

Why Girl Scouts for Cadettes is important—now more than ever!

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Catch onto Cadettes!



Welcome to the world of older Girl Scouts! My name is Caron Prettyman, and I am the Older Girl Manager here at Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois. Parents, thank you for placing your trust in us to provide life empowering experiences for your Girl Scouts! Troop leaders, thank you for the time and commitment you are willing to give to the Girl Scouts in your troop and to our council! *It takes a village, and our involvement with youth at this pivotal time in their lives will help to strengthen our mission to build future leaders of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.*

Girl Scouts is a leadership development program for members of ALL ages, and it only gets better as they get older! Cadette Girl Scouts have more opportunities, such as unique [travel experiences](#), expanded [leadership development](#) programs, [Girl Scout Silver](#) and [Gold Awards](#) and more! But, don't take it from me, take it from our [older Girl Scouts!](#)



We can all agree middle school, junior high, and high school is a stressful time for youth. Today's young people need a boost in building skills, behaviors, and attitudes to effectively navigate their environment, work well with others, and achieve their goals. Our [Girl Scout Success Framework](#) anticipates these needs, addresses skills, and provides tailored opportunities. Here are a few important resources: [6 Tricks to Boost Her Confidence Today](#) and [6 Things All Girls Should Know Before They're 16](#).

Did you know 56% of women in the 117th Congress, 71% of current female senators, 53% of current female delegates and representatives in the House of Representatives, and 5 out of 9 current female governors are Girl Scout Alums? That says something about Girl Scout leadership!

Girl Scout leadership in the younger years focuses on building friendships, self-esteem, positive values, and making good choices. Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors become progressively more efficient at doing this and become leaders and agents of change in their community. You don't want to miss the [Girl Scout Alum Difference](#) study released by the Girl Scout Research Institute.

Read what GSNI's new alums have to say:



“Girl Scouts has truly shaped me into the person I am today. In all of the activities and organizations that I participate in, I have never experienced life lessons or created bonds with others the way that I have done through Girl Scouts.”

~Briana R.

“Girl Scouts has been incredibly influential in my life! It has helped me build and figure out my character, taught me that I am capable of a lot more than I ever thought, and helped me develop many skills and attributes that will carry through the rest of my life.”

~Katherine S.

“Girl Scouts has greatly impacted my life by helping me to become more confident and courageous, grow in my character, and help to make the world a better place. Without the Girl Scout experience, I would not be as ambitious and hard-working as I am today.”

~Kaitlyn T.

Entering the World of Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors & Ambassadors

Since taking on this position as Older Girl Manager, I have had the opportunity to talk with many Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador troop leaders. One comment I have heard repeatedly is that older Girl Scouts are more fun! But, hear it for yourself from an [older girl scout troop leader](#)!

“We have more time and fun in planning, because the girls start to make more choices about what they want to do.”

[Step Back and Let Your Girl Take the Lead](#)

“When girls lead it is more like a club than a class.” - Julia V., Girl Scout Ambassador

“My troop meets on the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of every month. Even if girls have another commitment on Tuesdays, they can come to the Thursday meeting. We may not meet as a whole group as often as we did, but I think our troop meetings are more meaningful and productive. My girls always know they are welcome whenever they can come.”

“Yes, life gets more hectic for older girls, but flexibility is the key. My troop meets once a month. Sometimes our meetings take place at Panera or Starbucks, because the girls can get something to eat or drink. They enjoy a more ‘older girl’ relaxing atmosphere.”

"Time should not be an issue for Girl Scouts." ~Jenna S., Girl Scout Ambassador

"The moments of girls working towards the highest awards were challenging but so rewarding in the end to see their confidence rise and a community forever changed."



"My Gold Award project was a great opportunity for me to gain more leadership experience and improve important life skills that will help me to be a more successful adult." ~Courtney T., Girl Scout Ambassador

You Are Not Alone!



There are many opportunities for Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, and their leaders to stay connected to Girl Scouts:

"There aren't a lot of older Girl Scout troops in my area."

There may be an opportunity to merge or join another troop and form a larger troop — sometimes called a Super Troop. Contact Customer Care at customercare@girlscoutsni.org.

Juliette Girl Scouts offers an opportunity for individually registered members to have an awesome time participating in GSNI activities, community service, the Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Programs, attending local service unit activities, and going to camp. Juliettes decide what activities to join, what skills to learn, and which recognitions and awards to complete—all at their own pace. Juliettes can even work towards being a [Star!](#)

Opportunities to connect with other Girl Scouts? How about GSNI programs, Teen Leadership Conference, Older Girl Journey Weekends, summer camp, and Service Unit Adventure Clubs—just to name a few!

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Older Girl Facebook Group: This is a great way for troop leaders to stay connected, share ideas, and opportunities!

Would you like to learn more about becoming a Girl Scout Cadette?



Start by visiting [Puzzle U!](#) Then register and join us for **Catch On to Cadettes**—an event that introduces, excites, and inspires 5th grade Girl Scout Juniors to new opportunities that become available in the world of Girl Scout Cadettes! Hear from current Girl Scout Cadettes and leaders!

Two Virtual Events for 5th Grade Junior Girl Scouts:

Catch On to Cadettes - March

Thu, March 24, 2022, 6 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEudeCsqzkrG9VFrXVIXDAelJMP-YGbKwbm>

Catch On to Cadettes - April

Sun, April 3, 2022, 1 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0td-ytrj4sGNKB-KH5H-8jzQ8mEPHgN1ss>

Note: After registering for either of these events, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Two Fun, In-Person Events for 5th Grade Junior Girl Scouts:

Be welcomed into the world of older Girl Scouts by registering and attending one of these events planned by the older Girl Scouts of GSNI—just for you—and held at one of our amazing camps!

Zip into Cadettes - Sat, May 7, 2022, Mary Ann Beebe Center. Registration deadline: April 21

Climb Up to Cadettes - Sat, May 21, 2022, Camp McCormick. Registration deadline: May 5

You must have an ActiveNet account or create one to register for GSNI programs. Read <https://bit.ly/ActiveNetTips> for instructions. Visit www.girlscoutsni.org/activities. Click on Events & Activities. Once redirected to ActiveNet, click the magnifying glass on the right to search. Type the name of the program in the Search bar and click Search. All programs will show as “Free” until you register; fee is listed in event description.

Please feel free to share any of this information!

I look forward to working with you and your girl scouts to provide you both with a great older Girl Scout experience!

Caron Prettyman

Girl Experience Specialist-Older Girl

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois

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www.girlscoutsni.org