



Ambassador Honor Troop

We are troop number _____,
and we have _____ Girl Scouts in our troop.
(how many?)



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 14 required elements and (because Girl Scouts is all about customizing your experience) 3 your choice elements.

Ready to get started?

There are just a few things you might want to know first, here's what you need to do:

Section	# of Required Elements	# of Your Choice Elements
Adult Leadership	5	1
Girl Scout Ways & Traditions	6	1
Girl Scout Program	3	1



Timing

The Honor Troop Program spans the membership year.



Patches

All Girl Scouts and adults earning Honor Troop for the first time will receive the Honor Troop patch. After the first year, girls and adults will receive only the year bar.

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

You may receive 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 receive patches.

Forms

Completed forms may be submitted to any of GSNI's Resource Centers between June 15 and October 15 every year. When you're all finished, you have two options for submitting your forms and receiving 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 given to you.

Option 2: Via Email

Email the completed Honor Troop Program Forms to customer care@girlscoutsni.org with SUBJECT LINE: Honor Troop (the year). Indicate in the email that you'd like to have us ship (shipping fees apply) your patches. If received by email, a Resource Specialist will contact the troop leader.



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 identify as female) who are Certified Leaders. Certified Leaders have completed their required training pathway.

NOTES:

- All required training courses 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 identify as female) must be present at all troop meetings and outings.
- Additional volunteers may be required to meet Girl Scout/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 on the Volunteer Toolkit's Resources tab, Activities webpage, and Rallyhood.



Troop Financial Report: The troop's financial report was turned in to your Membership Engagement Specialist on or before June 30 every year.



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 Bank Signer** (membership, background check, and training required)
- **Troop Fall Product Chair** (membership, background check, and training required)
- **Troop Cookie Chair** (membership, background check, and training required)
- **Troop Volunteer** (membership, background check, and training required)



Early Renewal: A minimum of 50% of girl members and 2 adult members have renewed for the next Membership Year by June 30 each year.

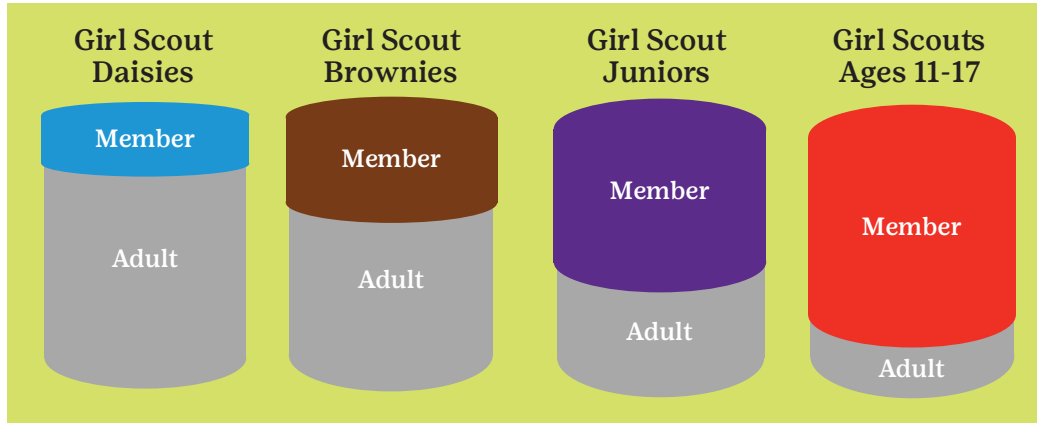
Girl Scout Ways & Traditions

Required Elements: Complete all 6!



Promise & Law: Troop members are able to recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law, with help from adults, when needed.

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 OR Take Action project.

NOTES:

- 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. Troops are encouraged to submit information and photos related to any service project to GSNI at stories@girlscoutsni.org.

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.

Explore Leadership Opportunities: The troop is aware of special leadership opportunities available to them as Girl Scout Seniors.

Note:

- Check out the Paths to Leadership on GSNI's website: www.girlscoutsni.org/leadership.

Bridge to Adults: Second year Girl Scout Ambassadors participated in at least one Bridge to Adults activity.

Note:

- This required element does not apply to first year Ambassadors.

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, inter-troop event, council events, or summer camp.

Note:

- Attendance can be on an individual or troop basis.



World Thinking Day: More than 50% the troop earned the current year's World Thinking Day Award. Requirements can be found [here](#).

Note:

- If this is selected as "Your Choice" for Girl Scout Ways, you will not be able to count it again in Girl Scout Program. Choose which category you'd prefer to use it as your choice.



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 Week, the week of March 12
- Girl Scout Birthday, March 12



Celebrate Different Cultures: At least 50% of the troop members completed one of the following culture patches as part of the Girl Scout Multicultural Community Celebration patch program:

- Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Black History Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- LGBTQ+ Pride Month
- Native American Heritage Month



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
- Gnome Hunt Patch
- Bird Hunt Patch
- Goat Hunt Patch

Girl Scout Program

Required Elements: Complete all three!



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: At least 50% of girls registered participated in the Fall Product Program.

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
- 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 11 year plans in the VTK, Gold Award track, or create your own year plan; and complete all meeting plans.

Note:

- Select which one you chose in the list below and keep track of your progress for each award.

Girl Scout Program (continued)

Your Choice Elements: Complete at least 1!



Summit Award: At least 50% of the troop earned the Ambassador Summit Award.

Note:

- Requirements found in Ambassador Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting.



GSNI Event: At least 50% of the troop attended a GSNI scheduled program event.

Note:

- 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.

Note:

- Find the Preferred Partner Listing on GSNI website at www.girlscoutsni.org/partners.

Girl Scout Program

Your Choice Elements: Complete at least 1!



Make New Friends: At least 50% of the troop attended a service unit or inter-troop outdoor activity..

Note:

- This includes service unit day camps and camporees.



Financial Literacy: The troop earned one of the financial literacy badge or entrepreneurship badge.



Travel Progression: Weekender/Traveler/Globetrotter: The troop participated in an age-appropriate travel opportunity.

Note:

- See the Travel Progression Chart in the Volunteer Toolkit Resource Tab.



Outdoor Activities: At least 50% of the troop attended a service unit or inter-troop outdoor activity.

Note:

- 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. Meeting plans are available 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). Meeting plans are available in the Volunteer Toolkit!



Outdoor Progression: Day Tripper/Overnighter: The troop visited 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/camps.
- See the Outdoor Progression Chart in the Volunteer Toolkit Resource Tab.

Patch Order Form

Girl Scout Ambassadors



PATCHES AVAILABLE: JUNE 15 each year and must be ordered by OCTOBER 15.

To pick up 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 (Year). A Resource Specialist will reach out to you for shipping payment.

TROOP INFORMATION: Troop Number _____ Service Unit _____

Troop Leader's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile or Work Phone _____

ORDER: Council Provided Honor Troop Patches _____ Year Bars _____

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

Once this form is received by email, you will receive a call for shipping payment.

PICK UP: If picking up at a GSNI Resource Center; please indicate which location, you would like to pick up at:

Lake Zurich

Rockford

South Elgin

Oswego

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

Leader(s) Signature (Required): _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

Service Unit Manager OR

Membership Engagement Specialist Signature (Required): _____