

## Volunteer Learning Opportunities

Girl Scouts strives to provide you with the necessary information to successfully manage your group of girls, and to let you know how and where you can get additional information on certain topics when you want to learn more. Volunteer learning is offered in a variety of ways, to best meet your unique learning styles: written resources, face-to-face learning, interactive online learning—and additional methods are being developed and tested all the time!

There is a specific learning path for each volunteer role, which may consist of a combination of online and/or in-person courses designed to acquaint you with Girl Scouting basics, provide resources for you to be more effective in your role, and help you feel prepared.

GSNorCal's Volunteer Learning Portal is designed to give you the information you need just when you need it! Many of the online courses are fewer than 10 minutes long. You can learn at a time and pace that is convenient for you, resume where you left off, and your progress and completions will be tracked for your records. Our in-person courses vary from 2 hours or can be a whole weekend.

### Find the course for your volunteer role

There is a course for most volunteer roles here: [training.gsnorcal.org](http://training.gsnorcal.org) Your course page will take the guesswork out of which courses/modules are required or recommended for you, along with links for needed forms and helpful publications and resources. Most of the modules are very short and specifically address particular topics, such as "Opening Your Bank Account," which will answer all of your questions about how to open a bank account for your troop, or "Getting Adults to Help," which will help you understand what kind of help you need and some tried and true techniques on how to get it. As you complete each course/module, you'll receive a virtual badge as proof of completion. If you have already completed a step and received a badge (for example, you are a Brownie leader and you already took Welcome to GSNorCal as a Daisy Leader) you don't need to re-take the course.

### Badges Aren't Just for Girls Anymore!



When you've completed all of the required modules in a course, you'll receive a virtual course badge. If you need to show someone which modules and courses you've completed as well as the badges you've earned, click on your name in the top right-hand corner, then select "View profile," and then you can take a screenshot and print it out or email it.

## Multiple Roles

If you have more than one role, that's terrific! There will be a course page for each of your roles. For example, you may be a troop leader and also have a position on your Service Unit Team as a Service Unit Treasurer. You might also be a Regional Delegate. If that's the case, you'll follow the steps on each course page for each of your roles. You don't have to do the steps twice, though—once is enough! If you've already taken Troop Treasurer in your capacity as a leader, you don't need to take it again because you are a Service Unit Treasurer.

## Your Course Completions

If you want to see your course completions, you can view all your virtual badges you've earned. Click on your name in the top right-hand corner, then select "View profile." You will then be able to see the courses you are enrolled in, and all the badges you have earned. If you click on each badge, you will also see your completion date.

## Get Help More Easily!

One of the things that some leaders struggle with is getting help from the parents in the troop. One of the best ways to get people to help is to be very specific about exactly what is expected, and give people the tools and resources they need to do what you've asked.

Once you've recruited someone for a certain role, you can simply give the volunteer the link to the [Volunteer Learning Portal \(training.gsnorcal.org\)](https://training.gsnorcal.org) and have them select their role. They will have all the tools they need, and will be able to take modules or courses to support them, rather than you having to take all the courses yourself and then to have to train another volunteer about what they need to know.

There are specific courses for most of the roles you'll need, and more are coming soon! If you'd rather take the time to train your volunteers yourself, you can still do that. For example, you might feel it would be easier to let the drivers for a field trip know what their responsibilities are, but you don't have to—you can simply refer them to the [Troop Driver](#) course page in the [Volunteer Learning Portal](#), where they will take a couple of short modules and will learn all they need to know.

## Registration for In-Person Volunteer Learning Courses

You must register at least one week in advance for in-person training courses. All course registrations close one week before the course. Our volunteer facilitator/trainers plan and bring materials based on the number of registered participants. Also, only registered participants are notified of occasional cancellations or last-minute changes in location.

Use one of the three methods below to register for your in-person classes. Note that first aid and camping courses have fees required. Volunteers may consider using troop funds to take needed courses if the girls and families agree.

Please note that we do not accept registrations for classes over the phone.

## **Online Registration**

(preferred method—fastest and most secure)

[www.gsnorcal.org/events](http://www.gsnorcal.org/events)

Or, search available in-person course offerings in our [Volunteer Learning Portal \(training.gsnorcal.org\)](http://training.gsnorcal.org). When you find the date and time that works best for you, just click on the link to register.

## **Mail**

Mail registration form and any payments to:

Member Services —Adult Learning Registration  
Girl Scouts of Northern California  
1310 S. Bascom Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95128-4502

## **Fax**

To fax registration form: (408) 287-8025

Do not fax your credit card number—please call (800) 447-4475 ext. 2091 to give it verbally after you've fax your form).

You will receive a course confirmation email about one week before your course. If you do not receive confirmation (check your junk or spam email folder!), please contact: [registration@gsnorcal.org](mailto:registration@gsnorcal.org).

## **What to Bring**

- Check the course description or your course confirmation
- Water or another beverage (optional).
- Feel free to bring a snack or light meal if the course occurs at your meal time.

## **Course Completion**

When you attend an in-person course, completion is given by the instructor. The instructor will let us know who has completed the course. We will then import the course completion to our [Volunteer Learning Portal](http://training.gsnorcal.org) so you can receive course completion credit and your virtual badge. Sometimes this process may take up to 3 weeks.

## **Learning Events**

Register for Fall Festival or Discoveree, our enhancement learning opportunities where numerous workshops are offered!

[www.gsnorcal.org/events](http://www.gsnorcal.org/events)