



Junior First Year Troop Plan

Welcome to the new troop year!

Hello Troop Leaders,

Being a Girl Scout leader is an incredible journey along which you'll shape the future by working with girls today. With your guidance, encouragement, and go-getter spirit, your Girl Scouts will be ready to embark on a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure. And along the way, you'll hone your own leadership style and discover that you'll achieve more than you ever thought possible!

Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana (GSSI) understands that volunteers are eager to start their leadership experience but may feel overwhelmed by the planning process. To take the guesswork out of planning, we have provided a sample year plan with recommended badges and a simple outline for each meeting.

Please note that the badges listed on this year plan are merely suggestions. Leaders should feel free to substitute other badges as needed based on their girls' interests. As you get to know your girls better and request feedback from them, you will be the best judge of which badges will be most impactful for your troop's unique leadership experience.

GSSI wants to ensure we support you through a memorable leadership experience with your girls. We hope that this year plan will instill you with confidence and excitement in your new leadership role and prepare you to start mentoring girls who will grow to change the world.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana



Meeting 1: Introduction to Girl Scouts and Parent Meeting



Set expectations for all involved – girl dynamics and family responsibility. Sisterhood starts at the beginning.

During the Parent Meeting, have families fill out the [Annual Permission](#), [COVID Waiver](#), and the [Cookie Permission Form](#). Also, make sure to have your Troop Volunteer Position Signup Sheet on hand, so that all families can sign up to assist with the troop.

Note: Leaders will keep the Annual Permission form and COVID Waiver for their records. The Cookie Permission form will be turned into council.

Meeting 2 Part 1: Investiture & Rededication



An [investiture ceremony](#) welcomes all new members to Girl Scouts, while a [rededication ceremony](#) is a great way for returning members to kick off the troop year and renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Both ceremonies, at their core, are traditions that allow us to reflect on the ideals of the Girl Scout Movement and the empowering journey girls—and the millions of Girl Scouts who came before them—will undertake. Depending on your troop's members, you might decide to hold a combination investiture/rededication ceremony.

Also during Meeting 2, you can begin working on the Detective Badge. See the next section for more information about this badge.

Meetings 2 & 3: Detective Badge



Stories, movies, and television are full of amazing detective solving mysteries and bringing criminals to justice. Their jobs are important, exciting, and take serious skills – skills you can try in this badge. Grab your magnifying glass and dive into the science of detecting. When you have earned this badge, you will know how to follow clues and discover facts like a real detective. *This badge will take two meetings to be able to officially earn. The Volunteer Toolkit also has the curriculum for this badge split up into two parts.*

Steps to Earn your Detective Badge

1. Practice the power of observation
2. Communicate in code
3. Fingerprint for fun
4. Try out detective science
5. Follow the clues to solve a real mystery!

Girl Scout Leadership Experience Pillar: STEM

Meeting 3: You will use this meeting to complete the remaining steps to earn the Detective badge.

Meetings 4 & 5: My Cookie Team Badge

When you earn this badge, you will learn that the secret to a successful cookie business is teamwork. Everyone has different skills and ideas to offer. Work with your Girl Scout group to meet your goals and have fun! *This badge will take two meetings to be able to officially earn. The Volunteer Toolkit also has the curriculum for this badge split up into two parts.*

Steps to Earn the My Cookie Team Badge

1. Find out about Girl Scout Cookies
2. Decide how you will spend your cookie money
3. Set a troop budget and package goal
4. Build your team
5. Create your pitch to customers



Girl Scout Leadership Experience Pillar: Entrepreneurship

Meeting 5: You will use this meeting to complete the remaining steps to earn the My Cookie Team Badge.

Meetings 6 & 7: Geocacher Badge

Geocaching is your chance to be part global explorer, part detective. You'll search for treasure chests, known as "geocaches" using a device called a GPS receiver to find each chest's secret hiding place. When you have earned this badge, you will know how to have a geocaching adventure. *This badge will take two meetings to be able to officially earn. The Volunteer Toolkit also has the curriculum for this badge split up into two parts.*

Steps to Earn the Geocacher Badge

1. Prepare for your adventure
2. Learn to use a GPS receiver
3. Make a trade item
4. Go on geocaching adventure
5. Take part in a bug's travels!



Girl Scout Leadership Experience Pillar: Outdoors

Meeting 7: You will use this meeting to complete the remaining steps to earn the Geocacher Badge.

Meetings 8 & 9: Simple Meals Badge

There's steam and bubbles, interesting tools, and amazing smells and lots of room for experiments. And it's not a laboratory – it's your own kitchen! When you have earned this badge you will know how to serve up a meal for your family and friends. *This badge will take two meetings to be able to officially earn. The Volunteer Toolkit also has the curriculum for this badge split up into two parts.*

Steps to Earn the Simple Meals Badge

1. Step up your skills with a pro
2. Whip up a great breakfast
3. Fix a healthy lunch or dinner
4. Create a delicious dessert
5. Make your own meal



Girl Scout Leadership Experience Pillar: Life Skills

Meeting 9: You will use this meeting to complete the remaining steps to earn the Simple Meals Badge.

Meeting 10: End of the Year Celebration!

Celebration Suggestions

1. Have a bridging ceremony (only if girls are going into 6th grade in the fall)
2. Go on a field trip
3. Have a slumber party
4. Go camping
5. Have a pizza or ice cream party

Note: Additional Volunteer Trainings are required for any type of field trip or overnight activity that is planned. Please make sure to review the [Volunteer Essentials](#) and [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) before planning your trip. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to council directly at 812-421-4970 or at support@girlscouts-gssi.org.

Summer Activities with Your Troop

We always recommend meeting with your girls once or twice over the summer break to get together and take a fun trip or go on an outing. Check out our [Program Guide](#) filled with activities that are community partners in the surrounding areas have to offer!

GSSI also offers opportunities for troops or individual girls to attend our residential camp sessions at Camp Koch. [Camp Koch](#) is available for day use and group camping year-round (except during resident camp sessions) with indoor and outdoor accommodations available. Our facility has several hiking trails to points of natural beauty within the camp that provide an opportunity to explore nature. The developed area of the camp includes a small lake divided into swimming and boating areas, a dining hall, a play field, and indoor and outdoor sleeping accommodations.



Girl Scout Holidays for Your Troop to Celebrate

1. Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday: October 31st
2. Take a Hike Day: November 17th
3. World Thinking Day: February 22nd
4. Girl Scout Week: The week of March 12th
5. Girl Scout's Birthday Day: March 12th (2022 is Girl Scout's 110th birthday!)
6. Girl Scout Leader Day: April 22nd (April is Volunteer Appreciation Month)

In addition to these holidays, watch for additional annual programs & events from GSUSA including Girl Scouts Love State Parks, National Cookie Weekend, National Bridging Week and more!

Looking for More Options?

You can switch out any of these badges for others that best suit the girls in your troop. Visit the [Badge Explorer](#) to see all of your options or build your own year plan in the Volunteer Tool Kit.

In addition to traditional badges, girls can also earn fun patches during your Girl Scout year. Fun Patches are a way for girls to express their interests or share an activity that they participated in with their troop or on their own. These are perfect to purchase after your troop has either participated in holiday celebrations or other activities. Visit our [Fun Patch](#) vendor's website for all kinds of different and fun ideas!