



Create Your Own Girl Scout Experience

Who do you want the girl in your life to become? Whether she is 5 or 17, you want her to become self-confident, strong, and compassionate. You want her to respect herself and others, make good decisions, be open to new challenges, and use her skills and talents to make her world a better place. You want her to build strong friendships, be a leader, and put her values into practice in her everyday life.

You want her to become her best self.

Social pressure, image issues, and uncertain security—there are so many potential hurdles to a girl’s well-being. For over 100 years, Girl Scouts has been helping girls realize their full potential through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

Linking Leadership to Academics

The mission of Girl Scouting is to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. A national study by the Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI) found that the leadership skills and experiences girls gain through Girl Scouting also help them succeed in school.

The Power of Girl Scouting

Girl Scout alumnae report greater positive life outcomes than non-alumnae. They are also more likely to graduate from high school and seek higher education, be more engaged in volunteer service in their communities, and are more likely to vote and seek positions of leadership, including public office. These impressive findings come from a study conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute.

Helping Girls Be Healthy Today and Healthy Tomorrow

Since the founding of the movement and in response to the growing childhood obesity epidemic, Girl Scouts has created a strong social environment that encourages health and physical activity through a mix of fitness and fun. Badges and Program Events model active lifestyles and remain dedicated to providing girls unlimited opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle.

As a Girl Scout, your daughter will:

- Experience a sense of belonging as a member of the largest organization for girls.
- Have fun with purpose.
- Prepare for her future through career explorations.
- Participate in community service and skill building.
- Develop leadership skills and self-awareness while building confidence and self-esteem.
- Participate in educationally sound and challenging projects.
- Voice what is important to her.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of many people and cultures.
- Strengthen her understanding of herself and the world around her.



Join Girl Scouts Today

Not every girl's experience in Girl Scouts is the same! Whether you choose to register as part of a troop or an Independent Girl Scout Member (IGM), you can customize experiences to meet your unique interests. Mix and match – special events, weekend workshops, leadership projects, work on awards, or travel.

Meeting in troops is one way to be part of the Girl Scouts, but when there aren't available troops in your area, your troop no longer meets, or you become too busy with extracurricular activities or sports, becoming an IGM will allow you to continue your Girl Scout experience on an individual basis. Grab a friend and sign-up together. Just one buddy supports a girl's confidence and increases the fun! All girls in kindergarten through 12th grade can register as an IGM, and participate in everything open to her grade level.

- **EVENTS** Pick and choose from a menu of events that you would like to attend throughout the year.
- **CAMP** Girl Scouts–Arizona Cactus-Pine Council owns and operates four camp properties that offer year round program.
- **TRAVEL** Plan, earn money, prepare, and participate in regional, national, and international trips.
- **COOKIE PROGRAM** Learn five skills around financial literacy by participating in the largest girl led business in the world!
- **AWARDS** Each program level has a Girl's Guide Binder and Journey Books to inspire girls to earn awards around skills developed through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

How do I learn more about these opportunities?

Visit girlscoutsaz.org or call 602-452-7000.

- 1 Register as a Girl Scout locally – *see left*
- 2 Visit the council website to review and register for activities you want to attend – *page 4*
- 3 Get connected with GSACPC online to stay informed about upcoming events and programs. Be sure to opt in for email updates in your MyGS profile. Additionally, join the GSACPC Independent Girl Member Facebook Page.
- 4 Purchase a uniform and Girl's Guide & Journey Book for your level from the Council Shop – *page 5*
- 5 Connect with your local Girl Scout Service Unit to request information about activities close to home – *page 5*
- 6 Take advantage of skill building opportunities like product program and summer camp! – *page 7*



A Parent's Role

You and your daughter can become partners in adventure through Girl Scouting! Your involvement will help shape her Girl Scout experience. She'll see your commitment to her growth and, before you know it, you'll be growing too.

Responsibility

- Parents/guardians must sign the girl membership form and pay the \$25 national membership dues. This membership fee provides insurance coverage for all Girl Scout activities. Adults are invited to register too!
- Should provide funds for special events and activities.
- Should purchase or obtain handbooks and materials.
- Should support your Girl Scout's participation in programs and learning.

We believe costs to participate should not be a barrier for any girl. Parents/guardians can request need-based financial assistance. See page 5.

Please Volunteer. Plus, we'll train you!

Maybe you have never been asked... Well, we are asking now.

No matter how little or how much time you have available you can become a Girl Scout Volunteer. As an IGM Guide you can help chaperone at a one day program event, lead a badge activity, serve as a Cookie Coach or support communication to IGM Members. Other positions are available. Apply to be a volunteer today at <https://bit.ly/3yrhDxX>!

Girl Scouts provides learning and development opportunities for volunteers. We offer programs through hands-on classes and technology-enhanced learning webinars. At Girl Scouts, we are committed to offering the best leadership experience for girls. To that end, we have a variety of educational classes for adults to support the girl's experience, such as helping girls earn their Journey Award, using the Girl's Guide for your age level, Outdoor Certification, and supporting girls to earn the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Leadership Awards. Exciting training conferences and weekend events centered on working with girls are offered throughout the year. These classes are open to all registered adults.



What does it cost to be a Girl Scout?

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), our national organization, requires \$25 non-refundable annual fee to register as a girl or adult member. This payment goes directly to GSUSA headquarters in New York to provide program development and Council Support services. Registered members are covered by GSUSA's accident insurance when participating in Girl Scout activities.

Financial assistance is available to cover membership dues for girls who are unable to pay. In this way, we are committed to providing all girls the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts.

Parents, guardians, and other adults are also invited to become members of the Girl Scout movement. Request a Membership Form to be mailed to you by calling 602.452.7000 or register online!

Financial Assistance

Financial Assistance is available to girls for membership dues, handbooks, and program fees. Travel opportunities and summer camp also have separate council sponsorship assistance/scholarship programs available. Call 602-452-7000 or visit girlscoutsaz.org/financial-assistance, download and fill out the Financial Assistance Form (PS-03) and fax to 602-452-7100 or mail to GSACPC, 119 E Coronado Rd, Phoenix AZ 85004.

Programs & Activities

Events and activities can be found on the council website at girlscoutsaz.org. New events are added year-round. Council sponsored and community vendor programs are designed to enhance the Girl Scout experience at each grade level.

The cost to attend a council program varies as much as the choices. Costs vary and depend on the length and complexity of the activity. Through product programs, girls earn program credits to help cover the cost of attending events, camp or purchasing items at the Council Shop.

Look for programs and activities at girlscoutsaz.org/activities.



Uniforms & Handbooks

Uniforms and handbooks are not required to be a Girl Scout or attend council events. However, most girls do enjoy earning awards and displaying badges and patches. The basic Girl Scout uniform consists of a white shirt, khaki pants and a sash or vest. The cost for a sash and initial patches starts around \$20. Handbooks range in price from \$7 to \$20. Publications can be added as you go along and make great holiday gifts!

The Council Shop

The Council Shop offers the latest casual wear, uniform components, accessories, memorabilia, badges, patches and program books for girls and adults. The Council Shop accepts online, mail, fax and phone orders with payment by cash, check, or credit card. Visit girlscoutsaz.org/shop.

The Council Shop is located at:

The Parsons Leadership Center
1611 E Dobbins Road
Phoenix, AZ 85042

602-452-7137 or 800-352-6133.

The Council Shop is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am - 5:00pm. *Closed Saturday and Sunday and Council Holiday Observances.*

Connect Locally

Each community in GSACPC's jurisdiction falls into a Service Unit boundary. A Service Unit team of volunteers support local girls in program, recruit and support volunteers, and sometimes offer events/activities for IGM and troop members. Contact the council to connect with your local staff person 602-452-7000.

If you need assistance you can also contact Carole Glenn, IGM/Member Placement Coordinator for Independent Girl Members at cglenn@girlscoutsaz.org or 602.452.7031.



The Girl Scout Leadership Experience Program Books

To ensure the best experience for each Girl Scout, programming is customized by grade level.

- Girl Scout Daisy (*grades K-1*)
- Girl Scout Cadette (*grades 6-8*)
- Girl Scout Brownie (*grades 2-3*)
- Girl Scout Senior (*grades 9-10*)
- Girl Scout Junior (*grades 4-5*)
- Girl Scout Ambassador (*grades 11-12*)

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)

Journeys have been developed by Girl Scouts USA as a tool to help girls Discover their personal gifts and inner strength, Connect with other people and develop healthy relationships, and Take Action to have an impact in their communities and the larger world. Journey paths help today's Girl Scouts learn what it takes to be a leader. Along the way, girls earn awards and skill-building badges.

At each grade level, girls choose from three Journey paths, and they earn one to three awards on each path.

For all three leadership Journey series, the adult guide and the girl book have everything girls and volunteers need to successfully complete the Journey.

Combined with the Cookie Program, travel experiences, and Girl Scout Awards, the GSLE is designed to help girls everywhere become leaders. It also ensures Girl Scouts at every level are sharing a powerful, national experience – girls together changing the world!

Choose what sounds the most fun to you! There are Journey Books and a Girl's Guide Binder for each age level. Visit the Council Shop to purchase.





Product Program

GSACPC offers two annual product programs. This includes the Fall Product sale and the Cookie Program in January. Independent Girl Members (IGM) can participate in both programs to earn proceeds they can put toward their activities.

What do girls do during the Product Program?

They “earn and learn” – they earn program credits for their Girl Scout activities while learning key skills that will help them in business and life. The five skills are: *Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills and Business Ethics.*

As an IGM, you will receive information twice a year to participate in Girl Scout product programs.

IGMs earn credit for sales through program credits. According to Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) in order to be in compliance with the IRS, rewards may not be based on a dollar per dollar calculation, but instead based on bands or ranges.

- When participating in the Fall Program, girls will earn program credits beginning at a minimum of ten units sold. For every additional ten units of fall product (nuts, candies, or magazines) sold they will earn an additional ten program credits. For instance when girls sell 25 Fall Product items they receive 20 program credits, equal to \$20 towards program events or shop purchases.
- When girls sell 100 boxes of cookies they earn 57 program credits, equal to \$57 towards Girl Scout purchases. For every additional ten packages of cookies sold a girl will earn an additional \$5 to \$40 in Program Credits.
- In addition to program credits, girls receive prize incentives like patches and t-shirts based on sales. Additional information is available at the time of the sale and at girlscoutsaz.org.

All Program Credits, including IGM Program Credits, expire 15 months after date of issue. Girls must be currently registered and in good financial standing with the council to redeem program credits. Program credits are non-transferable and have no cash value.

