



The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
Spring 2011

What's the format for *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, available for use in September 2011, will include badges, handbook sections, awards log, accessory pages, and more. (Daisies will earn Petals instead of badges.) Each level will have its own *Girl's Guide* and it will be presented in a beautiful standard-size binder.

How do journeys and badges work together?

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting will work with national leadership journeys to add skill-building to the leadership skills girls learn through the three keys of Discover, Connect, and Take Action. Journeys are the only program resources that cover all 15 outcomes. Badges build specific skills and are primarily aimed at the Discover "Girls develop a strong sense of self" outcome. National leadership journeys and *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* make up the program portfolio.

What badge categories are included in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

National proficiency badge categories within *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* will include Legacy, Financial Literacy, Cookie Business, Skill-Building, and Make Your Own badges.

What are the sections in the *Girl's Guide*?

The three sections are: Handbook, Badges, and My Girl Scouts. More specifically, the *Girl's Guide* includes the grade-level handbook; requirements for Legacy, Financial Literacy, and Cookie Business badges, and Make Your Own badges; information about earning Bridging and Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards (for Juniors through Ambassadors); and accessory pages such as scrapbooking pages.

What can be added in?

Skill-Building Badge Activity sets can be added. A set includes the requirements for badges tied to each of the three journeys. The first three sets will include requirements for five badges. All physical badges are purchased separately and individually.

What are the seven Legacy badges?

- Artist
- Athlete
- Citizen
- Cook
- First Aid
- Girl Scout Way
- Naturalist

What can Daisies earn?

Daisies will have a special approach. They will continue to earn Petals with new stories and activities and can now earn Financial Literacy and Cookie Business “Leaves” to go with their Petals. Daisies do not earn Make Your Own badges. Of course, they can earn their Leadership Journey Awards.

What can Ambassadors earn?

Ambassadors can earn Legacy, Financial Literacy, Cookie Business badges, and one Make Your Own badge per year. They can also earn their Leadership Journey Awards.

BADGE EARNING

Will badges be simple enough for younger girls to lead themselves through the activities or will they need a volunteer to facilitate?

All badge requirements are written in simple language to the girl. Younger girls may need a volunteer’s assistance.

Why are Skill-Building Badge Activity sets not being offered to Ambassadors?

Research shows juniors and seniors in high school are interested in earning fewer badges than girls at other levels; many are pursuing their Girl Scout Gold Awards and are busy with college preparation and other high school activities.

Do all badge categories, including Skill-Building, have five steps? What are the five steps to badge-earning?

Each badge has five steps. Girls complete all five to earn the badge. (There are three choices for completing each step. Girls need only do one.) The five steps vary depending on the skill girls are learning.

Is “Giving Service” one of the five steps to complete the badge?

No. Service ideas are included so a girl can apply her new skill to help others. In the tradition of Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low said, “a badge...stands for one way a Girl Scout has prepared herself to help others.”

Can girls earn vintage badges, e.g., the Hostess badge from 1928, as a way to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts?

With the release of *The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting*, girls will have many relevant, age-appropriate badges to complete and enjoy, including Legacy badges which honor the heritage of Girl Scouts while offering contemporary skill-building activities. Programmatically, vintage badges do not reflect today’s program or the lives of girls and as such GSUSA does not encourage having girls earn badges of long ago. For those who want to salute the Girl Scouts’ 100th anniversary, GSUSA will offer a commemorative pin.

MAKE YOUR OWN BADGES

Will Make Your Own badges require USAGSO approval?

No. To create and complete a Make Your Own badge, girls will work with volunteers or advisors. The last step to completion requires a discussion between the girl and an adult and will require an adult’s signature.

Once a girl creates her Make Your Own badge, can other girls earn it?

When a girl earns her Make Your Own badge, she gains skills not only in the topic she has chosen but from the process of creating the badge. Therefore, girls can only earn the Make Your Own badges they create. If Make Your Own badges were available to all girls they would lose their value as “make your own” as well as the intrinsic skills that come from creating, developing, and completing a project.

What will be the process for Make Your Own?

To create the physical Make Your Own badge (in addition to developing the idea and the requirements), Brownies through Ambassadors will log onto (with adult supervision) a Make Your Own badge site. There, girls will choose a design icon from a gallery of pre-approved images. When they are finished designing, girls will submit their badges to the licensed vendor on the site who will produce and ship.

How many Make Your Own badges per level can a girl earn?

Girls can earn one per year.

Will all Make Your Own badges look the same?

Make Your Own badges for Brownies through Ambassadors will have the appropriate grade-level shape. The border will match the grade-level color.

ORDERING AND MERCHANDISE

Why are Skill-Building Badge Activity sets being sold separately?

Skill-Building Badge Activity sets were developed so girls could add on badges that reflect their interests. This approach was chosen to provide choice and customizability--features girls, volunteers, and parents told GSUSA--during the research phase of development of *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*--were important. Skill-Building Badge Activity sets will include the requirements for badge earning and are being offered as “sets,” (rather than as individual badges) because of the need to be cost-effective in packaging merchandise.

What if girls only want to work on one extra badge. Do they still have to buy a badge set that includes all five?

Girls need to purchase Skill-Building Badge Activity requirements in sets of five; they cannot buy them individually. The decision was made to offer Skill-Building Badge Activity requirements in sets because the cost of providing individual sheets with requirements was prohibitive.

Do the Legacy and Financial Literacy badges come separately?

No. Legacy, Financial Literacy, and Cookie Business badges are included in the purchase of *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*.

Will badges be embroidered?

Yes. Cookie Business badges will be a mix of “sublimation” and embroidery. Sublimation is a process whereby an image is treated with special ink and affixed to the fabric giving it a raised look.

How many badges are included in each *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

For Brownies, Juniors, Seniors, and Ambassadors, 12 badges will be offered. Cadettes are offered 14. Daisies will be offered 10 Petals and Promise Center, two Financial Literacy, and two Cookie Business “leaves.” In addition, all levels are offered journey and other updated awards such as the Safety Award, and the new religious award My Promise, My Faith.

Will fun patches still be available?

Yes. Fun patches, which girls receive when attending events, will remain.

What is the cost of *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* and Skill-Building Badge Activity sets ?

Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting suggested retail price is \$22.50. Girl Scout Merchandise is currently (through March 12, 2012) offering 25% off for *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*. Skill-Building Badge Activity Sets (each set contains earning requirements for five badges) have a suggested retail price of \$4.00. Please note the 25% off discount applies only to *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* and not to Skill-Building Badge Activity sets.

OTHER EARNED AWARDS

What is VIT? Does it replace LIT?

The newly named VIT award refers to Volunteer-in-Training. Yes, it replaces the LIT award (Leader-in-Training) and is earned by Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors who want to mentor girls in a pathway other than the camp pathway.

Will GSUSA produce a council guide to Program Aide (PA), Volunteer-in-Training (VIT), and Counselor-in-Training (CIT) prior to the launch of *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

GSUSA is producing support materials for the *Girl's Guide*, including guidelines for the new awards, to be released in spring. Please keep in mind, however, that girls can continue to earn current PA, CIT, and LIT awards and will have a year from September 2011 to transition to the new resources. As a note, these awards will have the fewest changes so you can continue to use the current awards with confidence until new awards are released.

Will Service Bars continue?

Yes. Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassador will continue to earn Community Service Bars. This award will encourage girls to practice the values of the Promise and Law as they make a difference in their communities. Two Service Bars will be offered at each level: Community Service Bars whereby a girl volunteers 20 hours of service to a community organization and the Service to Girl Scouting Bar whereby a girl volunteers 20 hours to the Girl Scout organization.

What is the difference between Service and Take Action projects?

When girls pursue service projects, they are addressing an immediate short-term need in the community. When girls pursue Take Action projects, they take time to identify and understand the root cause of the issue they are addressing. For example, as service projects, girls might organize a book or clothing drive, paint walls to cover up graffiti, or hold a one-time march or fair to highlight a community problem. Although these projects address a need in the community, they do so for only a short period of time.

A Take Action project picks up from where a short-term project leaves off. For example, girls organizing the book or clothing drive could start a Take Action project by creating a clothes closet for the community. The girls who painted the walls to cover up graffiti can create a club that travels around the city painting beautiful murals on buildings that have been defaced. And the girls who held the march or fair could expand the event to include community artisans and make it an annual gathering.

An easy way to remember the difference between short-term service projects and Take Action projects rests on whether the project is being done *for* the community or *with* the community. If a girl is doing something *for* the community, most likely she is working on a short-term service project. If she is doing something *with* the community, she is working on a Take Action project.

What are requirements for the new Journey Summit Pin?

When a girl completes all three journeys at her level, she earns the Journey Summit Pin. Earning this award demonstrates that a girl knows “to her core” what it means to be a leader.

Does the My Promise, My Faith pin replace religious awards? Will GSUSA still offer the other religious awards through PRAY?

GSUSA is proud to offer girls the opportunity to deepen their faith by earning the My Promise, My Faith pin--the only national faith award girls can earn. PRAY is a private vendor and not connected to Girl Scouts of the US. Girls can continue to earn PRAY awards administered through their individual faith communities.

I thought Girl Scouts were not to work on faith awards during meetings. Are the new religious awards designed for girls to work on their own?

The My Promise, My Faith pin is designed for individuals, not as a group award.

Will girls earn My Promise, My Faith pins every year or at every level?

Girls can earn one pin every year. By the time a girl goes from Daisy to Ambassador, she can earn 13 pins.

What will happen with Troop’s Own and Council’s Own? Will you be issuing new guidelines?

GSUSA will release new guidelines for national badges developed within councils. Troop’s Own will be retired and girls may develop a Make Your Own badge together.

TRANSITION TO NEW RESOURCES

When do we transition girls to the new resources, especially Cadettes who have three years?

Girls will have one year (September 2011-2012) to transition to new resources.

How are the old badges and Try-Its going to be phased out? What is the timeline?

GSUSA began streamlining inventory (Try-Its, Junior badges, Interest Project patches, handbooks, etc.) in 2010. The first phase began June 2010. The second phase continued in December 2010. The third phase will take place June 2011.

What is happening with the Junior Signs? Will Signs be included in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

Junior Signs are being retired.

BRIDGING

Will bridging requirements be offered in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

Yes, bridging requirements for each level will be included.

BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD AWARDS

Will there be any changes in way girls earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, or Gold Awards?

No. Requirements for earning Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards—revised in 2009—are the same and will be included in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* for the appropriate level. To review revised guidelines, visit http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/highest_awards/gold_award.asp.

Will the new badges be tied into Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards work?

No.

JOURNEYS

Can you provide messaging to encourage volunteers to be more open to journeys?

Please keep the following points in mind when communicating about journeys:

- The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is comprised of two distinct components: the journeys, which develop girls' leadership ability through the three keys; and badges, which build girls' skills. If volunteers only focus on one of those, they are not providing girls with the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.
- Journeys were designed to be customizable, flexible, and tailored to a group's interest. Girls and adults can determine together the format for their journey: how many sessions, what they'd like the journey to be, what field trips, experts, and "side trips" they would like to add to make the journey as personal, intriguing, and educational as they would like.
- Journeys are a way for girls to develop leadership, explore their interests, try new things, meet people, and make their world better. Girls and adults are encouraged to think of the journey as a guide to Discover, Connect, and Take Action.
- Adult guides are an integral part of the journeys. It is recommended that adults read through the guide once to get ideas about how they and the girls want to approach the journey. Then, adults can go back and look more closely at the Sample Sessions. The adult guide not only lists Sample Sessions, but trip and team-building ideas, and plenty of tips for getting creative.

- Other activities are available in Girl Scouting for girls to do along with the journey. The sessions do not have to be done week after week, unless girls design it that way. Camping, badges, council trips, the Cookie Program, etc., can be woven throughout the year. Please visit the journey maps, <http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/maps> to get an overview of how the journeys fit with all the other Girl Scout activities.
- There are resources such as *It's Your Journey--Customize It!* that support implementation of journeys.

Are there plans to develop more journeys?

No, not at this time.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Will there be corresponding facilitators' or volunteers' guides to *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

Adult guides are not being offered. Material in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* is written to the girl with clarity and easy-to-follow steps. Volunteers will not need adult guides to help girls with their badges. Just as with journeys, volunteers will experience "learning by doing" along with the girls.

Will *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* be available in Spanish?

There are no plans to translate *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*. If funding for translation becomes available, Spanish-language versions will be produced.

Is *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* designed for girls to use in all pathways or just troop?

Girls can use *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* in all pathways as well as on her own.