



2022-2023

Multi-Level K-5 Honor Troop

We are troop number _____,
and we have _____ girls in our troop.



Let's have the best year ever! The Honor Troop guidelines provide your troop—girls and leaders—with a roadmap for your Girl Scout year. Following this roadmap will lead to an exceptional experience and will set your troop up for success. Or, in other words, you'll have the best year ever! To qualify for Honor Troop designation, your troop must complete 12 required elements and (because Girl Scouts is all about customizing your experience) 3 your choice elements.

Here's what you need to do:

Section	# of Required Elements	# of Your Choice Elements
Adult Leadership	5	1
Girl Scout Ways & Traditions	5	1
Girl Scout Program	2	1

Ready to get started?

There are just a few things you might want to know first...



Timing

The Honor Troop Program spans the membership year (October 2022 through September 2023).

Patches

All girls and adults earning Honor Troop for the first time may purchase the Honor Troop patch. After the first year, girls and adults purchase only the year bar.

This is a council program and patches/bars should be worn on the back of the tunic, vest or sash.

You may purchase your patches at the time you turn in your completed Honor Troop Tracking Forms. This program is "On Your Honor," which means you are immediately eligible to purchase patches.



Forms

Completed forms may be submitted to any of GSNI's Resource Centers **between June 15, 2023 and October 15, 2023**. When you're all finished, you have two options for submitting your forms and purchasing your patches:



Option 1: Visit a Resource Center. Visit any one of GSNI's Resource Centers to submit your paperwork in-person, at which time the appropriate patches and/or year bars may be purchased.

Option 2: Via Email. Email the completed Honor Troop Program Forms to customer care@girlscoutsni.org with **SUBJECT LINE: Honor Troop 2023**. Indicate in

the email that you'd like to order/ship (shipping fees apply) your patches. Once form is received by email, the troop leader will be invoiced for payment. Invoices will come from Girl Scouts of NorthernIL invoicing@messaging.squareup.com

COVID Disclaimer:

Adult Leadership

Required Elements: Complete all 5!



- Two Certified Leaders:** All troops are required to have a minimum of two, non-related registered adults (one of which must be a female) who are Certified Leaders. Certified Leaders have completed the required training in their learning path in gsLearn.

NOTES:

All trainings are located in gsLearn.

Any Troop Leader who became a Certified Leader in previous years would have completed GS101 and a New Leader Workshop.

A minimum of two, non-related adults (one of which must be female) must be present at all troop meetings and outings. Additional volunteers may be required to meet girl/adult ratios as outlined in [Volunteer Essentials](#).

- Safety Activity Checkpoints:** Leaders made use of Safety Activity Checkpoints and discussed safety/emergency rules with their troop, parents, and chaperones for meetings, field trips and overnights.

NOTE: Safety Activity Checkpoints are found the Volunteer Toolkit's Resources tab.

- Troop Financial Report:** The troop's financial report was turned in to your Member Support Specialist or before June 15, 2023.

- Service Unit Meetings:** A leader, or adult troop volunteer, has attended at least 50% of service unit meetings during the Membership Year.

- Volunteer Toolkit (VTK):** The troop leader utilized the VTK in one or more ways: creating a year plan, communicating with parents, using the resource tab, etc.

Adult Leadership

Your Choice Elements: Complete at least 1!

- Parental Involvement:** Leaders welcomed/encouraged parental involvement and have recruited additional volunteers to assist with one or more of the troop roles:
 - Troop Treasurer (membership, background check, and training required)
 - Fall Product Program Chair (membership, background check, and training required)
 - Troop Cookie Chair (membership, background check, and training required)

- Early Renewal:** A minimum of 50% of girl members and 2 adult members have renewed for the 2024 Membership Year by June 30, 2023.

Girl Scout Ways & Traditions

Required Elements: Complete all 5!



Promise & Law: Troop members are able to recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Girl Led: Girls took an active and grade-appropriate role in figuring out the what, where, when, why and how of troop plans.



Community Service/Take Action: The troop participated in at least one community service and/or Take Action project(s).

NOTE: It is recommended that service projects be those where girls are physically doing or making something for someone in the community. Girl Scouts may NOT raise money for other groups, which includes activities such as ringing bells for The Salvation Army. Service Projects may include participation in one of the Girl Scout National Service Projects.

Please describe your service project(s) and/or Take Action project(s), including who benefitted (If needed, add an additional page at the end of the report):

Investiture/Rededication: Troop members perform an Investiture or Rededication Ceremony at the beginning of their Girl Scout year

Bridge to Girl Scout Brownie/Junior/Cadette: Girl Scouts in the final year of their level participated in at least one Bridge to “Next Level” activity.

Note: This required element does not apply to Girl Scouts not in the final year of their level.

Girl Scout Ways & Traditions

Your Choice Elements: Complete at least 1!



My Promise, My Faith Award: At least 50% of the troop earned the My Promise, My Faith Award.
NOTE: Earning this award can be on an individual or troop basis.



Invite a Friend: The troop invited a girl, or girls, who are non-Girl Scouts to a Girl Scout event.



Make New Friends: At least 50% of troop members participated in a service unit or inter-troop event.
NOTE: Attendance can be on an individual or troop basis.



Special Girl Scout Days: The troop participated in an activity for at least one of the following Girl Scout days:

- Juliette Low's Birthday, October 31
- World Thinking Day, February 22
- Girl Scout Sunday, March 6
- Girl Scout Birthday, March 12
- Girl Scout Sabbath, March 13



Get Outdoors: At least 50% of the troop members completed one of the following outdoor patch programs:

- Spring Outdoor Challenge
- Summer Outdoor Challenge
- Fall Outdoor Challenge
- Winter Outdoor Challenge
- Outdoor Skills Patch Program

Girl Scout Program

Required Elements: Complete both!



There's something you need to know before we get started with the Girl Scout Program section: **VTK stands for Volunteer Toolkit** and it is a digital resource that supports troop leaders and co-leaders. You access the VTK through the MY GS link on our website. Through the VTK, troop leaders can:

- Plan the troop's calendar year
- Access the meeting plans that show a breakdown of every meeting, including a list of the materials needed and editable time allotments for each activity in the meeting
- Email parents with one click
- Record girls' attendance at meetings and their badge and Journey achievements
- AND MORE!

Ok, now you're ready!

Fall Product Program: Members of the troop participated in the 2023MY Fall Product Program (fall of 2022) either with an equal number of girls or a higher % of girls selling than the prior year or additional troop funds being raised than the prior year. Note: An exemption applies for any new troop that forms after the Fall Product Program.

Girl Scout Cookie Program: At least 80% of troop members participated in the Girl Scout Cookie Program and learned about the 5 Skills: Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills and Business Ethics.

Learning about these skills could be completed through one or more of the following:

- Earn a Cookie Badge (Daisy – Count It Up or Talk It Up; Brownie – Meet My Customers or GiveBack; Junior – Cookie CEO or Customer Insights)
- Earn the Entrepreneur Family Pin
- Attend GSNI's Cookie Kick-off
- Attend a Service Unit Cookie Kick-off
- Use a combination of activities from [Little Brownie Bakers' Website](#)

Choose one of the 3 year plans in the VTK or create your own year plan, and complete all meeting plans.

Girl Scout Program

Your Choice Elements: Complete at least 1!



Summit Award: At least 50% of the troop earned their level's Summit Award. Requirements found in each levels *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*



GSNI Event: At least 50% of the troop attended a GSNI scheduled program event. Find information via GSNI's website event listing at www.girlscoutsni.org/activities.



Preferred Partner: The troop scheduled and participated in an event with a GSNI Preferred Partner. Find the Preferred Partner Listing on GSNI Website at www.girlscoutsni.org/partners.



Money Smart Week: The troop earned a Financial Literacy badge to celebrate Money Smart Week.



Travel Progression: The troop participated in an age-appropriate travel opportunity. See the Travel Progression chart in the Resource section of this document.



Outdoor Activities: At least 50% of the troop attended a service unit or inter-troop outdoor activity. Service unit day camps and camporees qualify.



World Thinking Day: The troop earned the current year's World Thinking Day Award OR participated in a Service Unit World Thinking Day event. Now available as meeting plans in the Volunteer Toolkit!



Global Action Award: The troop earned the Global Action Award or participated in activities around one of the Global Action Days (other than Thinking Day). Now available as meeting plans in the Volunteer Toolkit!



Outdoor Progression: The troop participated in an age appropriate activity at one of GSNI's three camps:

- Camp Dean
- MaryAnn Beebe Center
- Camp McCormick

See GSNI's Website for information on reserving a camp site at one our camps at www.girlscoutsni.org/campwithus.

See the Travel Progression chart in the Resource section of this document.

NOTE: Be sure to check out the *4 Camp Challenge Patch Program* and the *Onsite Programs in a Box*.

Patch Order Form

2022-2023 K-5 Multi-level Troop

PATCHES AVAILABLE JUNE 15, 2023, AND MUST BE ORDERED BY OCTOBER 15, 2023.

To purchase Honor Troop Patches or Year Bars:

- Bring the completed Honor Troop Record and Order Form to any GSNI Resource Center location.
- OR-
- Email the completed Honor Troop Record and Order Form to customercare@girlscoutsni.org with **SUBJECT LINE: Honor Troop 2023**. Once received by email, you will be invoiced for payment. Invoices will come from Girl Scouts of Northern IL invoicing@messaging.squareup.com

TROOP INFORMATION:

Troop Number _____ Service Unit _____

Troop Leader's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile or Work Phone _____

ORDER:

_____ Honor Troop Patches X \$2.00 \$ _____

_____ 2023 Year Bars X \$1.25 \$ _____

Shipping Charge (if having patches shipped) \$3.50 \$ _____

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Once this form is received by email, you will be invoiced for payment.

We verify that our troop has completed the requirements as indicated on the Honor Troop Record Form.

Leader Signature (Required): _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Leader Signature (Required): _____

Service Unit Manager Signature -OR-

Member Support Specialist Signature (Required): _____