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# Welcome Junior Girl Scout Leader!





The year ahead is full of discovery and growth for all involved. Junior Girl Scouts require your steadfast belief in their ability to be responsible and capable of carrying out their activities in partnership with you. They will look to you for a great deal of direction, guidance and assistance, but they truly are ready and wanting to take on a larger portion of making their ideas and desires a reality. As you begin working with the girls you may expect:

1. **ACTION!** Games are particularly important with this age-level as it allows girls to strengthen leadership and teamwork skills, to become familiar with the physical changes taking place in their bodies, to burn off excess energy before beginning the quieter activities and perhaps most importantly gives them a place to still be the child they are.
2. **GROWTH SPURTS!** Many girls arrive to Junior Girl Scouts still looking and acting as cute and loveable as they were at age six and seven, but this is the time in their lives when the growth spurts happen. One day they are confident, adorable and coordinated, while the next day they are klutzy and self-conscious.
3. **DIVERSITY!** There is a great deal of difference between a nine-year old and an eleven-year old. The nine-year old is just as comfortable playing with her dolls as she is playing a game of kickball with the boys in the neighborhood while the eleven-year old is questioning where she fits in the world. However, they are all capable and eager to be in charge of conducting their activities although when a girl is feeling self-conscious, she will need your confidence in her to keep moving forward. Give girls plenty of opportunities for being the leader or individual responsible for making something happen. Lots of encouragement, trust and recognition will go a long way.
4. **ENERGY STRETCH!** Include a mixture of high and low energy activities during each meeting.
5. **FLEXIBILITY!** The girls' body language, if not their words 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 to do things differently. That's okay.

## The Adult-Girl Partnership



The Girl Scout organization promises girls that they will determine their activities. Further, Girl Scouting promises that girls will be intricately involved in the planning and conducting of their activities. For Junior Girl Scouts this can range from:

-  generating a list of activities and selecting the ones they will do this membership year;
-  leading a small group (patrol) in planning and conducting activities during a meeting;
-  asking their parents, other significant adults and experts to act as presenters, drivers, or assistants in order for a planned activity to take place;
-  evaluating 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, ensure that activities meet safety standards and work hand-in-hand with girls to make final arrangements for an activity to take place. More on girl/adult planning is included in the Basic Leadership and Program Age Level trainings.

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# Family Involvement

Frequently, families are unsure of their role in Girl Scouting at this age-level. They are realizing that their Girl Scout is torn between her desire for independence and continued family involvement in activities. During the Parent/Guardian Meeting stress how much you will be relying on family assistance and the importance of their involvement with their Girl Scout during this membership year. Include at least one family activity on the calendar. Be very specific about how families can be involved with the troop. When a troop is doing outdoor, science or activities using sharp tools, additional adults can assist girls to do the activities safely. Anytime the troop leaves the meeting place, more adult supervision is needed. Other ways to involve families are:



**TOPIC EXPERT/BADGE LEADER - THEY TEACH GIRLS ABOUT A PARTICULAR SUBJECT**

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



**TRIP COORDINATOR - THEY CAN WORK WITH GIRLS TO FIND OUT THE WHERE, WHEN, COST AND HOW GIRLS COULD TAKE A FIELD TRIP TO A SELECTED LOCATION AND ASSIST GIRLS IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS.**

**TREASURER - JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS DO MANY OUTSIDE TROOP ACTIVITIES WHICH REQUIRE MONIES BEYOND TROOP DUES. PARENTS CAN BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE WITH ORGANIZING AND SUPERVISING GIRLS WHILE THEY CONDUCT MONEY-EARNING ACTIVITIES TO OBTAIN THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS. THE TROOP COOKIE MANAGER POSITION IS OPEN!**



**FIRST AIDER - A MUST WHEN LEAVING THE MEETING LOCATION!**

**CAMPERS - GIRLS WILL LOVE CAMPING IF THEY ARE GIVEN THE CHANCE. IF YOU AREN'T A CAMPER, ASK ONE OR TWO PARENTS TO ATTEND OUTDOOR TRAINING AND TO PLAN AND CONDUCT OUTDOOR COOKING AND OVERNIGHT CAMPING TRIPS WITH THE GIRLS.**



## Funding Troop Activities

Girl Scouting is self-sufficient! Junior Girl Scout activities range from inexpensive to costly. Some games involve equipment, field trips have entry fees, cooking activities require raw food, and special supplies are needed for art and science projects and even the most general activities require paper and crayons!

**Supplies:** The troop leaders require certain Girl Scout resources. These include *The Junior Girl Scout Leader Guide Book*, *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*, *Junior Girl Scout Badge Book*, *Games for Girl Scouts*, *Safety-Wise* and *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting*. If you are inheriting a troop, hopefully the troop library contains copies of these publications. If not, the Overseas Committee is responsible for providing a copy of *Safety-Wise*, the troop is responsible for purchasing the other resources. 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*, *Trefoil Around the World* or the *Girl Scout Pocket Song Book* that will be needed as the year progresses. Frequently, there are copies which can be

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borrowed from the Overseas Committee Library, another troop leader or perhaps even the school/public library in your American community.

The troop will require a basic supply kit containing construction paper, blank paper to write on, crayons, scissors, glue/glue sticks, 4-6 wash tubs, and a few foam balls, frisbees and throw-down spots for games. Include these costs in the “troop dues” and money-earning discussion during the Parent/Guardian Meeting.

### Activities Outside the Meeting Place for Junior Girl Scouts:

Junior Girl Scouts are also going beyond their troop setting to take advantage of community activities, to conduct service projects and to go on specially planned trips. Activities outside the meeting place for Junior Girl Scouts take place during regular troop meetings, for half or whole days during the weekend or school breaks. It is not unusual for Junior Girl Scouts to have one or two overnight activities or even an extended overnight (2 or more nights and days) during the membership year. Possibilities for outside the meeting place activities are:

#### Regular meeting time

- ☼ Assisting with story hour at the Library
- ☼ Conducting the cookie booth sale
- ☼ Visit someone’s work place

#### Half days

- ☼ Visit to a Nature Center
- ☼ Clean up of a local playground the troop adopted
- ☼ An exploration of a local museum

#### All day activities

- ☼ Neighborhood outdoor skills day
- ☼ Completing the *City Orienteering* patch
- ☼ Working on a float for a holiday parade

#### Overnights

- ☼ Sleepover in the Girl Scout hut
- ☼ Health & Fitness lock-in with a sister Junior troop
- ☼ Neighborhood Encampment

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 families to pick them up at that location instead of at the usual meeting location. When a field trip is scheduled, 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. There are many projects girls can do with minimum assistance and lots of encouragement. Some possibilities for Junior Girl Scouts are:

- ☼ Conducting a plush animal drive for a refugee camp;
- ☼ Planting trees at a park or areas to be landscaped in the military housing area;
- ☼ Being a reading buddy for children at a Child Care Center;
- ☼ Sending greeting cards to deployed military personnel; and
- ☼ Being part of a youth sponsorship project.



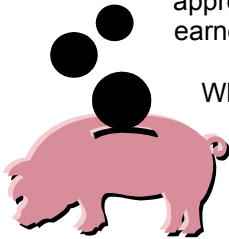
Youth sponsorship is usually organized by Youth Services on a military facility or may be available in a civilian community through the school. As a youth sponsor, the child overseas communicates with a child preparing to come overseas. Information is shared about the community, the school and the type 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.

Service Projects (continued):

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.

## Junior Girl Scouts Conduct a Limited Number of Money-Earning Activities to Fund Their Activities.

Discuss troop dues during the Parent/Guardian Meeting. 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.). This is important as the girls learn how to make choices about managing their personal monies to meet obligations to which they have already committed. The rest of the monies required for Junior Girl Scout troop activities should be the result of money-earning activities conducted by the girls such as the Girl Scout Cookie Sale, Girl Scout calendar sale, bagging at the PX/Shoppette on a military facility or having a bake sale (as long as the girls are involved in the preparation of the food). Don't forget to have any money-earning activity approved by the Overseas Committee before beginning. Remember money should only be earned **after** girls have a clear idea of why and how the money will be spent.



When developing the budget with the girls, make sure they take into consideration such items as:

|                                | <u>Troop Income</u> |          |   |                 |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------|---|-----------------|--|--|--|
|                                | Troop dues          | \$ _____ | Supplies (see notes on supplies . . . )               | \$              |  |  |  |
| Cookie Sale                    | \$ _____            |          | Insignia, pins, etc. . . .                            | \$ _____        |  |  |  |
| Calendar Sale                  | \$ _____            |          | Sleepovers & Camping                                  | \$ _____        |  |  |  |
| Troop Dues                     | \$ _____            |          | Service Projects                                      | \$ _____        |  |  |  |
| Other money-earning activities | \$ _____            |          | Special supplies & equipment                          | \$ _____        |  |  |  |
|                                |                     |          | Field trips (entry fees, public transportation, etc.) | \$ _____        |  |  |  |
| <b>Total Troop Income</b>      | <b>\$ _____</b>     |          | <b>Total Troop Expenses for year</b>                  | <b>\$ _____</b> |  |  |  |

Family expenses would include:

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| GSUSA membership dues . . . | \$7.00          |
| Handbook . . .              | \$ _____        |
| Uniform (optional) . . .    | \$ _____        |
| Troop Dues                  | \$ _____        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>       | <b>\$ _____</b> |

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# Program Activities at the Junior Age Level

The *Junior Girl Scout Handbook* and *Junior Girl Scout Badge Book* are the cornerstones of Junior age-level activities. Take time to thoroughly review these two resources as soon as you have them in your possession.

The handbook focuses on topics of high interest and concern to girls of this age, while the *Junior Girl Scout Badge Book* gives direction to girls for the development of skills and the attainment of knowledge on specific topics. A balanced program for Junior Girl Scouts is one which allows them to address topics which are new to them such as accepting responsibility for being a friend, learning how to be a leader, or discovering the impact of bodily changes occurring within them.

Use the handbook when beginning the exploration of a topic and the *JGS Badge Book* when girls express a desire to become more knowledgeable or skillful. There are four types of awards earned by Junior Girl Scouts:

- 🌸 Badges - The *JGS Badge Book* contains over 100 badges that encourage girls to gain knowledge, learn and improve skills, explore careers and make a difference in their communities.
- 🌸 Signs - There are 4 signs a girl can earn (refer to pp. 190-197 in the *JGS Handbook*). To complete a sign, a girl must earn a badge and complete activities in her handbook or other Girl Scout program resources.
- 🌸 Leadership - These include the Junior Girl Scout Leadership Award and the Junior Aide Award (see pp. 198-200 in the *JGS Handbook*).
- 🌸 Bronze Award, the highest award in Junior Girl Scouting. To receive this award, a girl completes a project that shows she understands and lives by the Girl Scout Promise and Law (refer to pp. 202-203 in the *JGS Handbook*).
- 🌸 Bridging to Cadette Girl Scouts - See p. 201 in the *JGS Handbook*.

The most important fact to remember about earning awards is that girls could choose to participate in Junior Girl Scouting for the full three years and never earn a badge or other award. While this is not recommended, neither is it recommended that girls build their entire Junior Girl Scout program around earning awards. Service and fun are also a vital part of the Girl Scout experience.

## Resources to Help You on Your Way.....

A list of all written Junior Girl Scout program resources can be found in the *JGS Leader Guide Book* on p.61. Also, don't forget to check online! In addition to printed resources, you can find a wealth of information and links on the GSUSA website, [www.gsusa.org](http://www.gsusa.org). Another good site to check out is [www.girlpower.gov](http://www.girlpower.gov) which has many free resources to accompany the *Girl Power!* program resources for Junior Girl Scouts.

## Meeting with the Girls

You've attended your new volunteer orientation, *Welcome to Girl Scouting*; you've purchased or obtained a set of Junior Girl Scout program resources for your use during the year; you've registered to attend **Basic Leadership Training**; you've contacted the girls and held a Parent/Guardian meeting.

So, let's get started! The following 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 Scout format or use them as they are written. Have a great time and lots of fun this membership year.

**The girls are waiting . . . when is the first meeting?**

