

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting Update

Exciting news! The new Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting will be released this fall and will offer a whole new world of experiences for Girl Scouts at every level. The new Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting will replace all previous badge books, handbooks, STUDIO 2B books; and, along with the Leadership Journeys, is part of GSUSA's National Program Portfolio, which helps us deliver our mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. The new book is a badge book and handbook in one and will be consistent across all age levels, making it easy for leaders as the girls progress. It will also offer girls a lot of new legacy badge choices, skill builder badges to go along with the journeys, and a "My Girl Scouts Memory Book" section. Below you will find some frequently-asked questions about the new Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting.

1) Q: Where can I find information about the National Program Rollout and the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting?

A: The transition information has been shared in monthly GSNI program e-mail blasts, GSNI e-newsletters, the spring/summer 2011 Northern Lights issue, the 2011 summer program book, and in the transition updates newsletter on the GSNI website. The transition update information can be found on our website in the "Leader" section under Girl Scout Leadership Transition Updates. Another update will be posted on June 17. If you are not getting our e-blasts, make sure that you contact the Registration Help Desk at Extension 7110 to update your e-mail address in our system.

2) Q: How much will the new Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting cost?

A: The shop is currently offering the new Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting at a special introductory price of \$16.87. That's 25% off the regular price of \$22.50! All council shops are currently taking pre-orders, with delivery scheduled for early-to-mid October. Girls can use Cookie Dough or Juliette Credits towards the purchase of this book.

3) Q: With the book not coming out until October, how are we supposed to plan the year? Is it possible to get a copy early to look through?

A: This is one of the most common questions asked. We're all very excited about seeing the new Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. GSUSA has set the release date for the books and is working its hardest to get the books into volunteers' hands as soon as possible. Remember, the biggest part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience is that it is girl-led. This means that leaders shouldn't be planning out the entire year without the girls' input on which badges and Journeys they want to do. What can you do before the new Girl's Guide comes out? Let the *girls* select a journey on which they would like to start. Journeys can be done ten meetings in a row or spread throughout the year, whichever works best for your troop. Once the new Girl's Guide comes out, girls can select the badges they would like to complete to add into their year. There will also be journey-specific Skill Builder badges to go along with each journey. If you have journey related questions or need some guidance about how to run a journey, contact Brooke Radford at bradford@girlscoutsni.org or Extension 7147.

4) Q: Will there be a Leader's Guide for the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting?

A: GSUSA has designed The Girl's Guide to be easy for girls to use, so no special training is required for leaders. With a consistent format throughout all age levels, leaders will be able to follow the same format for badge requirements, journey and religious awards, and the Cookie Business and Financial Literacy badges, no matter which level their girls are at. The self-explanatory nature of the new book will help leaders focus more on the experience with the girls and less on pre-planning. Leaders can look for short, fun Girl's Guide introductory "Tip Shops" for volunteers this fall.