



VOLUNTEER ESSENTIALS

2009

Contents

Introduction	6
Girls and Women Today	6
Why Girl Scouts?	7
The Girl Scout Mission, Promise, and Law.....	7
<i>The Girl Scout Mission</i>	7
<i>The Girl Scout Promise</i>	8
<i>The Girl Scout Law</i>	8
Chapter 1: Sharing Your Unique Gifts	9
Evaluating Your Skills	9
<i>Focusing on Girls</i>	9
<i>Demonstrating Flexibility</i>	9
<i>Communicating Well</i>	10
<i>Fostering Diversity</i>	10
<i>Living with Personal Integrity</i>	10
Taking Advantage of Volunteer Learning Opportunities.....	10
Getting Feedback on a Job Well Done	11
Chapter 2: Girl Scouting 101.....	13
Who Can Join Girl Scouts—and How!	13
Girl Scout Calendar	14
Girl Scouts’ Organizational Structure	15
<i>Local Councils</i>	15
<i>National Organization and Worldwide Sisterhood</i>	15
Chapter 3: Program—What Girl Scouts Do!.....	17

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)	17
<i>Three Keys to Leadership</i>	17
Discover Key	17
Connect Key	18
Take Action Key.....	18
<i>Girl Scout Processes</i>	18
A Journey Awaits	19
<i>It's Your World—Change It!</i>	20
<i>It's Your Planet—Love It!</i>	21
<i>Getting Started with Journey Books</i>	21
The Highest Awards in Girl Scouting: The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards	22
Badges, Try-Its, Pins, and More!.....	23
Other Initiatives and Opportunities	24
Girl Scout Traditions: Pass it On!	25
<i>Time-Honored Ceremonies</i>	25
<i>Signs, Songs, Handshake, and More!</i>	26
Girl Scout Sign	26
Girl Scout Handshake.....	26
Quiet Sign.....	26
Girl Scout Slogan and Motto.....	27
Songs	27
Chapter 4: Engaging Girls at All Grade Levels.....	28
Understanding Healthy Development in Girls	28
<i>Girl Scout Daisy Development</i>	28
<i>Girl Scout Brownie Development</i>	29
<i>Girl Scout Junior Development</i>	29

<i>Girl Scout Cadette Development</i>	29
<i>Girl Scout Senior Development</i>	30
<i>Girl Scout Ambassador Development</i>	30
Creating a Safe Space for Girls	31
<i>Recognition and Acceptance</i>	31
<i>Fairness</i>	31
<i>Trust</i>	31
<i>Open Communication</i>	32
Communicating with Girls	32
Discussing Sensitive Topics	34
Communicating with Parents or Guardians.....	35
Creating an Atmosphere of Acceptance and Inclusion	36
Chapter 5: Staying Safe—Always!.....	39
Knowing Your Responsibilities	39
<i>Responsibilities of the Volunteer</i>	39
<i>Responsibilities of Parents and Guardians</i>	40
<i>Responsibilities of Girls</i>	40
Knowing How Many Volunteers You Need	41
Approaching Activities.....	42
<i>Health Histories (Including Examinations and Immunizations)</i>	42
<i>Girl Scout Activity Insurance</i>	43
Providing Emergency Care.....	43
<i>First-Aid/CPR</i>	44
<i>Procedures for Accidents</i>	45
Chapter 6: Taking Trips and Hosting Events	46
Taking Trips with Girls	47

<i>Facilitating Girl-Led Trip Planning</i>	48
<i>Obtaining Council Permission for Trips</i>	49
<i>Transporting Girls</i>	50
Public Transportation	50
Private Transportation	50
Hosting an Event	51
Getting Back Together After Your Trip or Event	53
Chapter 7: Managing Group Finances.....	54
Establishing an Account.....	54
Money-Earning Basics	54
<i>Helping Girls with Financial Planning</i>	56
<i>Understanding Financial and Sales Abilities by Grade Level</i>	56
Girl Scout Daisies.....	56
Girl Scout Brownies	57
Girl Scout Juniors.....	57
Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors.....	57
Selling Cookies (and Other Great Stuff): Continuing a Time-Honored Girl Scout Tradition	58
<i>Tying Product Sales to the GSLE</i>	59
<i>Determining Who Can Participate</i>	60
<i>Knowing Where the Proceeds Go</i>	60
<i>Safely Selling Girl Scout Cookies and Other Products</i>	60
Additional Group Money-Earning	61
Collaborating with Sponsors and Other Organizations	62
Appendix: Forms	63
Index.....	64

Start Here