



## The National Organization

The National Girl Scout organization, officially known as the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, maintains its headquarters at 420 Fifth Avenue., New York, NY 10018-2798 USA.  
([www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org))

## The Council

A Girl Scout Council is chartered by the Girl Scouts of the USA to develop, manage and maintain Girl Scouting within a defined jurisdiction.

Councils are divided into geographic subdivisions (associations) to provide for influencing policy and participating in the business of the council. Within the association are service units to organize troops and give continuing help to troop leaders.

## Troops

In the USA, girls of 5 years (or in kindergarten) through 17 have one continuous program with five age levels:

- **Daisy Girl Scouts** are girls who are 5 years old or are in kindergarten.
- **Brownie Girl Scouts** are 6 to 8 years old, in the first, second and third grades of school.
- **Junior Girl Scouts** are 9 to 11 years old; in the fourth, fifth or sixth grades of school.
- **Cadette Girl Scouts** are 12 to 14 years old; or in the seventh, eighth or ninth grades of school.  
*Note: 14 year olds or girls in the ninth grade may choose to be either Cadette or Senior Girl Scouts.*
- **Senior Girl Scouts** are 14 to 17 years old; or in the ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grades of school.

For all girls the program is based upon the concept in the Promise and Law, acceptance of which implies a spiritual belief, service, responsible citizenship, high ideals of conduct and character, and appreciation of the worth of all people. The four program goals for each girl include developing values, relating to others, developing self potential and contributing to society.

Girl Scouting provides girls with opportunities to engage in five broad interest areas called Worlds. They are *World of Well Being, World of People, World of Today and Tomorrow, World of Arts, World of Out-of-Doors*. Integral to each World are concepts of service, health and safety, citizenship and multicultural awareness.

As girls mature, they progress within the unified design of this one program. Each age level marks an important progression into a larger world of Girl Scouting. Girl-leader partnership is emphasized at each age level.

Girl Scout troops plan their own regular meetings of activities based on their own interests. The troop year usually begins in September. Many troops meet the year round, others meet less frequently in the summer.

Special activities and council camping opportunities are planned to fit the local community school holiday schedule.

## Girl Scouting/Girl Guide Terminology

The name may differ but basically these are the same:

- Troop = Unit
- Leader-in-Training (LIT) = Junior Leaders
- Troop Leader = Unit Guider
- Troop Adviser = Ranger Guider
- Council = Council
- District = Area
- Neighborhood Association = Division
- President = Commissioner

## School Holidays in the USA

Public, private and parochial schools determine their own schedule. In *general*, the school year begins about Labor Day and ends in late May or June. The most common times for school breaks are:

- around Thanksgiving (the 4th Thursday in November)
- around Christmas and New Year's
- around Easter
- around Thinking Day (George Washington's Birthday)

Holidays will vary with the community you may wish to visit and can be learned only from a resident of that community.

## Camping Sites (Girl Scout)

Girl Scouts provide three different types of camping:

- **Troop Camping:** Troop and its leaders plan and carry out their own camp for one or more nights on sites provided or approved by their council. They may go to a cabin, set up their own tent, or take a camping trip. Troop camping occurs year round.
- **Day Camping:** Girls from different troops camp together during the daytime for each of 5-8 days during the summer months and spend the night at home. The site and leaders are provided by their councils.
- **Resident Camp:** Girls from different troops camp together for at least 6 consecutive days on a camp site with permanent facilities and adult staff provided by their council. Resident camps are operated during the summer months.

Girl Scouts also has a *Trekking Network Directory* for Girl Scout troops interested in camping at Girl Scout locations outside their local council jurisdiction. This is available from Girl Scouts of the USA.

**Edith Macy Conference Center**, 35 miles from New York City. For information and reservations write:

Director, Edith Macy Conference Center  
550 Chappaqua Road  
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-1621 USA  
Fax (914) 945-8009

**The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace Girl Scout National Centre** in Savannah, Georgia is a National Historic Landmark and welcomes visitors year round for house tours or group program visits, but does **not** have living accommodations. Savannah hotels and motels offer special rates to Girl Scout and Girl Guide groups.

For information and reservations write:

Director  
Juliette Gordon Low Girl Scout Center  
142 Bull Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31401-3723 USA

## **Camping Sites (Non-Girl Scout)**

### **Camping Information**

There are many public parks in the USA where organized groups can camp free or at low cost. Only a few groups are listed below; write to them or others for information on sites in the area of the USA you intend to visit.

- National Parks camp site information, US Department of Interior, Washington, DC 10025 USA
- National Forest camp site information, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 10025 USA
- National State Park camp site information, State Park Department or Commissioner, Capital American Youth Hostels, 14 West 8th Street, New York, NY 10011 USA
- American Camping Association, Bradford Woods, Martinsville, Indiana 46151 USA

### **Size of Campsite**

Campsites, both Girl Scout and non-Scout, may vary in size. Some accommodate 24 - 32 girls and their leaders, others can only accommodate a patrol size group, still others have no limit on numbers. State health regulations often control the number of persons permitted on a site.

### **Equipment**

The equipment available on the site may vary from heated cabin to a primitive site with available water. Check on the available equipment as well as the size of the unit when reserving a site.

### **Financing**

A travelling Girl Scout troop/Girl Guide Unit is expected to be responsible for its own expenses and its own overnight accommodations.

### **Emergency**

In case of emergencies while in the USA, contact the state police or dial **911** in any public booth and state the emergency. The operator will put you in contact with the closest doctor, state police barrack or emergency unit. In major cities Girl Scout councils are listed in the telephone directory. Council office hours are generally 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.