

WELCOME

Volunteer Orientation

Girl Scout Volunteer Orientation Login

Password:

Instructions for course completion:

1. As you go through this packet, answer questions in your learning log on page 24.
2. When finished, mail or fax your learning log and Orientation Information Sheet on page 23 to the address shown.
3. If you have questions while completing this packet, e-mail trainingregistration@GirlScoutsNorCal.org or phone your local office to talk with someone in the Adult Development Department.

Hi, and welcome. Like you, I am a volunteer, and I am passionate about the importance that volunteers can bring to the lives of others. You are going to be thrilled, amazed and honored at the difference you can make in a girl's life, whether you provide indirect or direct services for girls.

It may all seem a little scary at first, and you may feel overwhelmed by the responsibility, but sit back and relax for awhile. I am here to show you around and introduce you to all the details and resources that are going to make your experience a little easier.

Table of Contents

- Introductions and Welcome
- About Girl Scouts
- Girl Scout Pathways
- Support
- Program
- Conclusion

CLOSE



TABLE OF CONTENTS **INTRODUCTIONS**

This Orientation takes about 45 minutes.

We hope you enjoy this Orientation to Girl Scouting!

Page numbers appear in the lower left. (There are 39 pages.)

And when you're finished, please fill out the evaluation form at the end.

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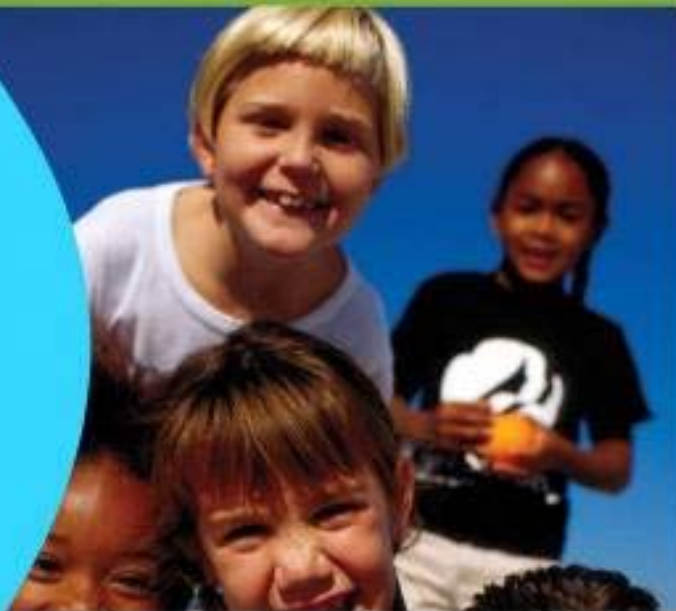


TABLE OF CONTENTS **INTRODUCTIONS**



Introductions and Welcome

Use the learning log at the end of this packet to record your answers to the questions you see throughout these pages. Your local Girl Scout council will contact you to discuss your responses.

Ready? Let's get started!

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LEARNING LOG



You will be able to complete “learning logs” (journals) which your counselor will use to help and guide you. You’ve already made a commitment to being a volunteer, so come with me and let’s find out how exciting this can be!

Print the learning log found at the end of this packet. After you have completed it, to ensure that you receive credit for the course, send a copy to:

Adult Development
Coordinator
7700 Edgewater Dr.
Suite 340
Oakland, CA 94621
Or FAX to: (510) 633-7925

Bring the original copy of your learning log to your Welcome Session with your CDD or local volunteer so that you can discuss it and ask questions.

About Girl Scouts

Juliette Gordon Low
Founder of Girl Scouts of the USA

Girls were the starting place, and girls remain the starting place today. Developing leaders is what Girl Scouts does best.

Visit this website to learn more about Juliette Gordon Low
<http://www.girlscouts.org/who%5Fwe%5Fare/history/>

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LEARNING LOG



We have a proud history of diversity, partnership and community service, and our mission that clearly defines our purpose.

The Girl Scout Mission

is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

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Who inspired you? Or Influenced you to turn your life around? What did it mean to you? What do you think it would mean to her?

The girls in our neighborhoods need you. Help them discover their dreams and make the world a better place. Girl Scouts wants girls to have a place where they grow together, and we need you to make that happen.

Volunteer with Girl Scouts! For more information call 1-800-478-7248. Girl Scouts. Change a life; it's forever.

Girl Scouting is open to:

All girl in grades K-12 and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law and have paid annual membership dues.

Girl Scouts values diversity and inclusiveness and does not discriminate on any basis.

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So who can join Girl Scouts? The organization is open to all girls grades K-12 and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law and have paid annual membership dues. Girl Scouts values diversity and inclusiveness and does not discriminate on any basis.

The Promise and Law

The Promise and Law express the values that are the foundation for all that girls do in Girl Scouting.



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Girl Scouting is built on the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law. Both lie at the root of everything that girls do in Girl Scouting, and will help you guide your decisions and actions as you work with girls to help them discover their best selves.

The Girl Scout Promise

The motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual. The ways members identify and fulfill their spiritual beliefs are personal and private. Girl Scouts may substitute another word for "God" based on their own spiritual belief.

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.



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Make the three-fingered sign with your right hand when you recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Use the three fingered sign when reciting the Girl Scout Law, too.

The 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.



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Girl Scouting is global.

Girl Scouts of the USA is a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

The mission of WAGGGS, which represents 144 member countries, is aligned with our own— to enable girls and young women to develop to their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.

USA Girl Scouts Overseas (USAGSO) serves thousands of girls living overseas.

to learn more about USAGSO
visit this website:
www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global



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The Girl Scout Movement



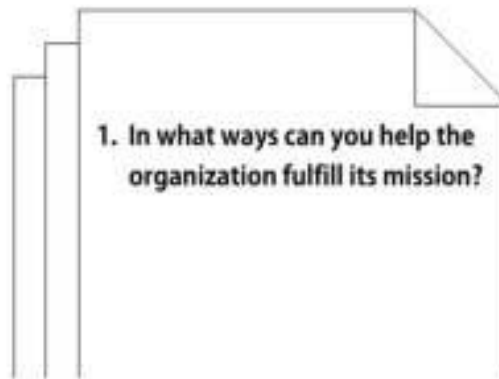
Girl Scouts have served fifty million girls since 1912. Girl Scouts USA is a preeminent leadership development organization for girls, with 3.6 million girl and adult members worldwide.

Girl Scouting is the leading authority on girls' healthy development and builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts provides both an emotionally and physically safe place for girls, depends on volunteers who reflect the national population, and continually evolves to meet the needs of each generation of girls and adults.

Learning Log

1. In what ways can you help the organization fulfill its mission?



Use the learning log at the end of this packet to answer this question.

Use the learning log at the end of this packet to answer this question.

Learning Log

2. Which aspects of the Girl Scout Promise and Law inspire you the most and why?

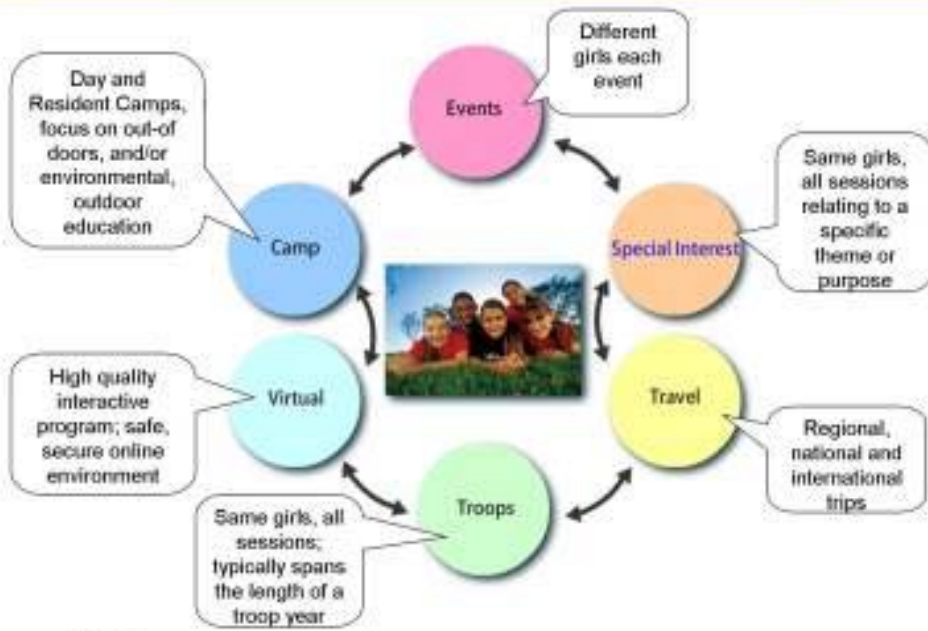
2. What aspects of the Girl Scout Promise and Law inspire you the most and why?



How can I participate?

Girl Scout Pathways are the flexible ways girls and adults participate in Girl Scouting. The flexibility of Pathways ensures that every member can participate in Girl Scouting the way they desire.





How much time do you have?

- Hours
- Days
- Weekends
- Weeks
- Months
- Years

Schedules are flexible, and you have consistent opportunities to gain new skills, make new friends, and enjoy new experiences.



Hours





Build Partnerships



Use your skills to make a difference:

- Build Partnerships
- Select Sites for Meetings and Events
- Provide Administrative Support
- Coaching
- Life Skills

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LEARNING LOG



As we mentioned before, the responsibility of volunteering may seem daunting at times, but whatever your role, you will be supported by council staff and other volunteers in your area. What you can count on is: guidance and direction, training whenever you need it, and recognition for your efforts. Yes, Girl Scouts really appreciates the time, effort, and talents of volunteers.

Two of the benefits of being a Girl Scout volunteer are the flexibility of how you can volunteer and the opportunity to learn and grow from numerous assignment choices. With our support, you can try new challenges and discover new avenues.

How will I be supported?

Whatever your role, you will be supported by staff and other volunteers from your council.

You can count on:

- Guidance and direction
- Training whenever necessary
- Recognition for your efforts
- Opportunities for new assignments



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LEARNING LOG



Girl Scout Councils

Girl Scout councils are chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA to deliver Girl Scout program to girls.

Councils are responsible for:

- carrying out Girl Scout program activities
- recruiting and supporting adult volunteers
- governing and managing Girl Scouting in their jurisdictions
- securing funds for council expenses and promoting Girl Scouting in their communities.



carrying out Girl Scout program activities



Policies and Procedures



A valuable resource commonly referred to as *The Blue Book* includes the constitution and bylaws of the Girl Scouts of the USA, as well as the policies and procedures on endorsements, marketing, fundraising, and other issues. Your council can provide other resources that you may need.

Safety-Wise, the guidebook on safe practices for all sorts of Girl Scout activities, is especially important for volunteers who work directly with girls.

What about safety?



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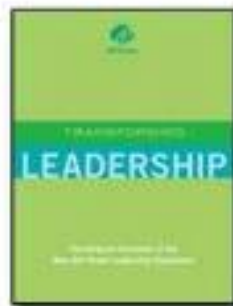
The Girl Scout Research Institute, a department within Girl Scouts of the USA collaborates with colleagues, councils, and outside advisors to address the complex and ever-changing needs of girls. The institute conducts outcomes measurement, program development research, and publishes original research

Girl Scout Research Institute

Transforming Leadership clearly defines the specific outcomes of the new Girl Scout Leadership Experience for girls. The outcomes are identified in developmentally appropriate ways for each grade level, with examples of measurable signs that show whether girls are progressing.



Six publications to help you



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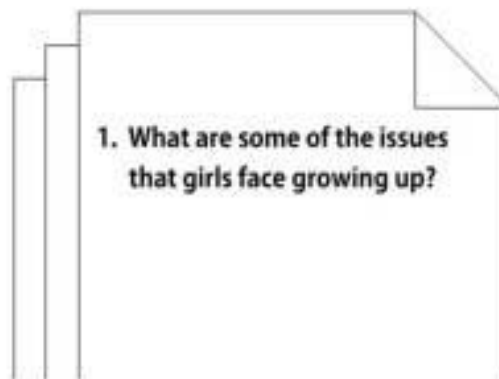


For more information on Girl Scouting, add these Web sites to your favorites:



Learning Log

1. What are some of the issues that girls face growing up?



Use the learning log at the end of this packet to answer this question.

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Learning Log

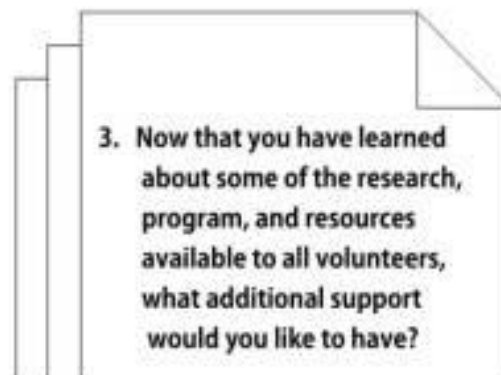
2. If you were looking back at your volunteer experience in Girl Scouting, how would you like to remember it?



Use the learning log at the end of this packet to answer this question.

Learning Log

3. Now that you have learned about some of the research, program, and resources available to all volunteers, what additional support would you like to have?



The New Girl Scout Leadership Experience:
The Heart and Soul of Girl Scouting



Founder Juliette Gordon Low poses with some of the nation's first Girl Scouts.

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Since it's founding in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA has continuously developed, adapted, and provided programming so that girls would have the leadership skills necessary to succeed.

The Three Keys to Leadership:

1. Discover
2. Connect
3. Take Action

To learn more about the Girl Scout Leadership Experience model, visit this website: www.girlscouts.org/nr_adult/leader_magazine/2004_summer/programmodel.asp



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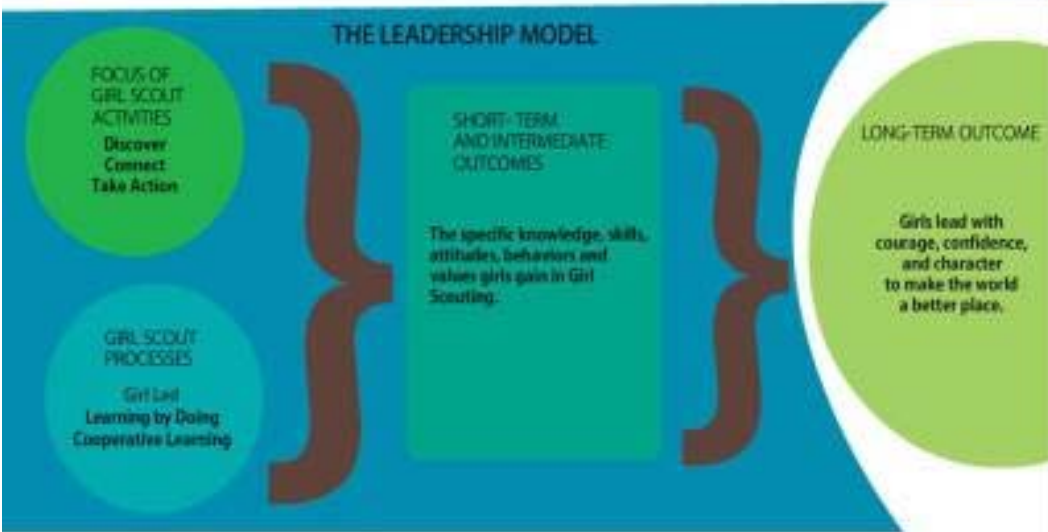
Program activities are created around the three keys to leadership: Discover, Connect, and Take Action and are based on the Promise and Law. The New Girl Scout Leadership Experience is not only about what girls do, but how. The how refers to the processes; girl driven, learning by doing, and cooperative learning. This is what makes Girl Scouts unique and drives the quality of the girls' experience.

Discover: Girls learn to understand themselves and their values, and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world

Connect: Girls care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally

Take Action: Girls act to make the world a better place

THE LEADERSHIP MODEL

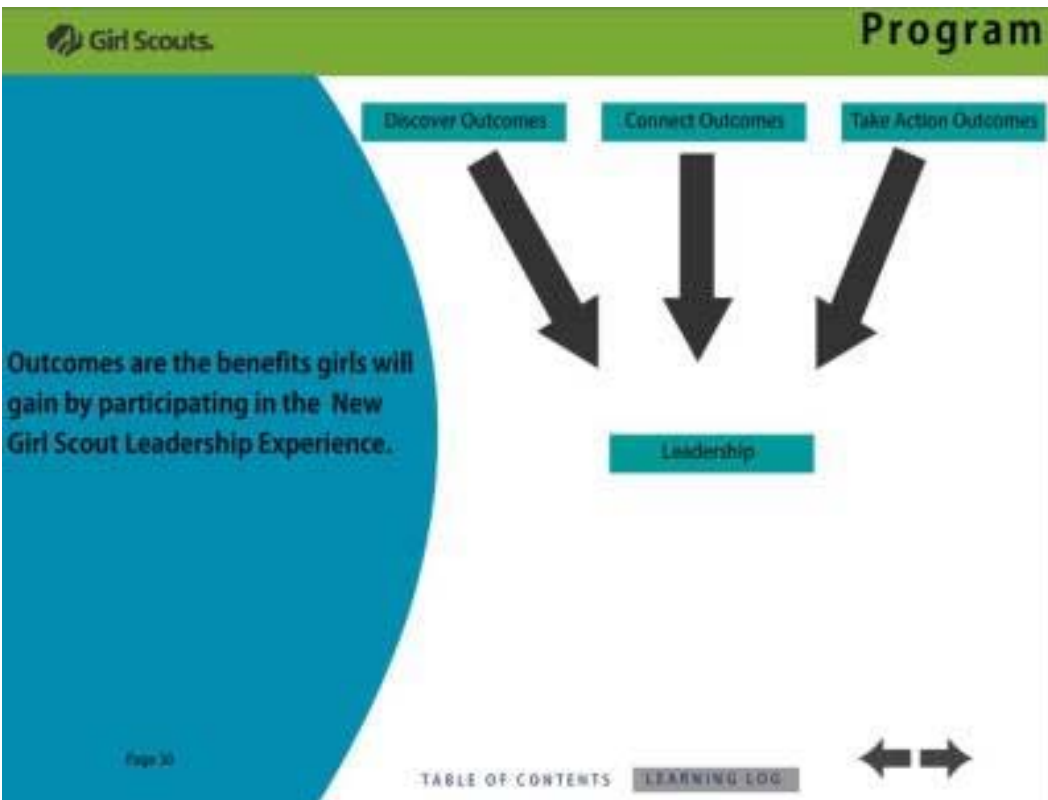


GIRL LED

Girls are engaged in playing a critical role as decision-makers in the planning and implementation of their activities. As part of a girl-adult partnership, volunteers can use this process to strengthen girls' empowerment and decision-making roles in activities.

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The Girl Scout program has specific outcomes that are based on the three keys to leadership. These outcomes are the benefits that girls will gain based on their participation in activities.



Through 'Discover' activities, girls develop:

- a strong sense of self
- positive values
- practical life skills
- ability to seek challenges in the world
- critical thinking

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Through 'Connect' activities, girls:

- Develop healthy relationships
- they promote cooperation and teamwork
- girls can resolve conflicts
- they advance diversity in a multicultural world
- and girls feel connected to their community, locally and globally

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Through 'Take Action' activities, girls:

- can identify community needs
- are resourceful problem solvers
- advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally
- educate and inspire others to act
- feel empowered to make a difference in the world

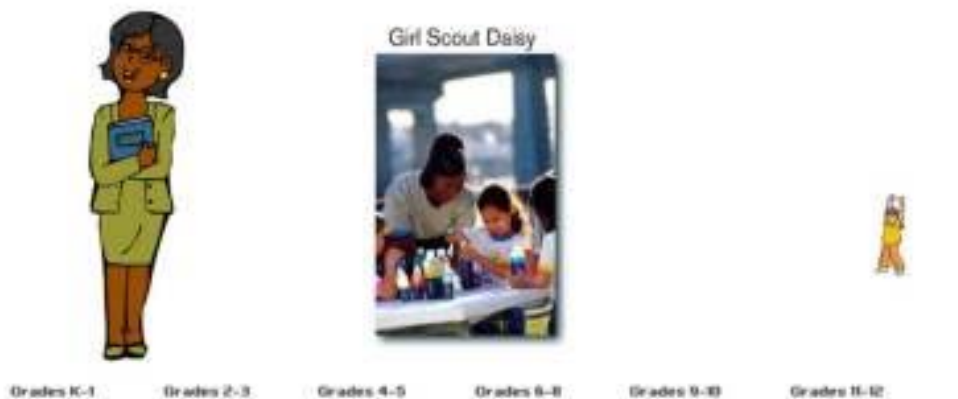
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Girl Scout Membership Levels*

As girls progress to each higher level, their leadership role increases and the adult role decreases.
*effective October 1, 2008



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The Girl Scout membership levels range from Kindergarten to 12th grade, and as girls progress through each level, their leadership role increase and the adult role decreases.

The membership levels are:

- Girl Scout Daisy: Kindergarten-1st grade
- Girl Scout Brownie: 2nd-3rd grades
- Girl Scout Junior: 4th-5th grades
- Girl Scout Cadette: 6th-8th grades
- Girl Scout Senior: 9th-10th grades
- Girl Scout Ambassador: 11th-12th grades

Leadership Experiences

As girls venture through leadership experiences, adults will be able to see the outcomes, or benefits, that the girls have achieved.

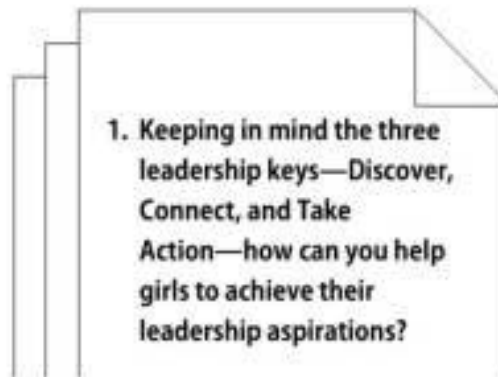


As girls venture through leadership experiences, adults will be able to see the outcome or benefits that girls have achieved.



Learning Log

- 1. Keeping in mind the three leadership keys—Discover, Connect, and Take Action—how can you help girls to achieve their leadership aspirations?

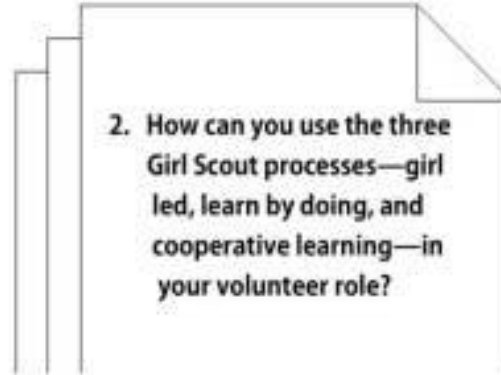


Use the learning log at the end of this packet to answer this question.



Learning Log

2. How can you use the three Girl Scout processes—girl led, learn by doing, and cooperative learning—in your volunteer role?



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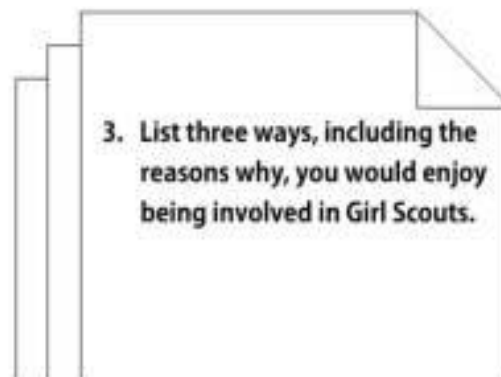
LEARNING LOG



Use the learning log at the end of this packet to answer this question.

Learning Log

3. List three ways, including the reasons why, you would enjoy being involved in Girl Scouts.



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LEARNING LOG



Use the learning log at the end of this packet to answer this question.

The future of Girl Scouting depends on you!

Volunteers keep the organization:

- Vibrant
- Progressive
- Growing

Thank you

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LEARNING LOG



Today's girls need Girl Scouting more than ever. Young women can transform the world, when given the opportunity, and you are helping young women on their road to transformation. Thank you, and I hope you enjoy the experience as much as we do.

We appreciate your taking the time to complete our evaluation. We value your opinions.

Thank You for Participating!



Congratulations! You've just completed the first of ten easy steps to becoming a Girl Scout volunteer! Send in your Orientation Information Sheet and Learning Log to receive credit for the course.

GIRL SCOUT NEW VOLUNTEER CHECKLIST

Date completed: _____ Congratulations! You've just finished the first of 10 easy steps to becoming a Girl Scout volunteer! You may wish to hang this on your refrigerator or other convenient place as you check off your next steps:

- _____ 1. Take Orientation—you just did! Send in your Orientation Information Sheet and Learning Log to receive credit for the course.

- _____ 2. Call or e-mail your Community Development Director who will help you with the following steps (phone your local council office for assistance if you don't know who that is).

- _____ 3. Go to your Welcome Session (15 minutes).

- _____ 4. Register as a member of Girl Scouts of the USA.

- _____ 5. Complete the Adult Screening Process.

- _____ 6. Take Getting Started (2 hours)

- _____ 7. Take Safety-Wise (45 minutes)

- _____ 8. Agree to abide by the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

- _____ 9. Get some girls together and start having fun!

- _____ 10. Take Leadership Essentials (2 hours) You can take this course within 4 months of starting your troop.

ORIENTATION INFORMATION SHEET

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Troop/Group # if known _____






















E-mail: _____

Complete the answers below and the evaluation on the next page and mail to:

Girl Scouts of Northern California
Adult Development Coordinator
7700 Edgewater Dr. Suite 340
Oakland, CA 94621

Or fax to (510) 633-7925

Please rate your understanding of the following: (circle)

	I don't get it	Need more info	I've got it!
The main purpose of Girl Scouting is to build leadership skills in Girl Scouting.			
The Girl Scout Promise and Law is the foundation of the program.			
Girl Scouting is part of a world wide organization.			
There are many ways (pathways) to participate in Girl Scouting.			
All activities in Girl Scouting must be planned using <i>Safety-Wise</i> (A course on how to use this book will be provided to you).			
The Girl Scout program has specific outcomes that are based on the three keys to leadership.			
Your council staff and local volunteers will support you every step of the way.			
1. Have you already made contact with your Community Development Director?			
2. What questions do you have about Girl Scouting?			
3. What questions do you have about becoming a Girl Scout volunteer?			
4. I just want to say...			

LEARNING LOG

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Troop/Group # if known _____

E-mail: _____

(Use another piece of paper if necessary to complete your answers)

In what ways can you help the organization fulfill it's mission?

What aspects of the Girl Scout Promise and Law inspire you the most, and why?

What are some of the issues that girls face growing up?

If you were looking back at your experience in Girl Scouting, how would you want to remember it?

Now that you have learned about some of the research, program, and resources available to all volunteers, what additional support would you like to have?

Keeping in mind the three leadership keys – Discover, Connect, and Take Action – how can you help girls to achieve their leadership aspirations?

How can you use the three Girl Scout processes – girl led, learn by doing, and cooperative learning – in your volunteer role?

List three ways, including the reasons why, you would enjoy being involved in Girl Scouts.