



Keys to A Successful Year



We know you can't wait to get started with lots of fun ideas already - and probably a few questions, too. Don't let yourself get overwhelmed! Girl Scouts of Louisiana Pines to the Gulf (GSLPG) has resources for you to help you keep organized, keep it fun, and keep it together - step by step, month by month, all year long. All these resources are available at gslpg.org. Remember to log into your "my GS" page. Make sure to review the *Leader's Guide to Success* before going forward. It's a great introduction to Girl Scout leadership.

August - Gather Your Paperwork

If you already haven't done so, create your "my GS" login using the email address we have on record. Open "Forms" in top right corner of the web page. Print Girl Permission and Health History forms for all girls. These will need to be completed before a girl can participate, preferably at your Parent Meeting. Note the Troop Financial Report Spreadsheet. Your parent volunteer treasurer can use this to track income and expenses easily throughout the year. Don't worry about all the other forms listed, we will get to some of those later.

September - Let's Get Organized

You were introduced to the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) in your Leader Training. Now is the time to put it into action. As refreshers, check out the videos under "Volunteer Resources" at gslpg.org. Open your VTK under "my GS" and explore it. The "VTK Help Menu" on the right side of the page is a great resource. Check out the tabs from left to right. After verifying your troop roster use the "Explore" and "Resources" tabs to check out how the VTK does the hard work of planning and organization for you. Use Pre-selected tracks as a quick start and easily add to it later. Remember you can add and delete meetings at any time. Go Ahead, create a year plan and see what it looks like. Email your parents from here to keep you informed.

October - Full Circle

Celebrate our founder's birthday by learning about Juliette Gordon Low. Learn how you and your troop are part of your legacy and how to bring fun and lasting traditions to your troop. Check out "Traditions" under the "About Girl Scouts" tab including the link to the Juliette Gordon Low biography. There are several great resources available online and in books for all grade levels. Using girl-led principles, the troop can explore and celebrate. Check with your Service Unit and GSLPG to see if larger celebrations are planned that girls can join.

November - Giving Back

Philanthropy is an important part of Girl Scouting. As we enter the holiday season, engage girls and families in giving back. Remember giving is not always money. Service to Girl Scouts and the larger community is also important. Check out the "Donate" tab on gslpg.org, check with your Service Unit on area wide campaigns, and the Journeys for ideas. Get the girl's input, have them lead the campaign, and encourage them to get their whole family involved.

December - Cool cookie Marketing

Don't let the holidays sneak up on you without preparing for the most wonderful time of the year - Girl Scout Cookie season! Check out "Cookies+" on gslpg.org. Find ways to share great ideas to help girls get the most out of this program and the five key entrepreneurial skills.

January - Go Global

World Thinking Day is celebrated all around the globe in February, so join us to learn more about this important day: what it means to Girl Scouts and how to help girls understand their part in the global movement of Scouting. Check with your Service Unit and Council to find an area wide event your troop can participate in or create your own. See gsusa.org for the yearly emphasis and award information.

February - Cookie Time

The cookies are arriving soon - remember training (in person and online) so you can lead girls to a great Cookie Season. Check out "Cookies+" for tried and true tips for a safe and smooth cookie booth season. Contact your Service Unit Cookie Manager for more information and assistance.

March - Spring int Next Year

Time to look ahead! Are girls in your troop going to be moving to the next program level next year? Learn about Bridging and get excited for new adventures next year - whether your troop is bridging or not, every year in Girl Scouts has more fun waiting! Check out the "Bridging Ceremony Resource" on gslpg.org. Check with the Service Unit and Council for larger events that your troop can participate in whether your girls will be bridging or not.

April - The Great Outdoors

We know the warm weather has everyone wanting to be outside! Discover what Outdoor Progression means and why it's important for both girls and adults. Get your leader certifications so you can be ready to take the girls on adventures, no matter how close to home. See the council events calendar and your Service Unit for opportunities to join their adventures.

May - Renewal Season

Check out how to renew the whole troop at one time. Early Bird registrations can help the troops win some great prizes and it helps both leaders and parents to plan ahead. Plan meetings for the Summer or individual Courage, Confidence, and Character achievements for the girls to share with the troop next Fall.

June - Look Back

Review your year as troop leader making sure to congratulate yourself on all you and the girls have achieved. You helped to create the next generation of girl leaders becoming their trusted guide.

July - Plan for next year

Check out the updates to the VTK and the new programming that is available. Troop leaders meet to outline your year, whether it is continuing a Journey from the previous year or discovering options for the girls to consider. Make sure your meeting place and time are still available. Touch base with the girls using the VTK to keep them informed of the great year ahead.