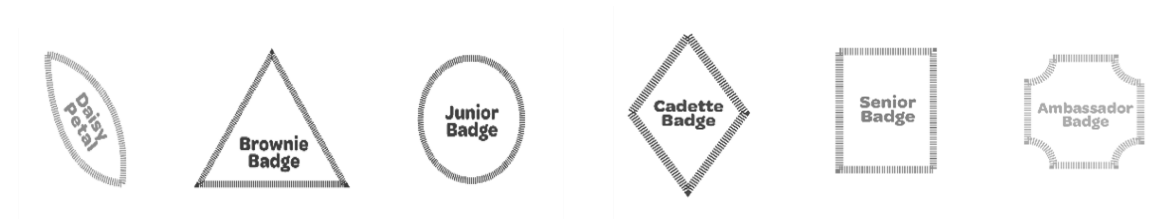
The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting is a separate guide for each age level. Each guide is divided into two sections—The Handbook Section and the Badge Section.

The Handbook Section will include the following **(at relevant grade levels)**:

- What's special about being a Girl Scout
- Girl Scout history
- Girl Scout traditions
- List of emblems and awards
- Awards log
- Diagram of sash/vest with badge placement
- Bridging award requirements
- Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, Gold requirements
- Journey map

The Badge Section:

- Girl Scout Daisies will continue to have petals; however, the activities for earning the petals will be revised.
- All other levels will have badges; however, there will be different shapes:



- Legacy Badges: New content on topics that have been part of Girl Scouting since the beginning. Badge topics that will be offered for Girl Scout Brownies through Ambassadors:
 - Artist
 - Athlete
 - Citizen
 - Cook
 - First Aid
 - Naturalist
 - The Girl Scout Way
- Badges offered for Girl Scout Daisies through Ambassadors (Daisies' recognition will be "leaves."):
 - Financial Literacy
 - Girl Scout Cookie Badges

Related questions and answers:

Q: How many new badges will be offered at each level?

A: The exact number of badges is still under consideration but the intention is to offer girls a variety of topics that cover contemporary interest as well as classics that have historically been appealing to girls and volunteers.

Q: What does this mean for current Girl Scout Try-Its, badges, and interest projects?

A: In preparation for the program roll-out of the third journey and *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, GSUSA is retiring existing resources and merchandise items on an incremental schedule. However, the GSUSA discontinued date **DOES NOT** correspond to each council's discontinued date. We are in a transition period. This period allows troops to continue to work on current recognitions throughout this coming year. ***The GSNI retail shops are planning proactively and are confident that they can provide any of the current GSUSA Try-Its, badges and IPs through June 1, 2011.*** An update as to what

can be provided after June 1, 2011, will be made in April. If planning summer programs around current recognitions, we recommend purchasing your supplies prior to June 1, 2011. (See the attached list of recognitions that GSUSA has discontinued thus far.)

So now is the time to explore the Journey Maps online for ideas about using journeys and existing badge activities, <http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/maps>.

Q: Can we work on Try-Its, badges, and IPs after June 1, 2011?

A: Current Try-Its, badges and IPs **may** be available after June 1, 2011. We recommend that you contact the customer service staff at one of GSNI's shops to check the availability of specific recognitions and purchase them as girls begin the process.

Q: Who gave input into the development of *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

A: More than 1,000 girls, parents and volunteers from all over the country participated in online surveys and focus groups to help GSUSA develop *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*. More than 20 volunteers, National Operational Volunteers, and council staff from various locations met online for months to offer input into the format of *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* and the content of the badges. Within Girl Scout headquarters, teams from several departments, such as the Girl Scout Research Institute, Membership and Volunteerism, and Global Girl Scouting made recommendations on format and content. And then before publishing, girls from all backgrounds and across grade levels offered feedback on the content in its formative stage.

Q: How do journeys and badges differ? Will girls have a choice of doing one or the other?

A: Journeys and badges are designed to be complementary, not to compete. Journeys are the core Girl Scout curriculum. They have been developed to help all Girl Scouts develop the three keys to leadership: *Discover*, *Connect* and *Take Action*. Badges complement the journeys by helping girls build skills on specific topics.

Q. What is the timeline for transitioning from existing handbooks and badge books to journeys and *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

A. *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* is scheduled to be on sale in September 2011. There will be a one-year period (June 2011 to June 2012) to transition away from existing handbooks and badge books to *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*. All members need to be using the updated national program portfolio (the journeys + *The Girl's Guide*) as of fall 2012.

Q. Will “Our Own Council” and “Our Own Troop” Awards continue?

- A. Yes. Guidelines for Our Own Council awards—badges based on innovative activities developed by Girl Scout councils—will be revised. Information will become available to councils before changes go into effect September 2011 with release of *The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting*.

At this time, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois will **NOT** be accepting proposals for additional Council Own awards. Once the new GSUSA guidelines become available:

- GSNI will develop the process for submitting Council Own award proposals.
- Current Council Own awards will be reviewed and either updated to meet the new guidelines or discontinued.

Until that time, current council-own awards will be available as long as the award is available in inventory. Please check with a customer service staff at one of GSNI’s shops to check availability.

It’s Your Story—Tell It! Journey Open House

The newest journey series will be released in December and feature a new book for each level. Come to one of our Journey Open Houses and learn more about *It’s Your Story—Tell It!*, check out all the new girl and adult books and awards, and do some fun journey activities for each level. Journey materials will also be available for purchase. Your GSNI journey guides will be there to help you get started, offer tips for making each journey a great experience for girls and leaders and show you how to tie in traditional Girl Scout awards to the journeys. This event is FREE, but pre-registration is required. To register, e-mail Brooke Radford at bradford@girlscoutsni.org with “JOURNEY OPEN HOUSE” in the subject line. Please include which location you will be attending and ALL participants’ names, troop number, age level, and city as well as a phone number for the contact person. Questions? Contact Brooke Radford at Ext 7147 or bradford@girlscoutsni.org.

- **Rockford Service Center (SC)**, January 10, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan 6
- **Freeport SC**, January 12, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan 6
- **Elgin SC**, January 18, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan 4
- **Sugar Grove SC**, January 25, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan 21
- **Sterling-CGH Hospital**, January 26, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan 21
(shop not available)
- **McHenry Bank and Trust**, January 31, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan 27

In preparation for the program roll-out of the third journey and *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, GSUSA is retiring existing resources and merchandise items on an incremental schedule. The following recognitions have been discontinued by GSUSA; however, **GSNI retail shops are planning proactively and are confident that they can provide these recognitions at least through June 1, 2011.**

Try-Its	Listening to the Past
Try-Its	People of the World
Try-Its	Citizen Near and Far
Try-Its	Space Explorer
Try-Its	Brownie Girl Scouts Through the Years
Try-Its	Computer Smarts
Try-Its	Building Art
Try-Its	Creative Composing
Try-Its	Me and My Shadow
Try-Its	Point, Click, Go
Try-Its	Wave the Flag
Badges	Doing Hobbies
Badges	Family Living Skills
Badges	Sport Sampler
Badges	Globe Trotting
Badges	My Heritage
Badges	On My Way
Badges	Women's Stories
Badges	World in My Community
Badges	Now & Then
Badges	Oil Up
Badges	Business Wise
Badges	Car Care
Badges	Computer Fun
Badges	Do-It Yourself
Badges	Food Fibers and Farming
Badges	Rocks Rock
Badges	Ms. Fix-It
Badges	Ready for Tomorrow
Badges	Science in Action
Badges	Science in Everyday Life
Badges	Science Sleuth
Badges	Water Wonders
Badges	Weather Watcher
Badges	Cyber Girl Scout
Badges	Environmental Health
Badges	Humans and Habitats
Badges	Winter Sports
Badges	Write All About It
Badges	Junior Patriotism
Badges	Outdoors in the City
Badges	Discovering Technology
Badges	Girl Scouting in My Future
Badges	Consumer Power
Badges	Collecting Hobbies
Badges	Architecture

Badges	Folk Arts
Badges	Toymaker
Interest Projects	Global Girls
Interest Projects	On Your Own
Interest Projects	G.O. Girls
Interest Projects	HOME/HEART IP PATCH
Interest Projects	Couch Potato
Interest Projects	Hi Tech Hide and Seek
Interest Projects	Bxtreme
Interest Projects	It's About Time
Interest Projects	Heritage Hunt
Interest Projects	Women Through Time
Interest Projects	Folk Arts
Interest Projects	Graphic Communications
Interest Projects	Backpacking
Interest Projects	Rolling Along
Interest Projects	Smooth Sailing
Interest Projects	Architecture & Environment
Interest Projects	A to V Audiovisual Production
Interest Projects	Build a Better Future
Interest Projects	News Desktop Publishing
Interest Projects	Digging Thru the Past
Interest Projects	Generations
Interest Projects	Inventions & Inquiry
Interest Projects	Math, Maps & More
Interest Projects	Media Savvy
Interest Projects	Once Upon a Story
Interest Projects	Planet Power
Interest Projects	Public Relations
Interest Projects	Why in the World
Interest Projects	Writing for Real News
Focus Award Patch	Makin' Waves
Focus Award Patch	Parks Matter
Focus Award Patch	Mind Your Own Business
Focus Award Patch	Cashin' In
Focus Award Patch	Express It
Focus Award Patch	College 101
Focus Award Patch	Take Charge
Focus Award Patch	Write Now
Focus Award Patch	On Track
Focus Award Patch	Saving and Investing
Focus Award Patch	On The Money: Cookies and More
Focus Award Patch	Mirror, Mirror
Charm	Don't Sweat It
Charm	Inside & Out
Charm	The Real Deal
Patch	Dream to Reality

