



A GIRL SCOUT YEAR

Dear Girl Scouts,

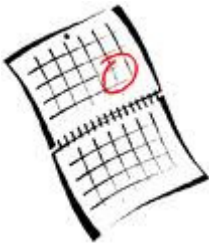
Are you ready for a year of fun, friendship and adventure? Do you want to learn how to do new things and be a leader in your community? Then let's get started!

Every Girl Scout troop or group is different, so we can't tell you what *your group* ought to do this year. That's up to you! But we can give you some ideas to help you organize your activities. The adult volunteers who work with you will teach you (or find someone else to teach you) how to do the activities that interest you.

Girl Scouts is not like school: you don't get a grade for the work you do. But you can earn awards (patches are an example) by setting a goal for yourself and doing the work required to meet your goal. If your troop or group would like to earn an award that shows how well you can work together to choose and plan activities for a year of Girl Scouts, keep reading!

To earn this award, you **and your adult volunteers** will each have activities to do. You must ALL complete the activities for the troop or group to earn the patch. So the first thing to do is read over all the requirements (activities) and decide if you want to do them.

If the answer is YES, we want to do all the activities and earn the "A Girl Scout Year" patch, put the date you decided here: _____



Dear Adult Volunteers,

Are **you** ready for a year of fun, challenge, and new experiences? Whether you are a new or an experienced volunteer, every year with girls is different! So much is expected of Girl Scout troop or group leaders, we wanted to offer you a little incentive to meet all those goals your service unit director or new leader mentor has set for you. Your whole troop or group can earn a patch that encourages girls to develop basic organization and leadership skills (the Girl Requirements, below.) Your job (and it's a tough one!) is not to do these activities or requirements *for* the girls, but to teach them how to do them for themselves. That is your main job as an adult volunteer in a troop or group.

At the same time, there are some administrative jobs that have to be taken care of as well: things like training, registration, fund development and money-earning. Since your volunteer job is to help girls grow in courage, confidence and character, you will need to ask troop parents and community friends to help with some of these other tasks. Most of the adult requirements for this patch involve recruiting others to take on administrative work so you can focus on the girls and their needs. **If your leadership team of adult volunteers is willing to commit to earning this patch with the girls, each of you sign here:**



PATCH AWARD REQUIREMENTS

ADULTS ONLY: check off activities as you complete them.

___ **1. Complete your required training.** Your Service Unit Director or a new leader coach or mentor will tell you what you need to take and how to register.

___ **2. Register your troop on time!** Continuing (re-registering) troops must turn in their forms by September 30; new troops must register by the deadline set by their Service Unit Director or Registrar.

___ **3.** Have the most recent edition of ***Volunteer Essentials*** for your troop.

___ **4. Recruit volunteers** (troop parents, friends) to chair/manage your troop's:
 Annual Fund drive
 Fall Product Sale Program
 Cookie Sale Program

This includes, for Fall Product and Cookie sales, helping the girls create a budget (see Girl Activity #4, below) and training the girls for the sale.

___ **5.** Have a plan in place for covering your service unit's business and planning meetings, either by attending yourself or having troop representatives attend when you cannot.

All done? Have your SUD or mentor initial and date here: _____

GIRL ACTIVITIES:

Have your troop's secretary or recorder write the date under the activity when you complete it. Have one of your adult volunteers initial it.

1) Do you want your troop or group meetings and activities to run as smoothly as possible? Then you will probably want to have some guidelines or "rules" you all agree on. Of course you will do your best to live by the Girl Scout Law, but you may want to write down some positive guidelines to help you remember how to put the Law into action. For example, if you agree "We will wait our turn and not grab things or push ahead" that is one way to show respect for other people. Why not start with about five guidelines, then if you need more later you can add them. When you have talked over and agreed on your guidelines, written them out on a piece of poster board or other sturdy paper and put them up at your meetings, you have completed this activity.

Write the date here: _____

2) One of the things that makes Girl Scouts different from other clubs is our Promise and Law. Before you can join the Girl Scouts, you have to agree to make the Girl Scout Promise and live by the Girl Scout Law. Troops have a special ceremony where girls make their Promise and are *invested* with the Girl Scout Membership Pin and the World Trefoil pin. Everyone wears their uniform for this ceremony. If you are already a Girl Scout, you renew your Promise each year at a *rededication* ceremony.

Both ceremonies have an opening, a main part, and a closing, planned and led by the girls in the troop or group. Start your Girl Scout Year off right by having an Investiture Ceremony for new members and/or a Rededication Ceremony for returning members. Your adult volunteers have a Planning Sheet and can show you how to plan your ceremony. When the ceremony is over, write the date here:

3) Another thing that makes Girl Scouts special is that it is a **leadership experience**. That means that every Girl Scout learns *how* to be a leader, then uses her leadership skills to help other people. There are three Keys to Leadership; your adult volunteers will help you discover what they are, and how to use them, by guiding you on a Leadership Journey. But first YOU must decide which journey to take. Which one will it be?

- It's Your World – Change It!
- It's Your Planet – Love It!
- It's Your Story – Tell It! [available December 2010]

After you have looked at the journey books or done some of the online activities at www.girlscouts.org, decide which journey you will take. The first time you bring your journey books to a troop or group meeting is exciting! Write the date here:

Most groups take about one school year to do all their journey activities and earn journey awards. *You* might take more or less time – there’s no rule! When you complete your leadership journey and celebrate earning your leadership awards, write the date here:

4) Your Girl Scout troop is like a home or school or business: it takes money to operate it! If you want to go places or make things, it takes money. If you want to have a party or cook a meal, it takes money. If you want to camp out or help people in Haiti, it takes money. So...where do Girl Scout groups and troops get money? They earn it! Your Girl Scout council offers two opportunities to earn money for your troop or group **and** for your council, Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta. They are the **Fall Product Sale** (candy and nuts) and the **Cookie Sale Program** (Girl Scout Cookies.) Before you take part in the sale, your troop has to make a **budget** – a plan for earning, saving, and spending money. Your adult leaders will show you how to figure out:

- What you want to do at Girl Scouts this year (trips, camp, service, awards, etc.)
- What you will need to do these things (tickets, event fees, equipment, etc.)
- How much it will cost (How can you find out?)
- How much candy, nuts and cookies you need to sell to pay for your activities and supplies. (You’ll have to figure out what your profit will be.)

When you have your budget (and it may change later) write the date here: _____

When you take part in the Fall Product Sale, write the date here: _____

When you take part in the Cookie Sale Program, write the date here: _____

Keep a copy of your budget with your troop records for this year.

5) Girl Scouts all over the United States share three special days. Choose one of **Girl Scouting’s special days** to celebrate this year. Work together in teams of four to six girls to choose, plan and carry out your celebration. It could be a ceremony, a service project, troop meeting activities or a field trip, or something you think of yourself! Here are Girl Scouting’s special days and the dates they fall on:

- Girl Scout Founder’s Day (Juliette Low’s Birthday) – October 31
- World Thinking Day – February 22 (The day when Girl Scouts and Guides *around the world* send each other friendly thoughts)
- Girl Scout Birthday – March 12 (the day Juliette Low started the first Girl Scout troop in America – in Savannah, Georgia!)

Write the day you chose and the date you celebrated here: _____

6A) Will your troop, or some of the girls in your troop, be in a new Girl Scout grade level next school year? **Bridging awards** mark a girl’s transition from one leadership level to the next. To earn your Bridging Award you complete two bridging steps (you can find the Steps at the Girl Scouts of the USA Web site, http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gscentral/insignia/bridging_awards/.) These

steps will help you pass down something you learned to a younger Girl Scout and look forward to what's waiting for you at the next level. Write down the date you completed each step:

Bridging Step One: Pass it On! _____

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead _____

6B) Not bridging this year? You can still take time to reflect on what was special about your Girl Scout leadership experience this year. If your troop likes to talk things over, get comfortable in a circle at a troop meeting or around a campfire and share your favorite moments at Girl Scouts this year. Talk about the places you went, the things you learned, how it felt to help other people, and how you've grown. Be sure your adult volunteers get a chance to talk, too!

If you're not so much for talking, draw pictures that tell your Girl Scout story for this year – or get together and put on a skit. Or maybe you'll make up a song that tells all about this year in Girl Scouting! Some troops like to make a video, a photo album or scrapbook to record their Girl Scout memories. Find the way that's right for your group.



This has been a year in the life of Girl Scout Troop _____

Our Girl Scout year began on _____ and ended on _____

We completed this patch on _____. Our adult volunteers

this year were: (sign here)

Our girl members were... (sign on the back)



www.gsgatl.org

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Dalton Service Center and Badge & Sash Store
2204 E. Walnut Ave., Dalton, GA 30721
(706) 226-1435

Griffin Service Center and Badge & Sash Store
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Mableton Service Center
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