



**GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.**

Thank You For Volunteering!  
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**For girls to benefit from Girl Scouting, they need the guidance of concerned, caring adults. *Adults like you!* This training is for new short term/episodic volunteers. It provides an overview of our council and an orientation to the mission, philosophy, and goals of Girl Scouting.**

**You will help girls develop **Courage, Confidence, Character.****



**Girl Scout Basic Orientation On-line Training for Episodic Volunteers**

# **Welcome to Greater New York**

The Girl Scout Council of Greater New York is:

Every girl and adult registered with the Girl Scout movement within 44 local service units. These service units encompass the 5 boroughs and serve over 21,000 girls.

We are one of the 21 Girl Scout Councils in the state of New York and there are currently 316 Girl Scout Councils in the United States. Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. is one of 144 member countries of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

## **Our Mission**

The Girl Scout Council of Greater New York is a voluntary organization that offers the Girl Scout program to all girls in the five boroughs of New York City to help them grow into capable and responsible women, who respect themselves and others.

### **The Girl Scout Council of Greater New York offers program for girls, including:**

- ✦ More than 200 official badge and patch programs
- ✦ Events and trips that explore topics in all areas of interest
- ✦ Troop camping year- round at Camp Kaufmann
- ✦ Volunteer troop service in the community
- ✦ Leadership training for girls and adults

## **The Girl Scout Story**

Girl Scouting in the United States was started on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia by Juliette Gordon Low. You will find the story of how Juliette Low started Girl Scouting in both the Brownie and Junior Girl Scout handbooks. Here is a summary of this story for you to read now.

### **The Story of Juliette Gordon Low**

Juliette Gordon Low was born on October 31, 1860, in Savannah, Georgia, a few months before the Civil War began. She was named after her grandmother, but an uncle said, "I bet she's going to be a daisy!" and Daisy she became to her family and close friends for the rest of her life.

While visiting Scotland in 1911, Juliette met Sir Robert Baden – Powell and his sister Agnes. Sir Baden Powell started the Boy Scouts in England. It was such a purposeful activity that the girls were interested in it too. So Sir Baden-Powell and his sister started the Girl Guides. The idea of a girl's movement really excited Juliette and she was determined to bring Girl Scouting to the United States. On March 12, 1912 she registered the first two troops of girls in Savannah, Georgia. She continued to nurture and shape the Girl Scout organization for the next 15 years, until her death in 1927.

In 1916 there were only three thousand Girl Scouts. Today membership is close to two and a half million girls and one million adults all over the country. Many more Girl Scouts and Girl Guides exist in the over 100 member countries of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Every one of them has a Promise and Law as the foundation for girls to grow into healthy and resourceful adults.

## THE FOUNDATION OF GIRL SCOUTING

Everyone who joins Girl Scouts of the USA makes the Promise as follows:

On my honor, I will try:

To serve God and my country  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Por mi honor, yo trataré:

De servir a Dios, y a mi patria,  
Ayudar a las personas en todo  
momento,  
Y vivir conforme a la Ley de las  
Girl Scouts

The Girl Scout organization recognizes that the motivating force of the Movement is a spiritual one. However, the organization makes no attempt to interpret or define God. It looks for each member to establish for herself the nature of her belief, recognizing that religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious leaders. Therefore, when reciting the Promise, the word "God" may be substituted with a term that more appropriately reflects each member's own religious beliefs. When the Promise appears in written form, it remains as above.

### **The Law that is referred to in the Promise states:**

I will do my best to be:

honest and fair,  
friendly and helpful,  
considerate and caring,  
courageous and strong, and  
responsible for what I say and do,

And to

respect myself and others,  
respect authority,  
use resources wisely,  
make the world a better place, and  
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Yo me esforzare a :

ser honorada y justa,  
cordial y servicial,  
considerada y compasiva,  
valiente y fuerte, y  
responsable de lo que digo y hago

y a

respetarme a mi misma y a las demas  
respetar la autoridad,  
usar los recursos de manera prudente  
hacer del mundo un lugar mejor, y  
ser hermana a cada una de las  
Girl Scouts.

## **The Four Program Goals**

All program activities are based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law and the following Four Program Goals:

**1. Girls will develop to their full potential. Girl Scouting will: Foster girls' feelings of self-acceptance and unique self-worth.**

- Promote girls' perception of themselves as competent, responsible, and open to new experiences and challenges.
- Offer girls opportunities to learn new skills.
- Encourage girls' personal growth.
- Allow girls to utilize and practice talents and abilities.

**2. Girls will relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect. Girl Scouting will:**

- Help girls develop sensitivity to others and respect for their needs, feelings, and rights.
- Promote an understanding of individual, cultural, religious, and racial differences.
- Foster the ability to build friendships and working relationships.

**3. Girls will develop a meaningful set of values to guide their actions and to provide for sound decision-making. Girl Scouting will:**

- Help girls develop meaningful values and ethics that will guide their actions.
- Foster an ability to make decisions that are consistent with girls' values and that reflect respect for the rights and needs of others.
- Empower girls to act upon their values and convictions.
- Encourage girls to reexamine their ideals as they mature.

**4. Girls will contribute to the improvement of society through the use of their abilities and leadership skills, while working in cooperation with others. Girl Scouting will:**

- Help girls develop concern for the well-being of their communities.
- Promote girls' understanding of how the quality of community life affects every member of society.
- Encourage girls to use their skills to work with others for the benefit of all.

# GIRL/ADULT PARTNERSHIP

## Planning & Progression

As girls grow in their abilities and experiences, adults shift responsibilities to them for planning, doing and evaluating troop/group activities.

Daisy Girl Scouts	Brownie Girl Scouts	Junior Girl Scouts	Cadette Girl Scouts	Senior Girl Scouts
LEADERS	SHARE	IN	THE	PLANNING
GIRLS	SHARE	IN	THE	PLANNING

### HELPING GIRLS PLAN

#### HELP THEM SHARE IDEAS:

- Help them draw pictures or make collages of activities
- Give them suggestions and ask their ideas
- Have them act out charades of activities or trips
- Sit in Daisy Girl Scout Circle, Brownie Girl Scout Circle, patrols, etc. and share ideas.
- Have a suggestion box

#### HELP THEM LISTEN TO OTHERS:

- Be sure everyone has an opportunity to speak
- Teach and use the quiet sign
- Discuss how it feels when no one listens to you

#### HELP THEM MAKE CHOICES:

- Set a comfortable atmosphere
- Discuss all the choices
- All ideas are good ideas, but explain why some may not be possible
- Pick two or three options and vote

#### HELP THEM MAKE A PLAN:

- What needs to be done?
- When will it be done?
- Who will do it?

### LET THEM HAVE FUN! SUPPORT THEM!

#### HELP THEM TO EVALUATE:

- What was the best part?
- What could be done differently
- How can we make changes

## SAFETY – WISE

As we prepare to begin the new Girl Scout year, we must remind ourselves of what is the first and foremost responsibility in Girl Scouting...

### **“The Health & Safety of Every Girl.”**

By whom and how is this responsibility carried out?

- **By GSUSA**, providing all councils with publications on safety and program resources for the different age level of girls.
- **By our Council**, in providing direction for leaders through training, local guidelines, resources and advice.
- **By the Leaders**, taking training, following procedures, setting examples both in attitude and action.
- **By the Parents**, assisting the leaders when needed, providing parental permission for troop activities, informing the leader of any changes regarding their daughter, providing their daughter with the necessary clothing and equipment for troop activities.
- **By the Girl**, learning positive safe and healthy behaviors from their leaders and parents, learning to listen and follow instructions, always remembering “Think Safety” and “Be Prepared”.

The following are a few reminders and a checklist as we begin the New Girl Scout Year!

1. Every girl in my troop is registered. ✓
2. I have read every health form for every girl in my troop. ✓
3. I have parental permission for all troop activities outside the troop meeting ✓
4. I have sent in forms for troop trips and informed SUM and or staff of trip. ✓
5. There will ALWAYS be two adults at every troop meeting, and more according Safety – Wise guidelines for troop coverage, Standard 13, page 69. ✓
6. I will keep parents informed of all troop activities. ✓
1. I will take all mandatory training as needed and as many enhancement and enrichment workshops as possible. ✓
2. Smoking, the use of alcohol or drugs and inappropriate use of language is never permitted in my troop. ✓
9. I will read Safety – Wise cover to cover. ✓
10. I will have FUN with my girls. ✓

We must nurture the concept of safety consciousness at all times, in all places. While total safety cannot be guaranteed, unnecessary risk can be reduced. Always “Be Prepared”.

## Girl Scout Council of Greater New York

### Recognizing and Reporting Signs of Child Abuse

*It is important that you, as a Girl Scout Leader, be able to recognize signs of child abuse in girls (see pages 41-42 of Safety-Wise). If you notice these signs, you should follow council guidelines for reporting the information to the proper agency or authority. You should alert a council staff member, a child protection agency, or a law enforcement agency.*

At the Council, you may call either of the two Sr. Directors of Membership, the Sr. Vice President of Membership & Program or the Director of Program:

- Gigi Irizarry, Sr. Director of Membership & Volunteer Development, 212-645-4000, ext.244
- Dawn Nolan, Sr. Vice President of Membership & Program, 212-645-4000, ext. 268
- Charmaine Chung, Sr. Director of Membership and Volunteer Recognition, 212-645-4000, ext. 257
- Magali Vasquez, Director of Program, 212-645-4000, ext. 259

You may also call the appropriate authority directly:

- Administration for Children's Services, Child Abuse and Maltreatment Hotline: 1-800-342-3720  
This is a 24 hour-a-day, 7 days a week, confidential hotline to report child abuse or neglect.
- New York City Police Department: 911. In an emergency situation, and to protect a child you believe is in immediate danger, you should contact the police department/emergency services.

When you call to report child abuse, you may be asked the following questions:

- name and address of the child and family members
- child's age, sex, and primary language
- nature and extent of the child's injuries
- type of abuse or neglect, including evidence of prior history of maltreatment of the child or siblings
- any additional information that may be helpful.

We hope that as Girl Scout volunteers you would follow the ethical mandate of reporting such cases. If you have any questions about reporting, please contact any of the Sr. Directors of Membership, the Sr. Vice President of Membership & Program or the Director of Program immediately.

## **Girl Scout Council of Greater New York Policy Smoke-Free Environment**

A “Smoke-Free Environment” is a policy of The Girl Scout Council of Greater New York, Inc. Adults should always have a positive influence and be positive role models for all girls. The following are criteria and guidelines that must be followed by all adults working with girls.

- Leaders, Co-leaders or parent helpers may not smoke while Girl Scouts are present.
- The legal age for smoking in New York is 21 years of age; older girls may not smoke even with parental permission.
- If a Leader/Co-Leader must smoke, she may do so in a designated area away from the girls and insuring adult coverage for the troop according to Safety-Wise standards.
- In restaurants, leaders should make every effort to sit girls in the “no smoking” areas.
- Failure or refusal to comply with this policy will result in the termination of Volunteer position.

**\*Smoking is permitted only as authorized by law and only in those areas of Council-owned or operated properties as designated. Smoking is not permitted at troop/group meetings or at events while girls are present.**

**\*Volunteer Responsibilities, Policies and Practices, page 5.**

## Review

You're almost done! Please take a few minutes to complete the following review. If you have questions, you can return to any section to re-read it or check our website.

1. Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouts in 1912 in Atlanta, Georgia.

\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

2. Girl Scouting is open to all girls who want to be members and agree to accept the Promise & Law

\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

3. When reciting the promise the word "God" may not be substituted.

\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

4. The Girl Scout program is guided by the 4 program goals and by its overall aims of Girl Scouts to encourage girls to be themselves, to be the best they can be.

\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

5. Girls and adults work in partnership in making decisions and planning.

\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

6. Safety-Wise is the resource book that gives program activity standards.

\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

**7. Basic responsibilities of a leader is to take training, follow procedures, and set example both in attitude and action.**

\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

**8. Health and safety principles must always be a part of every Girl scout activity.**

\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

**9. Smoking is permitted during troop meetings as long as it is 20 feet away from the girls.**

\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

**10. According to Safety- Wise, it is not the responsibility of Girl Scout leaders to be able to recognize signs of child abuse in girls.**

\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

***You have successfully completed  
The Review***

**Congratulations!**

**Please email your completed review to Lisa Golden (Training Manager) [lgolden@girlscoutsnyc.org](mailto:lgolden@girlscoutsnyc.org). Please be sure to include the contact information below.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_