

Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) Information Sheet (3/03) v2.1

The Purpose of the Movement is to inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens. The GSUSA serves 2.8 million girls and young women, and over 963,000 adult volunteers. The organization was founded in 1912 and is headquartered in New York City.

Girl Scouts is based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

There are five age levels in GSUSA; girls “Bridge” up to the next age level, Brownies also “Fly-up” to Juniors.

Daisy	5-6	Kindergarten/Grade 1	Cadette	11-14	Grades 6-9
Brownie	6-8	Grades 1-3	Senior	14-17	Grades 9-12
Junior	8-11	Grades 3-6			

Studio 2B is a new program targeting Girl Scouts in the 11-17 age bracket. At present, Studio 2B is complementary to the traditional Cadette and Senior Scout programs. Studio 2B also targets young adults (18-29) to serve as advisors to the girls participating in this program.

Campus Girl Scouts is the GSUSA organization for college age girls that wish to continue their participation in Girl Scouts. There are dozens of Campus Girl Scouts groups on campuses across the United States. The groups are organized through the local Girl Scout Council and participate in a variety of service and leadership based activities.

The Organizational Structure differs from Council to Council as each is independently operated.

1. Troop (a unit in a local neighborhood, school, or church; girls are usually in the same age level or possibly the same grade)
2. Service Unit (also called “Neighborhood”, “Association”, District”; usually 10-100 troops, often organized by town, neighborhood, or school district)
3. Council (formed from Regions, Associations, or Districts made up of Service Units)
4. Girl Scouts of the United States (GSUSA)
5. World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) (worldwide organization of female Scouts)

Girls who are not affiliated with a troop may be registered as an individual member known as a “Juliette”.

Recognitions are structured by age level and involve accompanying levels of difficulty:

Daisy Girl Scouts earn Petals
Brownie Girl Scouts earn Try-Its
Junior Girl Scouts earn Badges and Signs
Cadette & Senior Girl Scouts earn Interest Project Awards
Studio 2B Girl Scouts earn Charms

Other significant awards include:

Girl Scout Bronze Award: Highest Award a Junior can earn. Requires completion of several Badges, one Sign, a leadership based recognition and a 15-hour service project.

Girl Scout Silver Award: Highest Award a Cadette can earn. Requires completion of several Interest Project Awards, career exploration activities, a leadership based recognition, a personal development recognition and planning and execution of a 30-hour service project.

Girl Scout Gold Award: Highest Award a Senior can earn. Requires completion of several Interest Project Awards, completion of recognitions in career exploration, leadership activities and personal development activities and planning and execution of a 50-hour service project.

Girl Scout Holidays:

February 22	Thinking Day	Lord & Lady Baden-Powell Birthdays (WAGGGS)
March 12	Girl Scout Birthday	Founding of Girl Scouts in the United States
April 22	Leaders Day	Appreciation for Volunteers in Girl Scouting
October 31	Founder's Day	Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday

Additional information about the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, including a reference to locate the Girl Scout Council in your area can be found on their web site at <http://www.girlscouts.org>.