

STARTING YOUR TROOP IN 5 EASY STEPS

WELCOME TO GIRL SCOUTS, SOON-TO-BE TROOP LEADER!

You're well on your way to transforming the lives of girls by guiding them through the Girl Scout experience. Ready to get going? Here's how:

1. REQUEST A TROOP NUMBER.

Fill out the **Troop Number Request Form** at www.gsnorcal.org/newtroop to get this party started. Think about where, when, and how often you want to meet, grade level(s), and what your troop might do together. (Don't worry if you don't have it all figured out—you can update this info later!)

2. COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION, BACKGROUND CHECK, AND ONLINE TRAINING.

After you submit your Troop Number Request Form, keep an eye out for emails from us to help you finish your volunteer registration (and your girl's!), complete your background check, and start your online training. Annual adult membership dues are \$25, background checks usually run about \$11.50 (varies by DMV), and financial assistance is available.

3. SPREAD THE WORD TO RECRUIT GIRLS AND VOLUNTEERS.

While you work through your online training, you can talk to your girl's friends and their parents, your neighbors, and other families in the community to make sure that your girl will have a lively troop. Your goal should be to recruit 8 girls and at least 1 additional adult volunteer (who is not related to you) in about 4–6 weeks. During your onboarding, we'll provide customizable resources and host a parent information night at your girl's school to help you with recruitment and will support you every step of the way!

4. GET READY FOR YOUR FIRST TROOP MEETING.

After you've completed your training, but before your first troop meeting, invite your troop families to their first parent meeting. You'll want to set the tone for the year, recruit troop volunteers, collect safety forms (everyone needs an Annual Permission and Girl Health History to get started), and discuss the awesome activities you want to do together this year. Psst—If you're not comfortable hosting your own parent meeting, our Membership Development staff can help!

To get the full Girl Scout experience, we encourage all troops to:

- Meet at least once per month during the school year to form a tight-knit troop
- Choose badges or activities from a variety of skill-building areas
- Hone their entrepreneurial skills by starting a troop cookie biz through the Girl Scout Cookie Program
- Explore the great outdoors through an age-appropriate outdoor experience
- Attend or hold an end-of-year celebration or event to celebrate what they've accomplished
- Learn resilience, risk-taking, confidence, and other crucial life skills at summer camp

5. EXPLORE OUR RESOURCES AND GET CONNECTED TO THE GIRL SCOUT COMMUNITY.

We've got no shortage of easy-to-use resources to help you have the best year ever! Visit www.gsnorcal.org to access all of our troop leading resources, like the **Volunteer Toolkit**, our summer camp brochure, the **Volunteer Learning Portal**, cookie program resources, **The Trailhead** (our troop leader support blog), council events, and so much more.

**CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE READY TO HOLD YOUR FIRST MEETING!
HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU AND YOUR LUCKY NEW GIRL SCOUTS!**

Visit us at www.gsnorcal.org/start for a digital copy of this checklist, links to everything mentioned + additional resources on uniforms, recruiting girls, and what to do with your new troop.

UNLEASH STRONG! BE A GIRL SCOUT. 

Questions? Our team is here to help you through the process.
Just email info@girlscoutsnorcal.org or call 800-447-4475, ext. 2093