

# Plainfield Community Girl Scouts

## Introduction To Girl Scouts

### Becoming a Girl Scout Troop Leader

#### Application

- Adult working directly with the girls in a leadership role must complete a volunteer application prior to meeting with the troop. Two references must also be completed.

#### Orientation

- All leaders and co leader must complete the Introduction to Girl Scouting training offered in the Service Unit PRIOR to attending all other training. Contact your Service Unit Manager to register. If you do not know who your SUM is, contact the council office.

#### Learn by Doing

- Your Troop Organizer or Consultant will help you design the first few meetings. She will introduce you to the Leader's Guide for your age level. If you are unsure about how to do something, always remember to consult the girls. It is their group, you are there to help them.

#### Registration

- This process begins with a signed PARENT'S CONSENT for a girl to join. Each girl and adult registers for \$10.00 annually.

#### Training

- After completing Intro to Girl Scouting, you need to attend BLT (Basic Leader Training) and Program Age Level Training. Troops are not permitted to go on trips until BLT is completed. You will explore Girl Scout programs and learn new skills to provide a happy, healthy and safe troop environment. The council publishes biannual Program & Education View (Calendar) with course listings. Troop Camp Certification, Community First Aid and Safety courses, Program Age Level Training, as well as enrichment workshops will help you continue learning. Council publications will keep you posted.

#### Service Unit Meetings

- Service Unit meetings serve many purposes, it is a place to share your experience and knowledge of resources as well as tell others about your troop's activities. You can help plan inter-troop activities, and receive information from council like product sales, council sponsored training and program. Every troop should be represented, ideally by the troop leader and/or co leader, however any troop parent may represent the troop.

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## Traditions

### Special Days

- October 31 - Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday [also known as Founder's Day]
- February 22 - World Thinking Day - is the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden Powell. This is the day to "think about" Girl Guides and Girl Scouts everywhere.
- March 12 - Girl Scout Birthday, the date in 1912 when the first 18 Girl Scout members were officially registered. The week in which March 12 falls is known as Girl Scout Week.
- April 22 - Girl Scout Leader's Day, a day to honor Girl Scout leaders all over the world.

### Types of Ceremonies

- Flag - used at the beginning & end of troop meeting and/or ceremonies.
- Investiture - a ceremony in which the girl becomes an official Girl Scout.
- Rededication - a ceremony in which the girl rededicates herself to the Girl Scout Promise & Law.
- Bridging - moving from one level to another by completing the badge work [optional].
- Flying Up - moving from Brownies to Juniors [no badge work is required].
- Court of Awards - awarding of Try-its, Badges, or Interest Project Patches (IPP) to girl as earned [can be done anytime of the year and as often as the troop and/or girl decides.]
- Scouts Own - a ceremony that can be about anything that the troop desires.

### Other Traditions

- The Girl Scout Motto - "Be Prepared"
- The Girl Scout Slogan - "Do a good turn daily"
- Girl Scout Sign - the three raised fingers stand for the three parts of the Promise.
- Girl Scout Handshake - with the right hand do the Girl Scout Sign & shake hands with the left hand.
- Quiet Sign - raising your hand and as people notice your raised hand they raise theirs and become quiet. This also is for the fifth law, "I will do my best to be friendly and considerate."
- Friendship Circle - everyone forms a circle and crosses right hand over left holding hands with the person standing next to you.
- Friendship Squeeze - standing in the Friendship Circle everyone is silent as one person squeezes the hand of the next person gently until the person that starts it receives a squeeze.
- Brownie Girl Scout Ring - Brownie Girl Scouts get together to make their group decisions.

### REMEMBER!

- The Girl Scout program is designed to meet the developmental, emotional, and social needs of girls 5 to 17. Each age level has a unique system of recognitions, form of government and supplementary resources that complement the age level handbook. The Girl Scout program is designed by girl/adult partnership. Be sure to include the girls in the decision-making.

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## Primary Volunteer Positions

### Leader

Provide a complete well-rounded Girl Scout experience offering girls the opportunity to grow and develop life skills utilizing the Girl Scout program.

### Service Unit Manager

The Service Unit Manager, under the supervision of a Membership Specialist, is responsible for the extension and retention of membership in an assigned geographic area. It is the Service Unit Manager who plans for and coordinates the delivery of services to girls and adults. The Service Unit Manager recruits and directs the work of those who assist her/him.

### Troop/Group Program Consultant

The Troop/Group Program Consultant provides support to a cluster of troops or groups of girls in one or more schools or specific area/population. The Troop/Group Program Consultant promotes the Girl Scout program from all levels: national, Council, local Girl Scout Service Unit and ensures the quality of the program at the Troop/Group level.

### Registrar

Performs the technical tasks needed to process and transmit the membership registrations, from one or more Service Unit(s), to the Council Service Center. The individual in this position reports to the Service Unit Manager with support from the Membership Services Secretary/Registrar and Membership Specialist.

### Secretary

Support the Service Unit Manager with all secretarial functions as needed.

### Troop/Group Organizer

Troop/Group Organizer provides organization and support for a cluster of troops or groups of girls in one or more schools or specific area/population; reflective of the population regarding race, religion, disability, ethnic or socioeconomic.

### Public Relations Chair

Coordinate with the local media and the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council to enhance the image of Girl Scouts as the preeminent organization for girls, by conveying information about the organization to both internal and external audiences and emphasizing the key messages.

### Nut Sale Manager

Direct the GSWRC Nut Sale Program at the Service Unit level. Accountable to the GSWRC Product Sales Director

### Cookie Sale Manager

Direct the GSWRC Cookie Sale Program at the Service Unit level. Accountable to the GSWRC Product Sales Director

### Treasurer

Monitor accounts of troops and Service Unit by following guidelines set forth in GSWRC policies and procedures.

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## Interest Matrix

Interest	Position	Time
Have fun with children	Troop Leader or Co-Leader	A few hours a week
Plan and carry out activities	Program Events Coordinator	Many hours for a 2 or 3 month period
Teach simple games, songs, crafts	Program Consultant	A long day or weekend
Meeting a variety of people	Troop Organizer	Many hours for a 2 or 3 month period
Speaking to groups of adults	Volunteer Recruiter	Many hours for a 2 or 3 month period
Finding out about your community	Nominating Committee Member	A few hours weekly for 2 or 3 months
Work toward goals	Service Unit Manager	Several hours weekly
Coordinate participation	Day Camp Volunteer	Many hours for a 2 or 3 month period
Conduct effective meetings	Program Coordinator	Many hours for a 2 or 3 month period
Following through on details	Cookie Manager	Many hours for a 2 or 3 month period
Keeping records or accounts	Service Unit or Troop Treasurer	A few hours a month
Making telephone contacts	Service Unit Registrar	Many hours for a month
Completing reports	Secretary for Service Unit	A few hours a month
Analyze information	Board Member	Several hours quarterly
Set direction and priorities	Committee Member	Several hours monthly
Assess support or evaluate programs	Special Task Group Member	Many hours for a 2 or 3 month period
Helping adults to learn to grow	Council Trainer	Several days once or twice a year
Solving problems	Troop Consultant	A few hours each month
Making contacts and summarizing reports	Gifts for Girls Chair	Many hours for a 1 or 2 month period
Developing schedules	Volunteer Coordinator	A few hours a month
Writing articles	Public Relations Representative	A few hours a month
Developing brochures or flyers	Council Program Volunteer	A few hours a month
Designing projects	Task Group Member	Many hours for a 2 or 3 month period
Writing curricula	Training Module Writer	Many hours for a 2 or 3 month period
Designing displays	Display Creator	A few hours each time
Art, music, camping	Interest Project Consultant	A few hours for several weeks

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Health & Safety	First Aider	A weekend or a week
Sports, travel, cultural heritage	Troop Program Consultant	A few hours for several weeks

Tell us what you like to do, we will find a rewarding position that will utilize what YOU have to offer!