

make new  
**friends**



An Introduction  
to Girl Scouting

**take the lead**

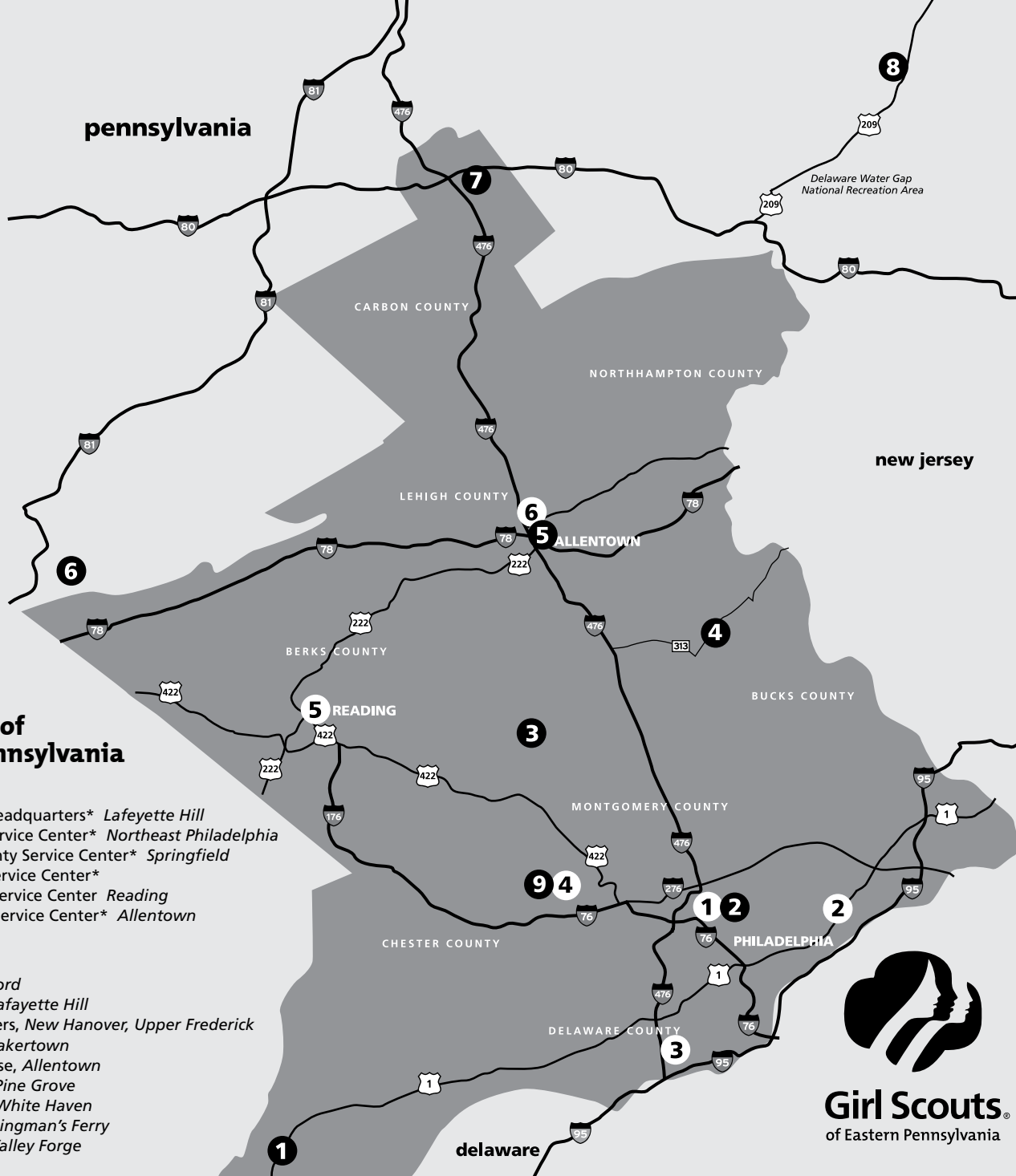


Join the  
**fun!**



**Girl Scouts**<sup>®</sup>  
of Eastern Pennsylvania

**Basic Information for Parents, Guardians and Volunteers**



## Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania

### Service Centers

- ① Shelly Ridge Headquarters\* *Lafayette Hill*
  - ② Jane Seltzer Service Center\* *Northeast Philadelphia*
  - ③ Delaware County Service Center\* *Springfield*
  - ④ Valley Forge Service Center\*
  - ⑤ Berks County Service Center *Reading*
  - ⑥ Lehigh Valley Service Center\* *Allentown*
- \*Retail Shop

### Camps

- ① Tweedale, *Oxford*
- ② Shelly Ridge, *Lafayette Hill*
- ③ Laughing Waters, *New Hanover, Upper Frederick*
- ④ Tohikane, *Quakertown*
- ⑤ Mountain House, *Allentown*
- ⑥ Wood Haven, *Pine Grove*
- ⑦ Mosey Wood, *White Haven*
- ⑧ Hidden Falls, *Dingman's Ferry*
- ⑨ Valley Forge, *Valley Forge*



**Girl Scouts.**  
of Eastern Pennsylvania

### Headquarters:

#### Shelly Ridge Service Center

330 Manor Road  
Miquon, PA 19444  
Tel: (888) 564-4657  
(215) 564-4657  
Fax: (215) 564-6953  
Mailing address:  
PO Box 27540  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

### Regional Offices:

#### Berks County Service Center

1300 New Holland Road  
Suite 106  
Reading, PA 19607  
Tel: (888) 664-9770  
Fax: (610) 796-7587

#### Delaware County Service Center

760 West Sproul Street  
Springfield, PA 19064  
Tel: (610) 328-3100  
Fax: (610) 328-7961

#### Lehigh Valley Service Center

2633 Moravian Avenue  
Allentown, PA 18103  
Tel: (888) 664-9770  
(610) 791-2411  
Fax: (610) 791-4401

#### Jane Seltzer Service Center

2020 Rhawn Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19152  
Tel: (215) 745-1717  
Fax: (215) 745-4947

#### Valley Forge Service Center

100 Juliette Low Way  
P.O. Box 814  
Valley Forge, PA 19482  
Tel: (610) 933-7555  
(800) 355-3847  
Fax: (610) 935-2714



## THE GIRL SCOUT ORGANIZATION

### Girl Scouts of the USA

Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls—all girls. In an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives, like leadership, strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own potential and self-worth.

Founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low, membership in the Girl Scouts has grown from 18 members in Savannah, Georgia, to 3.7 million members throughout the United States, U.S. territories, and more than 90 countries through USA Girl Scouts Overseas.

### Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania

Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP) is one of more than 100 councils in the U.S.A. We serve approximately 40,000 girls in Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Northampton, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties. Six council service centers and retail shops are available to girls and volunteers. Headquarters is located at the Shelly Ridge Service Center.

GSEP provides the recruitment, training and support of volunteers. It organizes the troops and groups, oversees camps, manages the finances, and develops enriching programs for girls.

Girl Scout councils have a volunteer Board of Directors who are responsible for financial stewardship, policy and direction of the organization. A Council Performance Assessment is conducted every four years and sets the stage for our strategic planning. Council Delegates are elected from each local service unit to attend an annual meeting and scheduled regional meetings.

### The Girl Scout Advantage

70% of Girl Scouts surveyed say that the Girl Scout Promise and Law have been useful in their lives. 74% of girls age 14-18 feel their troop/group leader very often listens to what they have to say; only 42% of these girls feel their classroom teachers do the same.

A national survey revealed that "The Girl Scouts have had a direct and powerful impact on the lives of American women." Respondents stressed that Girl Scouting helped them with their self-confidence, moral values, interest in volunteer activities, and social conscience.

When asked to describe a "typical" Girl Scout, one young woman wrote: "There are many different Girl Scouts, I guess. There are big ones and little ones. They have different color hair and different color eyes and different skin tones. I like that it's for girls and that any culture will be able to join."



## The Girl Scout Promise is a code of conduct.

### The 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.*

## The Girl Scout Law outlines role expectations:

### The 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.*

**\*Individuals may substitute alternative wording.**

## Becoming a Girl Scout

Girls participate in Girl Scouting in a variety of ways. There are six Girl Scout Pathways, which are flexible ways that girls and adults participate in Girl Scouting. Girls may choose any one, all, or a combination of pathways in a single year, however some pathways may be geared specifically to different grade levels.

## Pathways

The six GSUSA Girl Scout Pathways include:

- 1. Camp** – girls participate in day or resident camps with a focus on the out-of-doors and/or environmental education.
- 2. Events** – girls participate in events (such as the Young Women's Conference or other special council sponsored events).
- 3. Special Interest** – girls participate in a series of programs with the same group of girls relating to a specific theme or purpose (such as GSEP interest patrols).
- 4. Travel** – girls plan, earn money, prepare, and participate in regional, national and international trips.
- 5. Troops** – girls participate in a series of programs with the same group of girls over the course of an academic year.
- 6. Virtual** – girls participate in interactive, high quality program activities in a safe and secure online environment supplemented by live events.

## Troops

At Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, most girls participate in troops. A troop is a group of girls who meet on a regular basis (weekly or bi-weekly) at a scheduled time (often after school or in the evening). Every troop has trained adult leadership with opportunities for parents to assist the girls in planning and implementing activities. What role will you fill? Do you have talents to share with the troop or the Girl Scout community?

Troop activities can range from a simple craft project completed at a single troop meeting to a community service project taking months to complete. **Key factors are incorporated into troop activities:**

- ◆ **Awards and recognitions.** Using the new program resources – Journeys – girls will participate in series of coordinated, themed activities inviting them to take action on an issue of importance to them. The Journeys contain stories, inspirational material, Girl Scout history, traditions and values, facts and games, and open spaces for girls to fill in their own ideas and memories. "How-to" companion adult guides give the adult volunteer the tools they need to facilitate the journeys.
- ◆ **Badges, Patches and Pins.** Daisy petals, Brownie Try-Its, Junior badges, and Older Girl Interest Projects are also age appropriate recognitions structured to encourage girls to explore areas of interest, build skills and practice leadership. Check out [www.girlscoutscentral.org](http://www.girlscoutscentral.org) for a complete listing of all awards.

- ◆ **Bronze, Silver and Gold Award:** these awards are earned for girls from older Juniors through Ambassador levels. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award given to a girl in Girl Scouting. This award requires a commitment to a meaningful project. A Gold Award Girl Scout may find special doors open to her – including preference in admission to the college or school of her choice, scholarships, or an automatic pay grade increase if she chooses to enter the US Armed Forces.
- ◆ **The Girl Scout Promise and Law:** the values expressed in the Promise and Law are the foundation for all activities.

## Girl Scout Grade Levels

In Girl Scouts, there are six grade levels. New for 2008 is a two year Girl Scout Daisy level, and the Girl Scout Ambassador level for Grades 11-12.

- ◆ **Girl Scout Daisy:** Grade K-1
- ◆ **Girl Scout Brownie:** Grade 2-3
- ◆ **Girl Scout Junior:** Grade 4-5
- ◆ **Girl Scout Cadette:** Grade 6-7-8
- ◆ **Girl Scout Senior:** Grade 9-10
- ◆ **Girl Scout Ambassador:** Grade 11-12

## The New Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Today, young girls are coming of age in a society of unparalleled complexity and uncertainty – the first global society our nation has seen. Girls must have strong leadership skills to succeed in their own lives and make a difference in their communities and their world.

Girl Scouting has long been recognized as the organization that offers girls the tools they need to be successful leaders. Now, in response to the challenges facing today's girls, GSUSA has created an exciting and important approach to their leadership experience, one that will keep Girl Scouting compelling and relevant to today's girls and give them the critical skills they need for life in our global society.

## Leadership Keys

**In the New Girl Scout Leadership Experience, activities are organized around three Leadership Keys:**

- ◆ **Discover:** Girls 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 make the world a better place.

**In Girl Scouting, Discover + Connect + Take Action = Leadership**

All Girl Scout Experiences tie to one or more of 15 national leadership outcomes, or benefits, categorized under the three keys to leadership.

## Girl Scout Processes: It is not just what girls do but how they do them.

The three processes ensure the quality and promote the fun and friendship that is integral to Girl Scouting.

- ◆ **Girl Led:** girls play an active part in figuring out the what, where, when, how and why of their activities. They lead the planning and decision making as much as possible.
- ◆ **Learning by Doing:** girls experience a hands-on learning process that engages them in continuous cycles of action and reflection that result in deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills.
- ◆ **Cooperative Learning:** girls work together toward shared goals in an atmosphere of respect and collaboration that encourages the sharing of skills, knowledge and learning.

## Health and Safety

Care is taken at all times to ensure the safety and security of the girls. The GSUSA publication *Safety Wise*® provides guidelines for planning all troop activities. Often a first aid trained person, activity experts, or a certain number of chaperones will be required for activities. Training for many of these roles is available to parents. Check it out at [www.gsep.org](http://www.gsep.org).

To further ensure the safety of your child, the following forms will often be sent home for you to complete:

- ◆ **Parent Consent and Health History Record** – Completed for each girl troop member to provide the leader with the health history, including an up-to-date immunization record. The form will authorize a representative of GSEP to seek treatment for the member if contact cannot be made with the parent/guardian or emergency contact.
- ◆ **Trip Permission Form** – Signed by the parent/guardian for any activity that is held at a different place and/or time than the troop's regular meeting

## Troop Finances

GSEP will provide your daughter with a high quality experience for a very low cost. For families who find expenses a barrier to participation in Girl Scouts, financial assistance is easily available.

Expenses you can anticipate include:

- ◆ The entire annual membership fee (\$10) is directed to the national organization (GSUSA). It covers the cost of development of resources like handbooks, programs, and leader resources. This also provides secondary accident/incident insurance for your daughter when participating in Girl Scout activities.
- ◆ Dues (usually one dollar or less) are an amount of money the girls will bring to troop meetings to support the troop's activities. Bringing the dues to the meetings helps the girls learn the connection between money and the troop budget.
- ◆ Uniforms may be as simple as the Girl Scout pin. Many times, though, the girls want to wear more than a pin to identify themselves as Girl Scouts and as members of a group. Daisy Girl Scouts wear their awards and recognitions on tunics. Other age levels have a choice of a sash or a vest for their awards and recognitions.

Beyond parent and girl financial resources, troops rely on additional sources of funding.

- ◆ Product Sales serve two purposes: program activity and fund raising. Two regularly scheduled sales are the Fall Product Program (magazines, nuts and candy) and the Cookie Program in the winter. These activities offer girls the opportunity to develop new skills in marketing, project management and budgeting. The money raised from the sales support the troop and council's activities.
- ◆ Council funds are also used to supplement troop activity and keep costs low such as providing free or reduced cost leader training, affordable campsite fees, and inexpensive program events.



## CHANGING A LIFE... IT'S FOREVER



Girl Scouting is not just for your daughter! It's also for moms, dads, big sisters, and other adults who would like to play a meaningful role in a child's life. Volunteering is a great way to meet other adults in your community. Ways that you may enhance your daughter's experience are:

- ◆ **Volunteer your time as a troop leader,** first aid provider, camp leader, or occasional program 'expert.' If you have a special interest, it will likely be an interest/talent which can be shared as part of a troop activity or council event!
- ◆ **Make a difference.** Girl Scouts is always looking for people who want to change the way a girl views herself and her future, by volunteering to help with programs, mentoring and planning. We offer opportunities that will fit your schedule and your interests and provide ongoing training and support.
- ◆ **Build values.** Parents and guardians may support the troop leader by carefully reading forms and letters sent home, respecting her decisions, arriving and departing on time, and saying "thank you." Troop leaders volunteer their time to offer the Girl Scout experience for your daughter.
- ◆ **Create a better future.** Donate money to the Family Partnership Campaign to ensure the continued low cost of campsites, volunteer training, and girl program events.
- ◆ **Expand horizons.** Talk about your daughter and her Girl Scout experiences at work and in your community. When other people hear about the value of Girl Scouts, they are more likely to support Girl Scouts with their time and resources.

A lot of the responsibility for the success of the Girl Scout troop rests with you, the parent or guardian. In a national survey more than half of the parents polled indicated that Girl Scouting allows them to spend more quality time with their daughters, and nearly 50 percent find that their relationship with their daughters has improved.

*For more information about the many ways you can volunteer with Girl Scouts, please contact [dmoelter@gsep.org](mailto:dmoelter@gsep.org) or call the Adult Recruitment Team at 888.564.4657.*

# PARENT/GUARDIAN/VOLUNTEER SURVEY

We are honored to be your daughter's Girl Scout leaders this year. You can help us make her Girl Scout experience positive and memorable. Please complete this form to let us know how you can help.

MY INTERESTS/EXPERIENCE	TROOP POSITION	RESPONSIBILITIES
<input type="checkbox"/> I balance my bank accounts regularly <input type="checkbox"/> I can manage money	Treasurer	Balance troop checkbook, record all deposits/withdrawals
<input type="checkbox"/> I can attend 6 troop meetings during the fall <input type="checkbox"/> I can manage money <input type="checkbox"/> I am organized and detail-oriented	Fall Product Program Chair	Attend training, train girls on sale logistics, record all paperwork, balance sale money, manage product inventory
<input type="checkbox"/> I like Girl Scout cookies <input type="checkbox"/> I can attend 6 troop meetings during the winter <input type="checkbox"/> I can manage money <input type="checkbox"/> I am organized and detail-oriented	Cookie Program Chair	Attend training, train girls on sale logistics, record all paperwork, balance sale money, manage product inventory
<input type="checkbox"/> I am organized and detail-oriented <input type="checkbox"/> I can attend 6 troop meetings during the fall <input type="checkbox"/> I can manage money <input type="checkbox"/> I am organized and detail-oriented	Family Partnership Chair	Attend training, coordinate troop efforts for this Council wide fund raiser, record all paperwork
<input type="checkbox"/> I can attend troop meetings when needed <input type="checkbox"/> I can manage money <input type="checkbox"/> I am organized and detail-oriented	Additional Fund Raiser Chair	Coordinates efforts of any additional fund raising the troop decides on, record all paperwork, balance sale money, manage product inventory, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> I like outdoor activities <input type="checkbox"/> I am willing to learn how to conduct Girl Scout outdoor activities <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to plan outdoor activities with the girls <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to accompany the girls on outdoor activities	Troop Camper	Be trained in overnight and outdoor skills, facilitate planning and carry out trips in partnership with girls
<input type="checkbox"/> I am currently certified in First Aid/CPR or I am willing to learn First Aid/CPR <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to attend troop outings	First Aider	Administer First Aid/CPR as needed
<input type="checkbox"/> I can conduct business on the phone <input type="checkbox"/> I complete tasks in a timely manner	Telephone Chair	Call girls and parents to notify them of troop business
<input type="checkbox"/> I like to coordinate people and materials	Transportation Chair	Arrange carpools, plan route/mileage
<input type="checkbox"/> I like to coordinate people and materials <input type="checkbox"/> I am organized and detail-oriented	Field Trip Chair	Coordinate calendar and permission slips for field trips
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a stay-at-home person, or have the ability to be contacted by telephone at all times. <input type="checkbox"/> I am organized and detail oriented	Emergency Contact	A parent who is usually home during meeting times and troop trips whom the Leader can call with last minute changes of plans or emergencies
<input type="checkbox"/> I like to coordinate people and materials	Snack Coordinator	Coordinate rotating snack schedule for meetings
<input type="checkbox"/> I can follow directions <input type="checkbox"/> I am organized and detail oriented	Record Keeper	Keeps individual record sheets for each girl, including a record of badges done by girls and orders them
<input type="checkbox"/> I can follow directions <input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy working with children in groups	Chaperone	Assist the leaders at Girl Scout activities
<input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy hands-on activities <input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy interacting with children in a group setting	Program Helper	Develop and teach troop projects
<input type="checkbox"/> I have a valid driver's license <input type="checkbox"/> I ensure that children under the age of 12 sit in the back seat in cars equipped with airbags <input type="checkbox"/> I ensure that car passengers wear seat belts <input type="checkbox"/> My car is safe, equipped with seat belts, registered, and insured to meet the state's auto insurance standards	Driver	Drive girls on field trips and special outings

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My daughter's name is: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_