
Welcome Daisy Girl Scout Leader!

Many meetings full of excitement, discovery and fun lie ahead. Daisy Girl Scouts are at a wonderful stage of development. They are full of curiosity and energy. They are eager to learn and please. Daisy Girl Scouts are willing to try new things and will freely express their emotions. As you begin working with your troop you may expect:

1. **ACTION!** Daisy Girl Scouts will be “moving and doing” almost all the time. Plan plenty of time “to get the wiggles out”, as well as time for girls to work quietly at their own pace.
2. **INVOLVEMENT!** Young children have very clear ideas of what **they** want to do at a given millisecond in time. They aren’t very good at planning for something to happen past the immediate moment, but they are very willing to learn. Ask girls for their opinions and remind them of activities taking place at a future date. Review “why” they are working on activities and reinforce “what” they are working on frequently.
3. **INDIVIDUALITY!** Five year-olds are very concerned about “me” but are in the beginning stages of understanding their roles in a group. Include them in the setting and cleaning up parts of the meeting. It may take longer and an adult may have to go over the same area of flooring the girls just swept, but girl involvement allows them to gain ownership for their meetings; to develop a sense of responsibility; to develop or strengthen values and to develop skills. Plan activities that provide for both individual and group work to meet their needs.
4. **ENERGY BURSTS!** Children at this age play hard and have short attention spans for structured activities. Mix up troop activities so girls are involved in a variety of quiet, moderate and high energy activities during the meeting.
5. **FLEXIBILITY!** The girls will let you know how they are feeling and what they are thinking. Listen to what they say and stay flexible. The sample meetings included in this packet are only suggestions. Your troop may want you to do things differently. That’s okay.

The Adult-Girl Partnership



The Girl Scout organization promises that girls will determine their activities and will be intricately involved in the planning and conducting of the selected activities. This begins with Daisy Girl Scouts! In partnership with adult leadership, girls can:

- 🌸 Give suggestions of activities they like to do;
- 🌸 Actively listen to suggestions from adults of possible activities (hint - provide a visual representation of anything that may not be familiar to the girls);
- 🌸 Select from a limited set of options;
- 🌸 Help prepare materials to be used for future activities;
- 🌸 Evaluate whether the activity was good and offer suggestions on how it could be improved.

The adult role is to provide suggestions, assist girls in narrowing the choices, redirect girls’ energies if the activity is beyond the capabilities or resources of the troop, and to make the final decisions and arrangements for an activity to take place. More on girl/adult planning is included in Basic Leadership Training.

Family Involvement

Families want to be involved . . . so encourage them! During the Parent/Guardian Meeting, give specific suggestions of ways they can be part of Girl Scouting. For example, almost every meeting requires one more set of adult hands beyond the two leaders. Anytime the troop leaves the meeting place, more adult supervision is needed. Check *Safety-Wise*, Program Standard 13 (pp. 69-70) for adult ratios required for troops. Suggested ways to involve families include:



TOPIC EXPERT - TEACHES GIRLS ABOUT A PARTICULAR SUBJECT...

DRIVER - ALWAYS NEEDED WHEN THE TROOP GOES ON A TRIP TOO FAR AWAY TO WALK.



TRIP ORGANIZER - HANDLES THE LOGISTICS (COST, TRAVEL AND LODGING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.) OF ANY TROOP TRIP.

FIRST AIDER - A MUST WHEN LEAVING THE MEETING LOCATION!



PLEASE NOTE: GIRLS CAN ONLY GO ON OVERNIGHTS WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT FAMILY MEMBER.



Program Planning

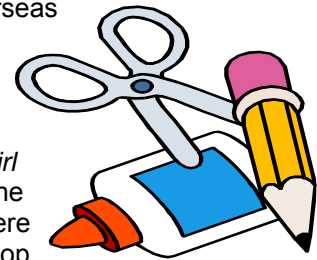
Resources and Supplies

The troop leaders require certain Girl Scout resources. These include *The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders*, *Games for Girl Scouts*, *Safety-Wise* and *Daisy Girl Scout Activity Book*. If you are inheriting a troop, hopefully the troop library contains copies of these publications. The Overseas Committee is responsible for providing a copy of *Safety-Wise*, the other three books have to be purchased. You will want to obtain them before beginning to meet with the girls. The attached meeting plans rely on you having them at your fingertips!

There are other publications such as *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting*, *Games for Girl Scouts*, *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting*, *Connections for Daisy Girl Scouts* or the *Sing-a-Long Songbook* that will be needed as the year progresses. Frequently there are copies which can be borrowed from the Overseas Committee Library, another troop leader or perhaps even the public library in your American community.

General troop supplies and equipment are limited. The basics to have-on-hand probably include:

Crayons, pencils & fine-line markers	Scissors (blunted-ended)	Construction paper
Glue sticks	Unlined paper	Yarn or string
Poster board	Masking and scotch tape	Paper towels
Empty butter tubs	Safety pins	Clothespins



Seek donations. There may be troops with surplus supplies, stores willing to provide and parents who have extra supplies at home.

Other activities require special supplies, equipment and entry fees. Review the first set of meetings to see what will be needed. Include these costs in the "troop dues" discussion during the Parents' Meeting. Try to keep these special costs consistent for each 3 month period the troop will meet.

Trips for Daisy Girl Scouts

Trips for Daisy Girl Scouts are usually scheduled to take place during regular troop meetings or for half days during the weekend or school breaks. On the rare occasion, an overnight activity is scheduled. Possibilities for trips are:



Regular Meeting Time

Visit to the Library
Tour the local Pet Clinic
Tour someone's work place
Hike to a nearby ice cream parlor
(or the playground close to the meeting site)

Half days

Visit to a Nature Center
Attend a Neighborhood day event
Explore the Children's Museum
Adopt a Grandparent at a Retirement Home
Pizza making party at a local restaurant

Sometimes, it is best to have girls meet at the field trip location. If girls meet at their regular location for trips taking place during regular meeting time, it is advisable to lengthen the meeting time so girls have plenty of time at the place they are visiting to complete the planned activities. Arrange for parents to pick them up at that location instead of at the usual meeting location. When a field trip takes place, the pre-activity, opening segment and business portions of the meeting won't take place. However, girls should complete an evaluation and closing of the meeting before concluding the field trip. A snack is still advisable if meeting directly after school.

Service Projects

All Girl Scouts give service to their community as part of the Girl Scout program. This includes Daisy Girl Scouts! There are many projects five year-olds can do with a minimum of assistance and lots of encouragement. Some possibilities for Daisy Girl Scouts are:



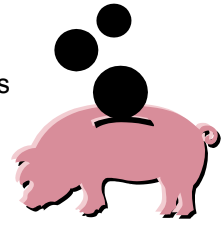
- ♻️ Assembling kits for youth living in homeless shelters;
- ♻️ Planting flowers for home-bound adults;
- ♻️ Adopting a grandparent at the local Retirement Home;
- ♻️ Being part of a community holiday celebration;
- ♻️ Sending greeting cards to deployed military personnel; and
- ♻️ Being part of a youth sponsorship project.

Youth sponsorship is usually organized by Youth Services on a military facility or may be available in a civilian community through the school. As a youth sponsor, the child overseas communicates with a child preparing to move overseas. Information is shared about the community, the school and the type of activities in the overseas setting. It is a great way for girls to have pen-pals and for the child coming overseas to make a friend before arriving in a new place.

However, some projects will require money for supplies, postage, or the donation of supplies. Don't forget to consider service projects when calculating the troop expenses or add them in when the decision to do a project is made.

Funding Troop Activities

Daisy Girl Scout activities should be inexpensive, but some costs will be incurred. Games involve equipment, field trips have entry fees, cooking activities require groceries, special supplies are needed for art and science projects and even the most general activities require paper and crayons!



Daisy Girl Scouts should not be involved in handling any money including troops dues, cookie and/or calendar sales or any other types of money earning. Adults are responsible for meeting the cost of all troop activities (*Safety-Wise*, Standard 28, page 74).

Daisy Girl Scouts may not handle money or engage in money-earning activities, so where does the troop receive money and support?

Although girls may not handle the money, **Daisy Girl Scouts do pay troop dues** (families will pay an activity fee to the Daisy Girl Scout leader). Have your budget completed and discuss troop funding during the Parent/Guardian Meeting. At other levels of the Girl Scout program, girls have the opportunity to earn monies to fund their activities so troop dues can be kept at a minimum. Girls at the Brownie-Senior Girl Scout levels should be able to pay their troop dues from monies they earn (allowance, odd jobs, babysitting, etc.). Dues for Daisy Girl Scouts should also be kept at a minimum. If girls are not receiving an allowance, brainstorm possible jobs girls could do at home to earn money. This is important as the girls will take pride in the fact that they are contributing (just like the Brownie Girl Scouts, and other older Girl Scouts) to their Girl Scout activities. The rest of the monies required for Daisy Girl Scout troop activities should be the result of donations from the families or other adults connected with the troop and support from the Overseas Committee. **Also, adults connected with the troop may engage in money earning projects in the support of the troop but Daisy Girl Scouts may not present during these activities.** Please consult with your OCC before planning and implementing any money earning activity.

PLEASE NOTE adults connected with a Daisy Girl Scout troop MAY NOT participate in calendar or cookie sales.

Frequently, the Overseas Committee has budgeted financial support for the Daisy troops. Check with the Overseas Committee or Daisy Troop Consultant to see how much, if any monies are available from the neighborhood. Initial costs for starting the new year for the:

<u>Family</u>		<u>Troop</u>	
GSUSA membership dues	\$10.00	Resources/Supplies	\$ _____
Activity Book	\$ _____	Insignia, pins, etc.	\$ _____
Uniform (optional)	\$ _____	Special supplies & equipment . . .	\$ _____
Other Optional Expenses	\$ _____	Field trips (entry fees, public transportation, etc. for first 3 months)	\$ _____
Total Individual Expenses	\$ _____	Total Troop Expenses for 3 months	\$ _____
+ Activity Fee (see ** in column 2)	\$ _____	Divide above line by number of girls to determine 3 months Activity Fee **	\$ _____

Total Individual



Meeting with the Girls

So, you've attended your new volunteer orientation, *Welcome to Girl Scouting*; you've purchased or obtained a set of Daisy Girl Scout program resources for your use during the year; you've registered to attend **Basic Leadership Training**, and you've contacted the girls and conducted the Parent/Guardian Meeting. Now it is time for that first troop meeting!

The following six meetings were designed to introduce the girls as well as yourself to Girl Scouting. Adjust the plans as you learn more about the girls in your troop and become more comfortable with the Girl Scouting format or use them as they are written. Have a great time and lots of fun this membership year.

The girls are waiting, so . . . let's get started!

