

# LEARN THE GIRL SCOUT LINGO AND GIRL SCOUT WAYS

## Ambassadors

Girls in grades 11-12 who are registered with GSUSA.

## Annual Meeting

A meeting of voting members called Delegates who conduct business essential to the Council and elect the Board of Directors and Officers, held annually.

## Baden-Powell, Lord and Lady

He was the founder of the Boy Scouts and she was the first Chief World Guide of the Girl Guides. Their joint birthday is on February 22nd, which is referred to as World Thinking Day (see Thinking Day for more information).

## Badge

Upon successful completion of certain requirements, a Girl Scout may earn a proficiency badge. These are worn on the front of her sash/vest. Badges are recognitions earned by a girl to indicate she is prepared to use new knowledge and skills to serve and teach others.

## Bandana

Multipurpose cotton square that girls wear as a scarf or use as a sit-upon, tote, potholder, or various other items.

## Blue Book of Basic Documents

This publication contains all of the basic documents of *Girl Scouts of the United States of America*. It is the foundation for the work of all Girl Scout councils and may be found online:

## Board of Directors

Elected volunteers who are the governing body of the Council responsible for finances, strategic direction and planning, and supervise the CEO.

## Bridging

The act of moving up from one Girl Scout level to the next. Girls usually cross a bridge during this ceremony to symbolize the transition.

## Bridging Ceremony

A ceremony where a Girl Scout "crosses the bridge" from one grade level of Girl Scouting to the next

## Brownies

Girls in grades 2-3 who are registered with GSUSA.

## Brownie Ring

A circle formed by members of a Brownie Girl Scout troop/group for discussing troop business and planning activities.

## Buddy System

A safety practice that allows two girls of equal ability to move about and keep track of each other.

## **Cadettes**

Girls in grades 6-8 who are registered with GSUSA.

## **Camp Ranger/Master**

A person who maintains the property of the Council camps and may assist guests upon their arrival and departure.

## **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

A professional staff member responsible for the total management and administration of Council operations. The CEO reports and is accountable to the Board of Directors.

## **Cookie Cupboard**

Open during the Girl Scout Cookie Program, Volunteers come to designated locations to pick up additional cookies for the girls to sell.

## **Community**

A defined geographic area of Girl Scouts Troops and members.

## **Community Leader**

A volunteer appointed by staff to manage the work of the Community.

## **Community Meeting**

A meeting held within a defined geographic area that provides useful information and networking opportunities for adult Volunteers. These are usually held monthly.

## **Community Team Member**

A group of adult Volunteers who support a Service Unit.

## **Constituencies**

The Board of Directors establishes groups of troops (Community or other categories as determined by the Board) and such groups are referred to as Constituencies.

## **Core Business Strategy**

A nationally inspired process that began in 2004 that will ensure Girl Scouting is the preeminent leadership experience for girls.

## **Council**

The entire body of registered girl and adult members in a given geographical area.

## **Court of Awards**

A ceremony that may be held any time during the year. This is where badges, recognitions, and awards are presented.

## **Counselor in Training (CIT)**

A qualified Senior or Ambassador who has taken a course to learn outdoor group leadership skills.

## **Daisy The nickname for Juliette Gordon Low.**

Also the first grade level in Girl Scouting for girls in grades K-1 who are registered with GSUSA.

## Delegates

Registered adults and girls (14 years and older) who are elected as representatives of a service unit. Delegates vote on policies of the Council. The number of Delegates is usually determined by girl membership in each service unit.

## Destinations

Girl Scout activities/trips that go beyond the troop/group. They are national and international events that lead to broader perspectives for individual members.

## Dunk Bag

A mesh bag with a drawstring, used to sterilize utensils and plates when washing dishes at camp.

## Edith Macy Conference Center

A year-round professional training facility providing educational opportunities for Girl Scout volunteers and Council Staff.

## Facilitating Adult Learning

A 5 hour course delivered to volunteers who want to become learning facilitators.

## First Aid Kit

A basic First Aid Kit is part of every Troop Kit and should be available at every Girl Scout meeting or function.

## First-Aider

An adult who has completed approved first-aid training from a nationally recognized organization.

## Flag Ceremony

A Girl Scout ceremony involving not only the American flag, but the WAGGGS, Council, and Troop flags as well.

## Fly-Up Ceremony

This is a bridging ceremony for Girl Scout *Brownies* bridging to Girl Scout *Juniors*. Girls receive the Girl Scout pin along with their *Brownie* wings.

## Founders Day

The day Juliette Gordon Low's birthday, October 31st, is celebrated.

## Friendship Tie

There are two versions of the tie. Both are knotted and tied together to represent the Promise and Law. Once made, the tie is given away as a gift.

## Friendship Circle

The *Friendship Circle* is often formed at the end of meetings or campfires as a sort of closing ceremony. Everyone gathers in a circle where they cross their right arm over their left in front of them and hold hands with the girl on either side. This symbolizes equality and an unbroken chain of friendship for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides worldwide. Once everyone is silent, the chosen Girl starts the *friendship squeeze* which is passed from hand to hand.

The *friendship squeeze* is started by an agreed upon Girl. The squeeze should act as a reminder to your girls of their link to each other and to all other Girl Scouts. The agreed upon Girl will squeeze the hand on the girl next to her right and then move her right foot forward (i.e. towards the center of the circle). This will enable all girls in the circle to see the squeeze travel. The next girl who receives the squeeze moves her right foot forward and passes the squeeze on to the next girl continuing through every girl in the circle. When the squeeze comes back to the first Girl everyone raises their arms with hand connected high above their heads, then while still holding hands everyone turns under their right arm. If this is done correctly, everyone is now facing outward with their hands uncrossed but still connected behind their backs. Each girl will then release hands and walk away, signaling that the ceremony or meeting is over.



## Girl Guides

The term used to identify “Girl Scouts” in many countries. Agnes Baden-Powell, sister of the Boy Scouts’ founder, started the first Girl Guide troops in England.

## Girl Scout

Any person – girl, woman, or man – who registers annually or for a lifetime with GSUSA.

## Girl Scout Birthday

March 12, 1912, the date Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouting in Savannah, Georgia.

## Girl Scout Gold Award

The highest award in Girl Scouting. Earned as a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout, this award culminates a girl’s experiences in the Girl Scout Movement.

## Girl Scout Handshake

This *Girl Scout Handshake* is a formal way of greeting other Girl Scouts and Troop Volunteers. You shake hands with the left hand and give the *Girl Scout Sign* with your right hand. The left handed handshake represents friendship because the left hand is closer to the heart than the right.



## Girl Scout Law

This, along with the Girl Scout Promise, is the credo of Girl Scouting. A girl lives the 10 parts of the Law to fulfill the Promise.

## Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)

The Girl Scout Program model, which engages girls in discovering themselves, connecting with others, and taking action to make the world a better place.

## Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day

April 22nd is a day of appreciation for adult volunteers in Girl Scouting.

## Girl Scout motto

Our motto is "Be prepared." In the 1947 *Girl Scout Handbook*, the motto was explained this way: "A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed. Willingness to serve is not enough; you must know how to do the job well, even in an emergency." The same ideas are true today.

## Girl Scout Promise & Law

The *Girl Scout Promise* is a pledge made by each member (both girls and adults) to live up to the ideals of Girl Scouting. Members live the 10 parts of the *Girl Scout Law* to fulfill the *Girl Scout Promise*.

## Girl Scout Quiet Sign

The *Quiet Sign* is used in meetings and other gatherings to let everyone know it is time to stop talking. This sign is made by raising your right hand high over your head to signal for attention and quiet at any Girl Scout gathering. When the hand goes up, and as people in the group see this, mouths will go quiet and they will also raise their hands. Once everyone is silent, the meeting continues.



## Girl Scout Sabbath

The Saturday at the end of Girl Scout Week.

## Girl Scout Sign

The *Girl Scout Sign* is made by raising three fingers of the right hand (thumb hold down pinky). This sign stands for the three parts of the Promise. You give the sign when:

- You say the *Girl Scout Promise*
- You are welcomed into Girl Scouting at an investiture ceremony
- You receive a patch or badge
- You greet other Girl Scouts or Troop Volunteers



## Girl Scout Slogan

This phrase has been used since 1912. It is "Do a good turn daily." The slogan is a reminder of the many ways girls can contribute positively to the lives of others.

## Girl Scout Silver Award

The second highest award in Girl Scouting, earned by Cadette Girl Scouts.

## Girl Scout Sunday

The Sunday at the beginning of Girl Scout Week.

## Girl Scout Trefoil

"Trefoil" means three leaves. Each leaf in the traditional or stylized Girl Scout trefoil stands for a part of the *Girl Scout Promise*. Within the traditional Girl Scout trefoil is the American eagle and shield, which are part of the Great Seal of the United States of America. The eagle is a symbol of strength and victory, and the shield on the eagle's breast signifies self-reliance. In his talons, he clutches on his right an olive branch, the symbol of peace, and on his left, a shaft of arrows, and the symbol of might. The eagle faces right, which is the position of honor, looking toward the symbol of peace. The eagle and shield within the trefoil signify that Girl Scouts stand ready to serve their country. The stylized Girl Scout trefoil, introduced in 1978, symbolizes both the contemporary and continuing commitment to the three-part Promise in its trefoil shape. The three faces stand for the diversity of Girl Scouting and its focus on girls.



### Girl Scouts' Own

Special girl-planned, inspirational occasion held at troop gatherings when the girls express their deepest feeling about their Girl Scout ideals. It is not a religious service, nor is it to be used as a substitute for a religious service.

### GSGC

Abbreviation for Girl Scouts of Gateway Council.



### Girl Scout Week

The week in which the Girl Scout Birthday falls. It starts on Sunday and ends the following Saturday.

### GSUSA

Abbreviation for Girl Scouts of the United States of America.



### Honor Guard

A group which leads flag ceremonies. The flag carriers wear red sashes across their chests and the guards wear red sashes around their waists.

## Insignia

The umbrella term for all Girl Scout earned grade level awards, religious awards, participation patches, and pins. Girls wear earned awards and official insignia on the front of the Girl Scout uniform and participation patches on the back.

## Investiture

This ceremony welcomes new members, girls or adults, into the Girl Scout family for the first time. Girls will receive their *Girl Scout*, *Girl Scout Brownie*, or *Girl Scout Daisy* pin at this time.

## Journeys

A Journey is a book that contains 6 to 12 sessions that are designed to facilitate the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to each age level. The first Journey series, It's your World-Change it, is the premier advocacy program for girls. The second Journey series, It's Your Planet- Love It, contains environmentally based sessions and the third Journey series, It's Your Story-Tell It, covers self-esteem through story telling.

## Journey Ceremonies

These ceremonies honor Girl Scouts who have earned the final award along a *Journey*. The ceremonies are usually held at the Troop level and invite the girls to develop a themed celebration of their *Journey*, often including friends and family.

## Juliette Gordon Low (aka "Daisy")

This is the founder of Girl Scouts of the USA.

## Juliette Gordon Low World Friendship Fund

A GSUSA-operated fund that supports educational programs, service projects, training, and international travel to foster friendship among girls from the 140 countries of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

## Juniors

Girls in grades 4-5 who are registered with GSUSA.

## Kaper Chart

A grid system, wheel, or table showing the tasks to each girl or group of girls. This is useful for meetings, campouts, and other times when the Troop is together.

## Keys

By using the three keys, girls are getting the most benefit from Girl Scouts. They are Discover, Connect, and Take Action.

## Volunteer in Training (VIT)

A qualified Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador who has taken a course to learn group leadership skills.

## Learning Facilitator

Registered adult volunteer who facilitates learning.

## Mission Statement for GSUSA

We build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Also the long-term outcome in Girl Scouting.



## Outcomes

15 short-term and intermediate outcomes are gained from Girl Scout activities leading to the long-term outcome that girls lead with courage, confidence, and character.

## Participation Patches

Supplementary insignia received by girls for participating in an event or activity. Girls wear participation patches and pins on the back of their Girl Scout uniform.

## Pathways

The way girls may choose to participate in Girl Scouting, which are Troop, Camp, Travel, Events, and Special Interest.

## Patrol

Small group of girls that plans and carries out activities within the troop/larger group. Each patrol has an elected or appointed leader.

## Phone Tree

A list of people and their phone numbers arranged to facilitate a chain of calls in an emergency. The person who gets the first call contacts a designated small group of people, who then call others on the list. This is a good way to set up emergency notification for any troop trips or overnights or to let parents know if the girls will be late coming back from a trip.

## Processes

Girl-led, learning by doing, and cooperative learning.

## Program Aide (PA)

A Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador Girl Scout who works directly with a troop/group under the supervision of an adult volunteer.

## Progression

The increase in responsibility that allows Girl Scouts to learn and grow with the program. At each level the girls take on more responsibility for Troop Government and Girl-Adult Planning.

## Rededication

A formal ceremony at which a girl or adult, who has been previously invested, renew her *Girl Scout Promise*.

## Resident Camp

A local Girl Scout council-sponsored camp where girls attend and stay over each night. They live in units and participate in programs with a staff of trained counselors.

## Sash/Vest

A part of the Girl Scout uniform where the girl may display her Girl Scout recognitions and insignia.

## Senior

Girls in grades 9-10 who are registered with GSUSA.

## Service Project

At all levels of Girl Scouting, the girls are urged to give of themselves to their communities. There are no remunerations for these projects.

## Sit-Upon

A cushion often made by Girl Scouts to sit on when the ground is damp or to prevent their clothes from becoming soiled.

## S'mores

A favorite campfire treat consisting of graham crackers, chocolate bars and toasted marshmallows.

## SWAPs

“Special **W**hatchamacallits **A**ffectionately **P**inned **S**omewhere” or **S**hare **w**ith **a** **P**al’s. These are often made and traded between Girl Scouts at events. They generally follow the event theme or represent the maker’s personal interests.



## Tagalong

A non-registered child attending a Girl Scouting event.

## Thinking Day

February 22nd is a day used by Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world to think of each other and exchange greetings, learn about other countries, and give to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. It is the co-birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.

## Troop Camping

When girls and their leaders camp as a troop. Training is required for at least one of the adults participating before the troop camps.

## Troop Financial Report

A form filled out by each troop to summarize the income and expenses for the year.

## Troop Government

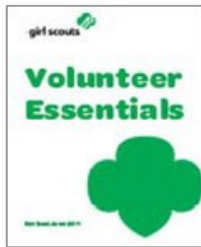
Methods by which the girls and adults together manage the troop in a democratic way.

## USA Girl Scouts Overseas

GSUSA's overseas arm, which delivers the Girl Scout Program to American girls and girls attending American or International schools outside the continental US. Formerly called Troops On Foreign Soil (TOFS).

## Volunteer Essentials

Volunteer Essentials is a national resource, customized by each council, containing vital information regarding Girl Scout operations.



## WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts)

Set up in 1928, this voluntary educational organization is based on values and open to all girls without distinction as to creed, race, nationality, or other circumstances. The World Association serves over 10 million Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in 145 countries. The mission of WAGGGS is to enable girls and young women to develop to their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.

## World Association Pin Membership

Pin of WAGGGS worn by Girl Scouts (except Daisy Girl Scouts) and Girl Guides. It is not earned, but given at a special ceremony such as Thinking Day. The recipient should know what the pin symbolizes.

## World Centers Owned and operated by WAGGGS,

These facilities are for the use of visiting Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. They are known as: Pax Lodge—London, England, Our Cabana—Cuernavaca, Mexico, Our Chalet—Adelboden, Switzerland, Sangam House—Poona, India.

# Contributors

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