



Star Troop Guide

Patch Program Requirements

(Especially for Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scout Troops & Groups)

How to use the Star Troop Guide (Star Guide):

We suggest the troop/group begin using the Star guide in the fall as a “map” to a balanced Girl Scout program. Naturally, everything the troop does won’t be listed here, but if the troop can get to each of these ideas at least once during the year, you’ll be assured of terrific troop program – one that touches on all aspects of our goals for girls.

Let the girls help, and even fill out the Star guide form as the year progresses. They’ll have more ownership and really get into it! Think “*By Girls- For Girls!*” (even though it *does* take longer!) Let them suggest how the troop can best complete the various items listed; would they like to go camping or kayaking? How about recognizing where some community service might be needed? Help them gather ideas, narrow them down fairly, and accomplish them. They’ll be learning leadership skills!

The Star Guide is a tool to help assure that the troop program involves all four Girl Scout Program Goals, as well as most of the 35 Program Standards, which describe the basic philosophy of the Girl Scout program. All 35 are described in full on pages 62 to 77 of *Safety Wise*.

We also use the Star Guide responses to guide us to serve you better. So, whether your troop is applying for the patch or not, we’d appreciate your girls filling it out and turning it in.

How to Get the Star patch:

When the troop has checked off all the items on the Star Guide, turn it in to your designated Membership Manager. To qualify for the Star patch, all “starred” items must be completed. The Star patch and rainbow colored “swooshes” (we hear only comets have tails!) for subsequent years, may be purchased at either Council Shoppe, or by using the usual Badge Order Form, as a “write in” on the back. The Star Patch postcard indicating approval must be presented to order the patches.

If you have questions, check with your Membership Manager.

***Your troops’ participation is greatly appreciated by all,
Especially the girls in the troop.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!!***

REGISTRATION

- _____ 1.* Register by October 1st or within two weeks of forming. Saving troop funds from last year facilitates this and should be part of the troop budget. Girls should only pay to register once.
- _____ 2.* Add at least one new friend to the troop if possible. Larger troops enable girls to experience troop government at work. Plus more girls make it more fun!
- _____ 3. Find a troop sponsor. If the troop meets in a school, perhaps the school is your sponsor. Perhaps a parent can donate copies if needed. The sponsorship agreement *should benefit both* the troop and the sponsor. What does the troop/group do for the sponsor? What does the sponsor do for the troop/group? The troop/group cannot solicit funds, sell products, or endorse a sponsor. Check *Safety Wise* (page 29) for more interesting information on this subject.
- _____ 4.* Hold an Investiture or Rededication ceremony. Girls (Brownies and up), may receive their Membership Stars at this time, or as soon as they're registered. Best of all – girls LOVE ceremonies – the more dramatic, the better! Check out the GSUSA *Ceremonies* booklet for ideas. There is also information in the *Daisy Leader Guide* (pages 41-42), the *Brownie Handbook* (page 22), the *Junior Leader Guide* (pages 18-23), and the *Junior Handbook* (pages 12-13).
- _____ 5.* With the *By Girls, For Girls* approach foremost in your thoughts, decide on a model of “troop government”, or a way for all girls to be heard and be an integral part of decision making. Assuring that all girls have a “voice” encourages the learning of leadership skills. It's one of the most important ways Girl Scouting is different from other youth groups. The most illuminating guide is *Safety Wise* (pages 24-25). Also check the *Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders* (page 11), and *The Key to Successful Planning* (page 31 -36) in the *Junior Girl Scout Leader Guide Book*, and the *STUDIO 2B Guide for Advisors*, (section 4).
- _____ 6.* Is the troop inclusive? Ask these questions: Are there girls in the troop of different races, religions, or some with physical challenges? Is everyone welcome? Has the troop done the Grade Level activities in the *Issues for Girl Scouts* series – *Connections?*
- _____ 7.* Has troop learned the Girl Scout Promise? The Girl Scout Law? Hint: Girls (and adults) can't promise to follow the Law if they don't know what it is. This should not be considered a starred item for Daisies.
- _____ 7b. Does the troop know the Girl Scout Slogan? Motto? Handshake? The “Friendship Squeeze”? See the *Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders* (pages 20-27); the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook* (pages 16-21); and the *Junior Girl Scout Handbook* (pages 9-14) for fun details on “Girl Scoutease”.
- _____ 8. Does the troop have an active “troop committee”? That is a reliable group of parents who help the leader on a regular basis. Dividing the responsibilities of having a troop make leadership more fun and less stressful! Make a list of specific jobs and ask a parent to do each one.

PROGRAM, GOAL SETTING AND BUDGETING

_____ 1.* Choose at least one GSUSA or Council supplementary program or project such as one of the Issues for Girl Scouts series (Connections, Girls are Great, Read to Lead, In the Zone, Media Know How); Strong Bones, Strong Girls; Sun Awareness; Follow the Reader; or Girl Scouts Love Sea Turtles; Staying Safe. There are many more; see the Interactive Calendar for ideas. Which one did the troop/group choose?

_____ 2. Set troop goals, and raise money for your troop. The calendar sale is a great way to “get going” and have some money early in the year. Did you know that every dollar of council profit goes into the “Girl Opportunity Fund” and used to register girls who need assistance, send girls to programs and events they might not be able to participate in on their own due to financial circumstances, as well as supply them with handbooks and badge books? See next question for more information on budgeting and finances.

_____ 3.* During Cookie Season you’ll want to sell lots of cookies to finance all those fun activities you have chosen. Be sure you’ve figured out a budget for future activities and know your goal; it’s easier to “get out there” when you have a fabulous program goal! Before the troop even begins to create their budget or participate in the cookie sale program, be sure to see the following for help and guidance: Safety Wise (pages 26-29); the Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders (page 16); the Brownie Handbook (pages 39-41); and the Junior Girl Scout Leader Guide (pages 24 to 27); or the Junior Handbook (pages 26-28). And there is even more help on pages in Safety Wise (pages 74, 75, & 131). With this info... You’ll be all set!

_____ 4.* Take part in a Community Service Project. Here’s a time for troop government! What do you care about? Where could you make a difference? Girls can earn “Izzy the Inchworm” too! Read all about her on the Council website. Giving service is magical! The magic is how one good deed makes someone’s life a little better. It spreads. . . . like *Magic!* What are some of the service projects this troop/group did during this year?

_____ 5.* Plan something fun to do with a “sister troop”. How? Who’s a sister troop? Take a look at the service unit roster, and call a troop (any Grade Level), and plan to do an activity with them. A patch program, a field trip, a speaker or visitor, a campfire, go camping at a cool place they know about? By Girls – For Girls! What did the troop do?

_____ 6.* Go camping! For Daisy and Brownie troops especially, have an “outdoor adventure”!

_____ 7.* Attend a Service Unit or Council event. Girls should have the opportunity to see that they are part of a much larger group – that there are thousands of Girl Scouts! Check with your Membership Manager to see what’s coming up this year. And don’t forget Core Camp. What did the troop do?

_____ 8.* Celebrate special Girl Scout holidays and learn about WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts). Juliette Low’s birthday is October 31st, Thinking Day is February 22nd, and Girl Scout Birthday is March 12th. Check your Grade

Level handbook for details, but be sure to take a look at *Trefoil 'round the World*, a favorite publication from WAGGGS. You'll find out what Girl Guides do, wear and care about, in countries all over the world!

_____ 9.* Find out about the *Juliette Low World Friendship Fund*. See the *Junior Girl Scout Handbook* (pages 18-19 for information. The GSUSA website has more information on the Fund, and there is a flyer in your troop packet. When girls are ready to go on a Destination, the money from the *World Friendship Fund* will be a BIG help to them and to their families!

_____ 10.* Each girl should complete at least one Proficiency Award in her age level. That is a *Petal (Daisies)*, *Try It (Brownies)*, *Badge (Junior)*, or *Interest Project (Cadette, Senior, Ambassador)*. See *Safety Wise* (pages 149-150) for a complete diagram and more information.

SPRING

_____ 1.* Decide on a "keeping in touch" activity for the summer. A post card or letter to be mailed on a special day? "Meet you at the movies?" Or the beach? How has your troop decided to keep in touch?

_____ 2.* Back to question REGISTRAITON Question #1 (page 2). Did you save enough money to re-register the girls for next year? Check only if you did.

_____ 3.* Did you turn in your troop report forms to your Membership Manager by June 15th?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|
| ▪ <u>Annual Financial Statement</u> | YES | NO |
| ▪ <u>Troop Membership Summary</u> | YES | NO |

_____ 4. Did you turn in your *Star Guide* at the May Service Unit Meeting? Did you apply for the star patch?

Troop Leader Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City, Zip: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Troop # (with County Prefix, ex. Palm Beach – 20...): _____

Service Unit: _____ Grade Level: D B J C S A

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!