



## Program Guide for Junior Girl Scout Troops

This guide will help Junior troop leadership teams assess their progress toward implementation of a successful troop program.

### 1. Safety

**Girl Scout leaders provide for the safety and security of girls and adults.**

Recommendations:

- Review Chapter 3 (pp. 76-85) of the *Junior Girl Scout Handbook* with the girls.
- *Safety-Wise* be regularly consulted when planning activities/events.
- Girls know safety guidelines and are able to apply them.
- Troop has a current, certified First Aid person on over night trips and camping events.
- The troops' current First Aid kit is present at every meeting and activity.
- The permissions for medical treatment forms are present at every meeting/activity.

### 2. The Girl Scout Promise and The Law

Recommendations:

- Leadership team purposely and actively incorporates the Girl Scout Promise and Law into troop activities.

### 3. Diverse Activities

Recommendations:

- The troop participates in activities that represent a variety of interests that help girls become well rounded in their knowledge and abilities. These might include Seabreeze activities, Signs and interest patrols.

### 4. Girl Scout Traditions

Recommendations:

- The troop explores at least one of the following topics: the history of Girl Scouting; the significance and symbols of the World Association ; the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund; Thinking Day; and Juliette Gordon Low.

#### 5. **Girl Scout Awards**

**Girl Scout awards should acknowledge a girl's accomplishments and attainment of specified requirements.**

Recommendations:

- Suggested awards that could be completed: Badges; Signs; religious and council patches.

#### 6. **Girl and Adult Planning**

**Girls and their leaders should work as partners in planning and decision-making. Tasks should be sensitive to girls' developmental maturity and commensurate with their abilities.**

Recommendations:

- The girls participate in setting goals and choosing activities for the troop. This might include group guide discussions, patrols, evaluating, girls sharing ideas, brainstorming, Program Trails (pp. 44-46- Leaders' Guide), and voting.
- Girls plan and participate in the following: field trip away from the meeting place; council provided program; troop rules; dues; activities with other levels; Service Unit program; and overnight camping.
- Team building skills can be important pre-requisites to fostering an atmosphere where girl/adult partnership and planning thrive. The troop provides opportunities for the group to be involved in team building activities early in the troop year such as *Talking with TJ*, GATEway, challenge course and team building games.
- Girls and adults discuss the following program options as means to help develop leadership skills with the girls: Junior Girl Scout Leadership Pin; Junior Aide Patch; and work with a Daisy or Brownie troop.

#### 7. **Troop Government**

**Troop government is an ongoing developing process. Girls need to take several opportunities to practice making decisions.**

(Refer to page 24-25 in the *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*).

Recommendations:

- The troop uses a form of government that allows girls to participate in troop decisions (Patrols, Executive Board or Town Meeting).

- The troop uses Kaper Charts for organizing activities.
- Each girl has an opportunity to be a leader.
- Each girl has an opportunity to be a member of a committee.
- Troop uses “making good decisions.” (pp. 70 Handbook)

## 8. Ceremonies

**Ceremonies are traditions in Girl Scouting that make girls feel part of something very special.**

Recommendations:

- The troop plans and participates in one or more ceremonial events celebrating the special Girl Scout Days such as Founders Day (October 31), Thinking Day (February 22) and Girl Scout Week (March).
- The “usual parts” include: an opening/closing; flag; candle lighting; Girl Scout Promise and The Law; and girls authored reflections.
- Troop has an opportunity to learn, plan, and participate in the following ceremonies: investiture; rededication; Court of Awards; Girl Scouts’ Own; and bridging (Fly-Up).

## 9. Meeting Management

**While there is no “standard” prototype for Junior Girl Scout meetings there are “usual parts” of a meeting.**

Recommendations:

- Think about which of the following parts of the meeting that the leadership team is responsible for and which parts the girls are responsible for: start-up activity; opening; attendance records; business matters; program activities; clean-up; and closing.

## 10. Money Management

**Managing money should be a progressive experience for girls which *actively involves* them in the troop financial planning and decision making process.**

Recommendations:

- Think about which of the following responsibilities the leadership team is responsible for and which ones the girls are responsible for: keeping troop records; collecting dues; budgeting troop funds; making bank deposits/withdrawals; participating in purchasing supplies; doing comparative shopping through newspaper/catalog advertisements.

## 11. Trip Planning

**Learning how to plan a trip should be an active and progressive experience for Girl Scouts which begins with a visit within the meeting place neighborhood and culminates with simple to extended over night trips.**

(Refer to page 55 of *The Guide for Junior Girl Scout Leaders* book and p. 28 of the *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*)

## 12. Support System

**It is recommended that a family adult meeting immediately follow the goal setting meeting so that girls will have the opportunity to enlist their help and expertise to accomplish their goals.**

Recommendations:

- Think about the level of support (never to always) you receive from the following sources: family adults; committees; program consultants; council staff/services; older Girl Scouts; sister troop; Service Unit; and community contacts.

## 14. Resources:

Recommendations:

- Familiarize yourself with some of the program resources listed below.  
(\*required troop resource)

The Junior Girl Scout Handbook *	Ceremonies in Girl Scouting
Guide for Junior Girl Scout Leaders*	Games for Girl Scouts
Girl Scout Badges & Signs	Outdoor Ed. in Girl Scouting
Safety-Wise*	Girl Scout Pocket Songbook
Leader's Digest: Blue Book of Basic Documents	Sangam Songbook
Contemporary Issues booklets	World Games and Recipes
Issues for Girl Scouts Series	Trefoil Round the World
Exploring Wildlife Communities with Children	
Focus on Ability: Serving Girls w. Special Needs	
Girl Scout Uniforms, Insignia, and Recognitions	

## 14. Community Service Opportunities

**Service is inherent in the Girl Scout Promise and Law and is given without expectation of payment or reward.**

Recommendations:

- A meaningful service learning project includes the girls from inception to celebration. See 'Creating a Leadership Project' (p 140 of *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*). The troop provides opportunities for the girls to help others in a meaningful way.
- The troop plans and completes at least one service learning project for the Girl Scout community using the six steps in the handbook
- The troop plans and completes at least one service learning project for the greater community beyond Girl Scouts using the six steps in the handbook.

## 15. Citizenship

**Active citizens care for and improve the place they live.**

(Refer to Issues for Girl Scouts "*Connections for Junior Girl Scouts*" and "*Girls Are Great for Junior Girl Scouts*")

Recommendations:

- The troop provides opportunities for the girls to do the following with the troop: learn about the Flag (refer to p. 15 of *Ceremonies for Girl Scouting*); learn ways to respect the rights of others; explore the meaning of citizenship; and share their heritage.