GETTING STARTED IN
GIRL SCOUTS
GIRL SCOUTS OF EASTERN MISSOURI 2020-2021
Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. We offer every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success!

Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri is chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA, a national organization, to administer the Girl Scout program in 28 counties in eastern Missouri including the City of St. Louis. The sixth largest of 111 Girl Scout councils nationwide, Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri serves more than 40,000 girls annually with the support of 13,000 adult volunteers. Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit that fundraisers to manage the operation of programs and Council-led activities, three camps spanning more than 1,400 acres, a state-of the art program center and service center. Of every dollar raised, .90 cents is invested in our girls supporting their leadership development.

Within Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri there are neighborhoods and districts—entities governed by Girl Scout policies, and managed by volunteers who support the day-to-day operations of our troops. Troops are groups of girls led by adult volunteers who have been background checked and registered as members.

A Girl Scout Makes Amazing Things Happen

Since 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA provided girls the tools to lead, break barriers and create positive change. Your Girl Scout is part of the legacy of girls and young women who dream big and do bigger. When you take the potential every girl has within her and add our girl-led, skill-building programming; unmatched leadership experiences; and caring adults whose networks can truly open doors, you get the power of Girl Scouting.

By Girls. For Girls. Everything your Girl Scout does—whether it’s climbing mountains, making her voice heard, designing new technology—has been created especially for, and is tested by, girls.

Tomorrow’s Leaders Today. Your girl will develop a strong sense of self, demonstrate positive values, seek challenges, solve significant problems in her community, and establish healthy relationships. These aren’t just good qualities—they’re the leadership skills that will last a lifetime.

Girl Scouts Is Accessible, Affordable and Valuable.

The annual membership for Girl Scouts is $25 and paid directly to Girl Scouts of the USA. All girls and adult volunteers are required to hold a membership in the national organization in order to participate in local Girl Scout programming.

Financial assistance is available to help with the cost of membership, program fees or even to attend camp. To request financial assistance, complete the online form found at girlscoutsem.org/forms.
READY. SET. REGISTER!

Step #1
Visit girlscoutsem.org/join and select Join Girl Scouts

Step #2
Fill in your girl’s information
- Girl’s First Name
- Girl’s Last Name
- Zip Code
- Grade of Fall 2019
- Caregiver First Name
- Caregiver Email
- Caregiver Email Confirmation
- Phone

PRO TIP: If an applicant discontinues the registration process, a Girl Scout Council staff member will follow up with the parent/caregiver!

Step #3
Let’s pick a Girl Scout Troop
If an applicant knows the troop number, they can type it in the Troop # box or they can search using their zip code.

PRO TIP: Applicants can choose Unsure if they don’t have a specific troop in mind or if their brand-new troop hasn’t been recognized in the Girl Scout Council’s system yet.

Step #4
Complete additional Membership information
- Membership
- Street Line 1
- City
- Zip Code
- Country
- Custodial Care Info
- State
- County
- Date of Birth
- Ethnicity
- Race

PRO TIP(S): Less is more! Try just typing in the first few letters of the school’s name for a more accurate search.

Also, the Membership drop-down includes two options. The extended year option (5/1/20-9/30/21) will be available until July 30, 2020. Afterward, applicants should select the annual membership one.

Step #5
Almost done! Choose Same As Girl Address to auto-populate Parent/Caregiver information

Step #6
Click Checkout to complete payment. If Financial Assistance is needed, please select on the payment screen and allow 3-4 days for processing.

Step #7
Congrats, Girl Scout! Registration is complete

Once you are in a troop, the leader should contact you for your parent/caregiver meeting. If at any time during the process you need assistance please contact our Answer Center at 314.400.4600.
Girl Scouts' values are laid out in our Promise and Law, which members recite at all levels.

**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.

* Members may substitute the word God in accordance with their spiritual beliefs.

We’ve got your back when it comes to teaching your girl positive values, like those in the Girl Scout Promise and Law! Girl Scouts provides simple ways to amplify honesty, fairness and consideration at home. Check out Raising Awesome Girls at girlscouts.org/raising-girls for the latest tips and insight into her world!
GROWING IN GIRL SCOUTS

A lifelong leadership journey

You want to see her happy, confident, strong and ready to succeed. So do we.

Whether making new friends, riding a horse, building robots, traveling or just having fun, she’ll find her place in Girl Scouts. From troop meetings and activities to summer camps and Council-wide events, she will discover that opportunities abound in her Girl Scout experience.

We encourage you to stay connected with us from kindergarten through high school when she earns her Gold Award—the highest community service award in Girl Scouts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daisies</th>
<th>Brownies</th>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>Cadettes</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Ambassadors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-1st grades</td>
<td>2nd-3rd grades</td>
<td>4th-5th grades</td>
<td>6th-8th grades</td>
<td>9th-10th grades</td>
<td>11th-12th grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn they can care for animals and themselves and to protect the earth's treasures.</td>
<td>Go on a quest to find the three keys to leadership. They explore their place in the wide world of girls.</td>
<td>Learn that leaders need power—their own, their team's and their community's. Juniors are encouraged to achieve their Bronze Award.</td>
<td>Develop relationship skills needed to be leaders in their life and their world. Cadettes are encouraged to achieve their Silver Award.</td>
<td>Have a vision and lead the world closer to it. Girls better the world by achieving their Gold Award, the highest community service award earned by a Girl Scout.</td>
<td>Raise their voices to advocate for an issue they care about. Girls are encouraged to achieve their Gold Award, the highest community service award earned by a Girl Scout.</td>
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</table>
Girl Scouting
ALL DAY, EVERYDAY

ACTIVITIES TO KEEP HER ENGAGED
Most every Girl Scout troop spends time outdoors; testing the latest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); learning to run a business; and gaining invaluable life skills that will see them through thick and thin.

Raise her to be a STEMinist
Studies show that girls are more likely to go into STEM fields if they have STEM role models.

What does it mean to be a STEMinist? Not every girl is going to want to pursue a career in STEM, but every girl should be encouraged to try her hand at STEM skills, get comfortable with those concepts, and learn how they apply to all kinds of surprising fields—from fashion to finance, and beyond.

Outdoor Adventure
Outdoor adventures have always been an important part of Girl Scouting. Beyond helping girls understand and appreciate the need to protect the earth, time spent outside helps girls thrive physically, emotionally and intellectually.

From learning about bugs to ziplining to survival camping to horseback riding, our Council offers many outdoor experiences to suit the needs and interests of your Girl Scout.

Be Her Cookie Champion
All Girl Scouts have the chance to learn business skills like goal setting and money management through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, but did you know it's the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world?

When a Girl Scout participates in the Girl Scout Cookie Program, her Girl Scout troop earns proceeds from each package sold which funds their field trips, troop supplies, programs and more.
WE WANT TO HONOR YOUR GIRL

All Girl Scouts go above and beyond to make a difference through service leadership. And, the skills and experiences they gain along the way set her up for special recognition through earning the Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards.

Gold Award
Gold Award Girl Scouts are bold, fearless young women determined to make our world a better place. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious award in the world for high school girls—and it’s only available to Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors. Think of it as a gold key opening up her world to scholarships, preferred admission tracks for college and amazing career opportunities.

Silver Award
Cadette Girl Scouts, girls in sixth to eighth grade, test their leadership potential by doing research and taking action on an issue of their choice. Through their commitment to service, girls gain the confidence and skills that will catapult them to Gold Award success.

Bronze Award
By taking action with others to improve their communities Junior Girl Scouts, girls in fourth and fifth grade, gain important leadership skills and learn that even seemingly small actions can make a big impact.

Pro Tip!
Head to your local Girl Scout shop for official gear, helpful tips and the latest on Council events. Can’t make it in person? We’re always open at girlscoutsem.org/shop.
Girl’s Responsibility to the Girl Scout Troop

- Follow the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- To be willing to take risks, be confident and supportive toward her troop peers
- To attend and participate in meetings and events
- To listen to others in the troop and show respect for what they are saying
- To be prepared and conduct herself in a safe manner
- To respect troop leaders and other volunteers

Leader’s Responsibility to the Girl Scout Troop

- Follow the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- To let girls lead – ensure girls of every age take an active and grade-appropriate role in deciding the what, where, when, why and how of what they want to do
- To create an inclusive environment where girls and families feel welcome and connected to the troop
- To provide a well-rounded and safe program following Girl Scout guidelines
- To listen to and respect every participant and serve as a role model
- To utilize volunteer resources such as the Volunteer Toolkit and to contact their Neighborhood or Community Engagement Manager when they need support
- To be trained by Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri Adult Education Team in order to have and deliver the best experiences
Family’s Responsibility to the Girl Scout Troop

- Volunteer with your troop—your troop leader cannot do it alone
- Support your Girl Scout through all facets of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience
- Encourage her to take risks and try new things
- Be a cheerleader and allow her to take the lead
- Attend Council events with your Girl Scout and encourage her active participation in troop meetings
- Have questions? Start with your troop leader. We’re also here to help!
- Join Girl Scouts and log into My GS – Your Girl Scout community found at the top of our website at girlscoutsem.org. This member community will allow you to update your contact information with Girl Scouts, renew your memberships, add volunteer roles and see troop information when populated by your troop leaders
- Stay connected through our social media channels, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, monthly Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri emails and text messages—make sure you’ve opted-in to receive them, it’s how we communicate important information to our members—and visit our website at girlscoutsem.org

How Can You Support Your Girl Scout?

Girl Scouts is a volunteer-led organization. We need parents/caregivers, community members and other caring adults to invest in the lives of girls. Volunteers are the heart of Girl Scouts—without your time, talent and resources, our character-building programs would not be possible. No special skills or experiences are required—just an interest in helping girls reach their fullest potential. Training and ongoing support is provided. Troops excel when parents/caregivers are invested in their girl’s leadership development journey.

Our Volunteer Toolkit is a free digital resource that enables volunteers to quickly and easily develop meeting plans and the troop calendar with their girls, stay connected with parents/caregivers and access important Girl Scout resources.

Questions? We have the answers! Contact our Answer Center at 314.400.4600 or answercenter@girlscoutsem.org.
# This Year In Girl Scouts

## October
- Official start of the Girl Scout year
- Troop Round Up
- International Day of the Girl
- Juliette Gordon Low’s Birthday
- Fall Product Program GO Day

## November
- End of Fall Product Program
- Camp Registration Opens
- Girl Scouts Go: Run for the Cookies

## February
- Girl Scout Cookie Booths Begin
- National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend
- World Thinking Day
- Dessert First

## March
- Women’s History Month
- End of Girl Scout Cookie Program
- Girl Scout Week
- Spring Break programs at the Berges Family Girl Scout Program Center

## June
- Girl Scout Day and Resident Camps begins
- Reflections Ceremony

## July
- Fall *Inspire Discovery* and *Lead & Learn* publications are available
Check out important dates, then fill in with troop meetings and Council events you can attend as a family or with her troop!

### DECEMBER
- Troop Cookie Manager Training
- Girl Scout office closed for the holidays

### JANUARY
- Girl Scout Cookie GO Day
- Spring *Inspire Discovery* and *Lead & Learn* publications available online

### APRIL
- Early membership and PreK registration opens
- April Showers
- Volunteer Appreciation Month
- Girl Scout Leader’s Day
- Representative Assembly and Volunteer Recognitions Ceremony

### MAY
- Early membership re-registration continues
- Troops conduct Bridging Ceremonies

### AUGUST
- Back to School

### SEPTEMBER
- Troops start meeting
ABOUT MY TROOP

Keep all the vital information about your troop here for future reference.

**Troop Information**

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<tr>
<th>Troop #</th>
<th>Program Grade Level</th>
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<tr>
<th>District/Neighborhood</th>
<th>Meeting Day and Time</th>
<th>Meeting Location</th>
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Procedure in troop if parent/guardian is late picking up daughter in emergency situations

Troop Dues:

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<th>Amount</th>
<th>per</th>
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**Leaders/Volunteers Contact Information**

Name

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<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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**Service Unit Contact Information**

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<th>Phone</th>
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**My GS Log-in Information**

User ID

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<th>Password</th>
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Questions?

For information about **joining and getting started** with a troop, visit **girlscoutsem.org/join**.

For help **registering or signing up for events and programs**, contact our Answer Center at **314.400.4600**.

For **uniform questions**, call our St. Louis Girl Scout Shop at **314.592.2378**.

For **all other questions**, contact our Answer Center at 314.400.4600 or **answercenter@girlscoutsem.org**.

 Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri  @girlscoutsem  @girlscoutsem