

GSOH

# ROAD MAP

THE  
BASICS



## Your troop guide to an exciting Girl Scout Year!

### Ready! Set! Change Lives!

As a Girl Scout volunteer you have the opportunity to share new adventures and make wonderful memories together with the girls in your troop.

This guide is designed to help you cover the basics for a successful year. Follow the road map to a great year while earning a fun patch! Each year that your troop completes the road map, you'll earn a different souvenir patch!

### Roadside Assistance

#### Have general Girl Scout questions?

Contact our Customer Care Department  
[customercare@gsOH.org](mailto:customercare@gsOH.org)

614-487-8101 | 800-621-7042

#### Need help as a volunteer with your troop?

Contact your Volunteer Services Manager (VSM)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

1700 Watermark Drive, Columbus, OH 43215 [gsOH.org](http://gsOH.org)

### To plan your trip, make sure you have the basics:

- Hold a friends & family meeting to get to know your Girl Scouts and their families, ask for support, and set clear expectations for the troop
- You need at least two (2) adult volunteers who are registered members and have valid background checks completed

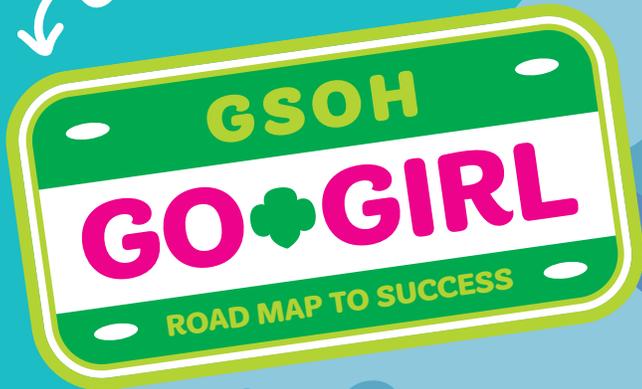
#### All NEW volunteers will need to complete:

- GS101 – online course found at [gsOH.org/volunteers/training](http://gsOH.org/volunteers/training)
- Safety Essentials – online course found at [gsOH.org/volunteers/training](http://gsOH.org/volunteers/training)
- Volunteer Essentials – register for this in-person course on CORA
- Make sure all girls are registered to your troop
- Learn about and attend service unit meetings to meet other volunteers in your area, learn news and ideas, and receive support

Check out the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK), a great resource to help simplify your planning and make the most of your year! Get more info at [gsOH.org/VTK](http://gsOH.org/VTK)



**Check off all the activities during the year and earn a sweet patch!**  
*Don't forget, the road runs two ways so you don't have to go in one direction.*



## Girl Scout Leadership Experience

- Troop completes one Journey. Journeys are a series of activities that teach girls what it takes to be a leader. During these Journeys, girls learn the three “Keys to Leadership” – Discover, Connect, and Take Action. To learn more visit [gsoh.org/journeys](http://gsoh.org/journeys)
- Troop completes at least one badge or award from the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting for their grade level.



## Health & Wellness

- Troop participates in an activity that supports health & wellness. *Examples include earning a health or sports-related badge, or attending a health or sports-related service unit or council event including Mad Mud Challenge (May), Safe Sitter (Year-Round), and Cooperative Games (Year-Round).*

## Girl Scout Traditions

- Create a group agreement developed and signed by all the girls. The agreement will help the girls set expectations and guidelines for how they will treat each other during the Girl Scout year.
- Girls plan and carry out ONE of the following ceremonies:
  - Investiture/Rededication
  - Flag Ceremony
  - Court of Awards
  - Bridging
- All girls know and understand the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law.
- Girls plan or attend a special activity to celebrate a special Girl Scout day. *Examples include Juliette Gordon Low's birthday, World Thinking Day, Girl Scout Sunday.*

## Advocacy & Engagement

- Troop completes at least two service projects, and fills out the service project report form.
- Troop participates in an activity promoting Girl Scout visibility in the community. *Examples include a parade, exhibit, or display at a local or state fair.*
- Troop sends information and/or pictures to the local media or Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland to promote visibility of Girl Scouting in the community.

# Choose a souvenir of your year!

Already made this trip before? Every year that you meet the Road Trip requirements, pick up a different souvenir patch at your local Girl Scout Shop!



## Entrepreneurship

- Troop participates in the Fall Product Program.
- At least 90% of the troop participates in the Cookie Program.

## Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

- Troop participates in an activity that supports STEM. Examples include earning a financial literacy or science badge, or attending a financial literacy or science-themed service unit or council event including Mad Science (Year-Round), Tree Tappers Maple Syrup (Jan-Feb) and Stories in the Sky (March, Aug, Dec).

## Arts & Humanities

- Troop participates in an activity that supports the arts. Examples include earning an arts-themed badge, or attending an arts-themed service unit or council event including Daisy Fairy Tale Ball (April) and Eco Arts & Crafts (Year-Round).

## Outdoor Education

- Troop participates in an outdoor activity. Examples include hiking, camping, ecology, camporee, or Troop Core camp.
- Troop visits one of the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland properties.



Ready to upgrade your ride?

Visit [gsoh.org/councils-own-badges-and-patches](http://gsoh.org/councils-own-badges-and-patches) to learn about how your troop can become a SUPER TROOP!



## Our Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

## Girl Scout Promise

*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.

## Girl Scout Law

*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.*

## ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS - NEXT EXIT ↘



- ▶ Fall Product Program begins
- ▶ 10/31: Celebrate Founder's Day (Juliette Gordon Low's birthday)



- ▶ Turn in troop finance reports on time! They are due by November 10 and May 10
- ▶ November and December can be busy with holiday parties, concerts, and family obligations—take it easy around the holidays!
- ▶ Try a winter-themed service project



- ▶ Get the girls excited about learning the 5 Skills of the cookie program by attending a local or council-sponsored cookie rally
- ▶ Cookie Program begins
- ▶ Hold a winter Court of Awards ceremony to give the girls any badges, patches, or awards earned so far this year



- ▶ Resident camp registration begins!
- ▶ Cookies are delivered!
- ▶ 2/22: Remind the girls that they are part of a worldwide sisterhood—celebrate World Thinking Day



- ▶ 3/12: Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouts. Celebrate the Girl Scout birthday!
- ▶ Girl Scout week is celebrated starting with Girl Scout Sunday and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath on a Saturday, and it always includes Girl Scouts' birthday.
- ▶ Try a cookie booth or a cookie walkabout



- ▶ 4/22: Volunteer Appreciation Day! Share your appreciation of those who support your troop
- ▶ Day camp registration begins!



- ▶ Get a jump start on the next Girl Scout year with Early Bird registration. Take advantage of unique rewards and receive a free patch!
- ▶ If the girls are about to move to the next grade level, complete the Bridge award! Requirements can be found in the handbook section of The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting
- ▶ Turn in troop finance reports on time! They are due by November 10 and May 10



- ▶ Hold a summer Court of Awards ceremony to give girls the awards earned since January
- ▶ Some troops choose to take the summer off, while others choose to meet up a couple of times to help the girls stay engaged. Be sure to let the girls know about all the Girl Scout fun to be had during the summer:
  - Encourage girls to try day camp, resident camp, or family camp
  - Take a field trip to a park in a neighboring town
  - Try a summer-themed service project



- ▶ If any girls missed out on Early Bird registration, be sure to get them registered now so they can receive the free On Time patch
- ▶ Get ready for the new Girl Scout year; hold a parent/caregiver meeting and get together with the girls to see what kinds of fun adventures they want to try next year
- ▶ Take Fall Product Program training so girls will be prepared to reach their goals when it begins in October!

Check out myGSOH  
for more fun activities to do!  
[gsoh.org/publications](http://gsoh.org/publications)